



## Public Health Health Equity

Joshua Dugas, MBA, REHS  
Director

Jennifer Osorio, REHS  
Assistant Director

Janki Patel, MPH  
Assistant Director

Sharon Wang, DO, MSHPE, FIDSA  
Health Officer

### CBO Collaborative Meeting Summary

December 02, 2025

#### Purpose

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

#### Public Health Officer Update

**Speaker: Dr. Sharon Wang,** [EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov)

##### Wellness on Wheels (WoW) Van

- Dr. Wang highlighted the Wellness on Wheels (WoW) Van, which offers free STD screenings for HIV, Hepatitis C, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Syphilis, and urine-based testing.
- The van operates on a regular schedule, which can be viewed on the [Department of Public Health's 2025 Events page](#).

##### Easy Access Clinic

- The Easy Access Clinic provides free STI testing and treatment, HIV PrEP navigation, linkage to care, and additional resources.
- The clinic operates every Tuesday (closed on holidays) from 1–5 p.m. at 590 N. D St., San Bernardino, CA 92401.
- The goal of these units is to link newly diagnosed individuals living with HIV to care within seven days.

##### Infant Botulism

- Dr. Wang reported an update on infant botulism, a condition that occurs when infants ingest or inhale Clostridium botulinum spores, which then produce toxin.
- CDPH, CDC, and other health departments are investigating an unprecedented multi-state outbreak linked to ByHeart infant formula.
- Although it is very rare for infant formula to be associated with infant botulism, these incidents prompted testing and the recall of ByHeart Infant Formula.
- There have been 15 confirmed or suspected cases nationwide—two in California, none in San Bernardino County.
- Common symptoms associated with formula-linked infant botulism are neurological and may include difficulty feeding, decreased facial expression, poor head control, muscle weakness, and trouble breathing. Caregivers should seek medical care if infants show any of these symptoms.
- CDPH has launched a public hotline for questions: 1-833-398-2022.

##### CDC Vaccine and Autism Language Update

- Dr. Wang acknowledged the recent changes to CDC website language about vaccines and autism.

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- She emphasized that vaccines remain safe, effective, and essential for protecting children's health. Over two decades of research—including more than 40 high-quality studies involving over 5 million children show no link between routine childhood vaccinations and autism, a conclusion supported by major health authorities such as the American Academy of Pediatrics.
- The rise in autism diagnoses reflects improved screening practices and increased awareness.

## San Bernardino Countywide Vision: Community Vital Signs

### Community Vital Signs, Nicolette-Ashley Carlos, [Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto: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.
- 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.
- Vital Signs is currently organizing community listening sessions to hear directly from San Bernardino County residents about whether the priority health issues have changed and how they continue to impact their lives and communities.
- If your organization serves residents affected by these three health issues, Behavioral Health, Chronic Disease, and Injury and Violence Prevention, especially communities that are most underrepresented, we would love to connect to explore an opportunity for co-hosting a community health forum. The findings from these forums will help ensure the voices of our community residents are included.
- If you are interested in co-hosting a Community Health Forum or promoting them to your community, fill out this interest form: [Community Forum Partner Interest Survey](#) or email [EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov)
- The Chronic Disease Implementation Committee has launched and will focus on two key strategies: (1) improving planning and zoning policies to support healthy built environments and reduce adverse impacts on community health, and (2) expanding access to healthcare coverage, particularly for historically marginalized populations.
- If you are interested in joining, please contact Adrianna Valencia at [Adrianna.Valencia@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:Adrianna.Valencia@dph.sbcounty.gov) for registration information.

## Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention

### Project Sister, Jazmin Gonzalez, [jgonzalez@PROJECTSISTER.ORG](mailto:jgonzalez@PROJECTSISTER.ORG)

- Project Sister Family Services is a local nonprofit sexual assault response agency that supports individuals impacted by sexual assault and child abuse.
- Services are provided at no cost. The organization is based in Pomona and serves 21 cities across Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties.
- 24-Hour Crisis Hotline: (909) 626-4357
  - Calls are answered by trained crisis intervention specialists who provide emotional support, de-escalation, and guidance for situations that do not require immediate 911 response.
  - Project Sister offers accompaniment services for those impacted by sexual or child abuse, including support during hospital visits for forensic exams, as well as

accompaniment to law enforcement or court proceedings. Accompaniment staff serve as support persons only and do not provide testimony.

#### **Human Trafficking Overview:**

- Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to compel individuals into commercial sex acts or labor services against their will.
- Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking specifically for the purpose of sexual exploitation.
- Traffickers often operate using the A-M-P Model:
  - Action: Recruit, harbor, transport, or provide
  - Means: Force, fraud, or coercion
  - Purpose: Commercial sex acts, labor, or services
- Trafficking can occur in a variety of settings, including streets, hotels and motels, online and social media platforms, escort services, truck stops, bars, and clubs.

#### **Populations at Higher Risk**

- Individuals who may be more vulnerable include women, minors, foster youth, LGBTQ+ youth, youth experiencing homelessness, and immigrants.

#### **Common Indicators of Trafficking**

- Not free to leave or come and go as they choose
- Controlled by a pimp or manager
- Recruited through false promises
- Limited or no personal possessions
- No control over personal finances or lack of financial records
- Not allowed to speak for themselves

#### **Resources and Hotlines**

- Reporting suspected or known trafficking to a hotline or law enforcement is strongly encouraged.
- National Human Trafficking Resource Center: (888)373-7888 or text "HELP" to 233733
- Coalition To Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST): (888)539-2373
- Project Sister Family Services: (909)626-4357

#### **CBO Business**

**Speaker:** Karen Rodriguez, [EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov)

#### **Observance Learning Topic Poll:**

1. Cancer Prevention Awareness
2. American Heart Month
3. Teen Dating Violence Awareness

#### **Poll Results – Teen Dating Violence Awareness**

*Reminder: The topics listed above are observances for February. We present these topics a month in advance, which will be January, so you have time to prepare for sharing information or hosting events during the observance month.*

#### **Transitioning Platforms:**

We will be transitioning the CBO Collaborative meeting to Microsoft Teams beginning January 2026. A new meeting invitation has already been sent. If you did not receive the calendar invite, please email [EquityinAction@dph.sbcounty.gov](mailto:EquityinAction@dph.sbcounty.gov) to have it forwarded to you, or sign up for our mailing list to receive future invitations automatically: [Health Equity Mailing List Sign-Up](#)

*We encourage you to fill out our survey — All feedback will help us to better support our community.*  
[CBO Collaborative Feedback](#)

## Community Partner Roundtable

- **Kaiser Permanente** shared information about the Kaiser Permanente Health Coverage Program. This program is now open, and it is for individuals that do not qualify for Medi-Cal because they go a bit over the income limits and may not be able to afford to purchase their own insurance program or their employer may not provide insurance. This program is paid out of community benefit part of their charity care. There are only 2000 spots open throughout Southern California. The deadline to apply is January 31, 2026.
- **Stronger Together Now** is a nonprofit organization and they are hosting food distributions every third Friday of each month at their location "The Pulse" in downtown San Bernardino.
- **San Bernardino County, Children's Network** is accepting nominations for their "Shine A Light" award ceremony happening on April 2, 2026. This event highlights people in the community who are working towards child abuse prevention and strengthening families throughout San Bernardino County.
- **TODEC Legal Center** is a nonprofit organization that provides immigration assistance services. They help with cases with the Department of Labor including not getting paid fairly, farm worker communities, mistreatment at work and more. They also provide assistance with applying for citizenship, DACA, and green card renovations.

The next meeting will be on  
**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**  
**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**  
Via Microsoft Teams