



Public Health Health Equity

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CBO Collaborative Meeting Summary

April 07, 2026

Purpose

To enhance outreach and promotion efforts throughout the County by fostering collaboration with community-based partners and trusted messengers.

Women's Health

Speaker: Brianna Vasquez, Brianna.Vasquez@dph.sbcounty.gov

- Women's Health Month is recognized in May, highlighting the importance of prioritizing women's health and well-being.
- Efforts focus on raising awareness about unique health challenges women face, including promoting proactive care such as screenings, early detection, and advocating within the healthcare system.
- Individuals are encouraged to schedule a check-up, explore resources, check-in with themselves or others, and share resources, experiences, and insights.
- Here are a few resources that support Women's Health Month. Please note that this is not a complete list, but a starting point for exploration:
 - [Menopause, Women's Health, and Work](#)
 - [Women's Health Month: Caring for Yourself \(4 min.video\)](#)
 - [Celebrating Women's Health Week!](#)
 - [May Is Women's Health Month](#)

San Bernardino Countywide Vision: Community Vital Signs

Community Vital Signs, Nicolette-Ashley Carlos, Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov

Vision Statement: We envision a county where a commitment to optimizing health and wellness is embedded in all decisions by residents, organizations, and government.

- Full San Bernardino Countywide Vision Statement available at: [CAO Vision – San Bernardino CountyWide Vision](#)
- The Vital Signs Initiative is responsible for supporting the Countywide Vision, which focuses on fostering collaboration across sectors to build a vibrant, healthy, and resilient county for all residents.

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- Its goal is to bring together partners to coordinate efforts, share resources, and develop strategies that advance the goals of the San Bernardino County Community Transformation Plan.
- The community health priorities are:
 - **Behavioral Health:** Improve mental health and reduce substance misuse in San Bernardino County
 - **Injury and Violence Prevention:** Decrease incidences of violence in San Bernardino County
 - **Chronic Disease:** Decrease morbidity and mortality rates for chronic diseases in San Bernardino County
- Organizations are invited to participate in and support the Community Vital Signs initiative if they are interested in contributing to system-level change. Please contact Nicolette Carlos for more information: Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov
- Community Vital Signs is co-hosting Community Health Forums. Community Health Forums are listening sessions hosted with San Bernardino County community organizations, providing a space for community members to share their experiences and perspectives related to the county's health priorities.
- These forums focus on understanding whether key health priorities-behavioral health, chronic disease, and injury and violence prevention- are still affecting communities, what has changed, and what new issues are emerging.
- Additional forums are being planned with a focus on specific populations, including Native and Indigenous populations and LGBTQIA populations, with an invitation for organizations serving these groups to connect and co-host.
- St. Mary's Providence is seeking connections with Native and Indigenous populations for their Community Health Needs Assessment.
- Reach Out is collaborating with Community Vital Signs to co-host the upcoming forums in April 2026. These forums are intended for San Bernardino County community members/residents. Please share with your community:
 - Reach Out (**Upland**): April 22 (<https://ROUCommunityHF.eventbrite.com>)
 - Reach Out (**Yucca Valley**): April 29 (<https://ROYVCommunityHF.eventbrite.com>)

Rural Health Outreach

Growing Outreach Growing Opportunities, Elizabeth Givens, gogobarstow@gmail.com

Mission and Vision

- GOGO Barstow's mission is to end homelessness and generational poverty by removing barriers that impede quality of life for youth, young adults, justice-involved individuals, and underserved populations, through housing, life skills, job readiness, and long-term case management; the vision focuses on access to safe housing, employment, education, and tools for a healthy, independent life

Impact and Populations Served

- Since 2022, over 500 unduplicated individuals have been served, with a transitional housing program launched in 2023 that has permanently housed 24 young adults and their families; target populations include individuals at risk of homelessness, low-income individuals, those leaving the prison system, veterans, and seniors.

Core Programs and Services

- Core programs include transitional housing (12-18 months with individualized service plans), workforce development (guard card training, food handler certificates, and upcoming CDL and CAN programs), and life skills training (over 12 sessions covering budgeting, home management, conflict resolution, and professionalism).

Community Engagement and Approach

- Community engagement includes annual events such as teen Christmas giveaways, Halloween events, and back-to-school giveaways, with a workshop component added to expand impact; approaches are trauma-informed, community-driven, and focused on long-term outcomes and sustained support.

Partnership and Health Equity Focus

- Partnerships and a focus on health equity guide the work, emphasizing collaboration with organizations for health services, workforce development, and youth programming. Efforts highlight the connection between poverty, homelessness, and health, and promote pathways toward self-sufficiency and healthier communities, with opportunities for others to connect, volunteer, refer individuals, and support services. Elizabeth Givens welcomes collaboration, please contact gogobarstow@gmail.com to connect.

Opportunities to Share

- Please reach out to EquityinAction@dph.sbcounty.gov if you would like time reserved to share any updates during our Rural Health section and share the great work you're doing!

Monthly Learning Topic

San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health, Health Services Act, Maribel Gutierrez, Maribel.Gutierrez@dbh.sbcounty.gov

- **Presentation Overview and Context**
 - Presented by Maribel Gutierrez, Deputy Director at San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health.
 - Focused on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Draft Integrated Plan for FY 2026-2029.
 - Marks a major system transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), which has been in place for approx. 20 years.
- **System Transition and Planning Process**
 - County behavioral health is transitioning from MHSA to BHSA, a California-specific funding structure.
 - BHSA requires integration of services across mental health, substance use disorder, and homelessness supports.
 - Community Program Planning process included stakeholder engagement and review of local data.
 - Stakeholders identified suicide prevention and overdose prevention as priority focus areas (county is implementing both).
- **State and Local Alignment**
 - Aligns with statewide behavioral health goals and new requirements, including a state suicide prevention plan, in partnership with the Department of Public Health.
 - Emphasis on cross-sector collaboration with local partners and community-based organizations.
 - Ongoing partnership opportunities with public health, homelessness services, and community stakeholders.
- **Overall Budget and Funding Scope**
 - Estimated total behavioral health budget: ~694 million over the next 3 fiscal years.
 - Funding sources include:
 - Behavioral Health Services Act (primary funding source in CA)
 - County general fund
 - Federal funds and grants
 - Opioid settlement funds

- BHSA is unique to California and is not a federal program
- **BHSA Funding Structure (Required Spending Categories)**
 - 30% Housing interventions
 - Dedicated to housing stability for individuals with behavioral health needs.
 - Supports interim housing, permanent supportive housing, and infrastructure development.
 - Coordination with Office of Homeless Services, Community Development and Housing, and County Administrative Office.
 - 35% Behavioral Health Services and Supports
 - Includes core treatment, service delivery, and system supports.
 - Funds over 50 programs and services across the county.
 - Approximately 49% of programs are contracted to community-based organizations.
 - Roughly 50% of workforce (~1,700 employees) supports BHSA-funded programs.
 - 35% Full-Service Partnerships (FSPs)
 - Intensive, individualized “whatever it takes” support model
 - Multidisciplinary teams serving individuals with high-level behavioral health needs.
 - Includes programs for children, youth, adults, and older adults.
- **Key Program Areas Under BHSA**
 - Housing and Homelessness Supports
 - Innovations “ROADS” outreach program for unsheltered individuals
 - Treatment-first housing programs for high-acuity needs
 - New recovery residences for individuals with substance use disorders
 - Crisis System of Care (Expanded but not required)
 - Crisis call center
 - Crisis stabilization units
 - Mobile crisis response teams
 - Adult crisis residential treatment facilities
 - Child and youth crisis services
 - Homeless outreach and community connection programs
 - Early Intervention Services (Required)
 - Early intervention programs funded primarily through BHSA
 - Evidence-based practices for first episode psychosis
 - Delivered largely through community-based organizations across the county
 - New and Emerging Initiatives
 - Assertive field-based services (“no wrong door” approach)
 - Rapid access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT)
 - Overdose prevention and harm reduction efforts
 - Emergency department bridge programs
 - Mobile wellness and Narcan distribution programs
 - Increased integration between mental health and substance use systems
 - Prevention and Other Programs
 - Prevention services may require alternative funding sources over time
 - Workforce education and training programs will continue
 - Public relations, outreach, peer support, clubhouses, and suicide prevention programs will continue
- **Key Policy and Service Commitments**
 - No existing programs are being eliminated during the transition
 - Focus on maintaining and expanding services where possible

- Strong emphasis on integration of care and improving overall quality of life
- Continued support for community-based organizations and contracted providers
- **Crisis and Homeless Services Emphasis**
 - Continued expansion of crisis systems for both adults and children
 - Outreach and engagement for individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk
 - Integration of behavioral health and housing services
- **Community Role and Engagement**
 - Community-based organizations remain central to service delivery
 - Ongoing stakeholder engagement through:
 - Community Program Planning
 - Community Advisory Committees
 - Continued co-design opportunities
 - Open invitation for continued collaboration and identifying gaps/needs
- **Implementation Timeline**
 - Draft plan submitted to the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
 - Currently under state review
 - County awaiting feedback and recommendations
 - Plan will be presented to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
 - Target approval deadline: before June 30
 - Approval is required to access BSA funding

CBO Business

We encourage you to fill out our survey, [CBO Collaborative Feedback](#) — All feedback will help us to better support our community. Our goal is to ensure that the collaborative remains relevant, uses time effectively, and continues to build and maintain partnerships across the county.

Learning Topic:

- For the month of May, the CBO Collaborative will focus on heart health in recognition of American Stroke Month and High Blood Pressure Education Month, featuring the American Heart Association.
- The session will introduce the “Libraries with Heart” program, a free partnership opportunity that provides blood pressure monitors for onsite use or community checkout to support at-home monitoring.
- This initiative aims to reduce barriers to care, increase awareness of high blood pressure as a “silent condition,” and support early detection and prevention of serious health conditions such as heart disease and stroke, with opportunities for CBOs to learn more and explore participation.

Community Partner Roundtable

- The **Healthy Communities Initiative** invites cities, community-based organizations, and partners to its second quarterly learning session (Wednesday, April 15 from 1:00 – 2:15 PM via Microsoft Teams) focused on advancing policy, systems, and environmental change. This session will feature the Inland Regional Energy Network (IRIN), highlighting energy efficiency strategies that can reduce energy costs, support climate resilience, and promote safer, more sustainable community spaces. For more information contact Kimberly Smith, Kimberly.smith@dph.sbcounty.gov
- **Community Hospital San Bernardino** offers community outreach and education, including stress management classes for the general community and programs specifically geared toward men, particularly in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. Staff are certified in QPR

(suicide risk reduction training), providing education on recognizing warning signs of suicide and connecting individuals to appropriate support services. Additional trainings include “Stop the Bleed” certification courses focused on violence and emergency response, with services available onsite or through outreach at community centers upon request. For more information contact Isaac Quintana, isaac.quintana@commonspirit.org

- **Barstow Community College** is hosting a Community Wellness Event on April 8 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM, featuring community vendors, free lunch, and giveaways. The High Desert Feeding Initiative recently launched its first event on March 11, serving over 200 community members, including veterans and their families, with plans to continue expanding outreach efforts. Additional support includes the Veteran SAFE Program, which provides gatekeeper training focused on identifying suicide warning signs with military community, with opportunities for collaboration and participation. For more information contact Briana Green, Community Engagement Partnership Coordinator, briana.green@va.gov
- **Project Sister Family Services** is hosting a community event in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month titled “Together We Step Up for Survivors” on April 25 in Rancho Cucamonga from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, with a walk beginning at 10:00 AM. The free, community-wide event will include a walk, resource tables, community partners, and family-friendly activities such as jumpers, with shirts available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Community organizations are invited to participate by hosting resource tables to share services and support survivors. For more information contact Jazmin Gonzalez, Outreach Services Manager, jgonzalez@projectsister.org
- **Reach Out** (Substance Use Prevention Program) is hosting the Fontana Community Collective Coalition on April 15 in Fontana, focused on educating parents about current youth substance use trends. The Partners for Innovative Communities Coalition will meet on April 27 in Upland, focusing on policy education related to 7-OH kratom extract, an unregulated substance with opioid-like effects being sold in smoke shops. The annual National Innovative Communities Conference will be held at the Riverside Community Center, featuring 600-800 attendees, 25-30 breakout sessions over two days, and a focus on the theme of “Trust,” with resources aimed at supporting marginalized communities. For more information contact Andrew Hanif, Andrew@we-reachout.org
- **Foothill AIDS Project** is hosting its annual Spring Resource Expo in Rialto at Joe Sampson Park on Saturday April 18, featuring 20-40 community vendors and a range of informational and support services. The event supports individuals impacted by HIV and AIDS by connecting them to wraparound services, including food and gas vouchers, linkage to care, mental health support, and housing services. Foothill AIDS Project provides services across multiple locations, including Hesperia, San Bernardino, Pasadena, and Montebello, and encourages community members to attend for resources, engagement, and support. For more information contact Andre Peebles, Outreach Coordinator, andrep@fapinfo.org

The next meeting will be on

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Via Microsoft Teams