



Public Health Health Equity

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CBO Collaborative Meeting Summary

July 07, 2026

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. Razon, Public Health Medical Director EquityinAction@dph.sbcounty.gov

Infant Botulism

- Recall of Nara Organics formula due to botulism concerns
- Stop using Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula
- FDA, CDC, and CDPH are investigating an outbreak which includes 4 hospitalized infants confirmed with botulism
 - No deaths
 - California, Pennsylvania, Washington
 - Onset of illness: April to May 2026
 - All four consumed Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Powdered Infant Formula
- Botulism is a rare but serious illness. It's caused by a toxin made by bacteria called Clostridium. The toxin attacks the nerves and causes difficulty breathing, paralysis and even death if not treated
- The symptoms are related to muscle weakness because the toxin does attack the muscles:
 - Overall weakness, difficulty swallowing, blurry vision, dropping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty breathing
- Symptoms related to foodborne illness:
 - Vomiting, nausea, stomach pain, diarrhea
- In infants some of the first signs of botulism are often constipation, poor feeding, eye muscle weakness, and a weak cry
- Bacteria can create toxins in food, wounds, and intestines
- Improperly home-canned preserved, or fermented foods can provide conditions to grow bacteria
- What to do now?
 - Stop using Nara Organics Whole Milk Organic Infant Formula

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- Return cans to the store or to the company. If you choose to throw them away, take a photo of the lot number first
- Clean all items that touched the formula with hot, soapy water
- If your child shows symptoms like constipation, weak cry, poor feeding, or unusual limpness, seek medical care right away
- Contact Communicable Disease Section for questions: (800)722-4794

West Nile Virus

- Mosquitoes in the cities of San Bernardino, Colton, Rialto, and Bloomington have tested positive for West Nile virus
- Dump and drain any standing water around your home
- For a courtesy mosquito inspection call (800)442-2283

Mental Health Resources

- Mental health affects our communities. 1 out of 4 US adults live with a mental health illness
- Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders in adults
 - The training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem or experiencing a crisis
 - Open to all community members 18 years of age or older
- Youth Mental Health First Aid is a 6.5-hour course that teaches you how to help an adolescent who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis
 - Designed for adults who regularly interact with young people
 - Common mental health challenges, typical development, 5-step action plan to help young people in crisis and non-crisis situations
- Organizations can request to host or facilitate a training with the Department of Behavioral Health at [Community Education Program Training Request/ Solicitud de capacitación para el programa de educación comunitaria](#)
- View more information at [Education and Training Opportunities – DBH Internet Website](#)
- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) opened its new Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit
 - First adolescent behavioral health emergency room in California
 - Tailored to the developmental and emotional needs of young people
 - Inpatient therapy groups
 - Referrals: (909)580-2813

San Bernardino Countywide Vision: Community Vital Signs

Community Vital Signs, Nicolette 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 long-term vision for San Bernardino County is to be a county where all have access to opportunity, prosperity, health and well-being

- Partners and organizations work together as part of an interconnected system to improve residents' quality of life
- Community Vital Signs leads efforts related to the Wellness element of the Countywide Vision by uniting cross-sector partners to address community-identified health priorities:
 - **Behavioral Health:** Improve mental health and decrease 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
- The Community Transformation Plan serves as a road map that aligns partner efforts, reduces duplication, and promotes shared goals, accountability, and collective ownership
- Mental and behavioral health is a major priority due to limited resources and provider shortages throughout the county
- Youth behavioral health requires involvement from multiple sectors, including education, public health, behavioral health, managed care, and community-based organizations
- Cross-sector collaboration is essential to align priorities, perspectives, and resources under a shared countywide vision
- Efforts include building shared understanding among providers and strengthening coordination of services and care
- These activities are already underway through this group and associated implementation committees
- 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, Nicolette-Ashley.Carlos@dph.sbcounty.gov for more information

Monthly Learning Topic

VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network, Briana Green, Briana.Green@va.gov

An Integrated Approach to Veteran Care: Addressing Mental & Social Needs of Veterans

- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is structured into 3 distinct administrations
 - Veterans Health Administration (VHA) – Health care
 - Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) – Financial and assistance
 - National Cemetery Administration (NCA) – Final honors, burial and memorial
- Suicide is a complex issue with no single cause. To prevent Veteran suicide, we must maximize protective factors while minimizing risk factors at all levels
- In 2024, there were 454 suicide deaths among California residents aged 18 years and older who had served in the U.S. Armed Forces (Veterans)
- Goal: Minimize risk factors and boost protective factors
 - Risk: Prior suicide attempt, mental health issues, substance abuse, access to lethal means, recent loss, legal or financial challenges, relationship issues, unemployment, homelessness
 - Protective: Access to mental health care, sense of connectedness, problem-solving skills, sense of spirituality, mission or purpose, physical health, employment, social and emotional well-being
- The transition to civilian life can be difficult to navigate:

- After separating from the military, male Veterans were found to be at an increased risk of suicide mortality via firearm when compared to the general population
- Younger age at times of separation has been associated with higher risk suicide hazard rates and ideation
- Women Veterans are twice as like to die by suicide as non-Veteran women
- Worsening symptoms of PTSD, outbursts on anger, substance misuse, and strained relationships
- Current and former National Guard and Reserve Members returning from deployment face the challenge of having to reintegrate back into civilian life quickly
- Stressors experienced while in service along with identity adjustment required upon returning from deployment may increase the risk of mental health conditions
- Common stereotypes: All veterans have PTSD or TBI, are homeless, struggling with addiction, and have seen combat
- Impact of stereotypes: Create unrealistic expectations and hinder genuine understanding, lead to stigmatization and discrimination
- VA S.A.V.E. will help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who is in suicidal crisis:
 - **Spot** the signs a Veteran might be thinking about suicide.
 - **Ask** the critical question.
 - **Validate** the Veteran's experience.
 - **Encourage** and support next steps
- When talking to a Veteran at risk for suicide:
 - Remain calm, listen and limit questions; let the Veteran do the talking, maintain eye contact, use open body language, use supportive and encouraging comments, be honest, and act with confidence
- Free and confidential support – 24/7, 365 days for Veterans, service members, family, friends
 - Call: Dial 988 then press 1
 - Chat: VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat
 - Text: 838255
- VA Peer Support and Health Care:
 - Mental Health Intensive Case Management (**MHICM**), Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (**HCHV**), Substance Treatment and Recovery (**STAR**), Veterans Justice Outreach (**VJO**), Supportive employment, Peer support specialist, Chaplain services

Public Health Program Updates

Preparedness and Response Program, Naomi Orantes,
Naomi.Orantes@dph.sbcounty.gov

- PRP will be hosting their hybrid (in person & virtual) semi-annual collaborative meeting on Wednesday, July 22, 2026
- Session 1: 9AM – Noon, Session 2: 1PM – 4PM
- This is a semi-annual collaborative meeting, which brings together the Healthcare Preparedness Planning Partnership (HP3) Coalition meeting and the PRP Partnership meeting for a full day of connection, collaboration, and meaningful discussion. It is

designed to strengthen public health and healthcare emergency management efforts, as well as overall community resilience

- The purpose of this meeting is to strengthen public health emergency management efforts and community resilience in San Bernardino County
- RSVP at [RSVP for the PRP Partnership Meeting](#)

Health Equity, Healthy Communities Initiative, Kimberly Smith,
Kimberly.Smith@dph.sbcounty.gov

- HCI will be hosting their next learning session on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, online from 1 – 2:15pm
- The topic is Healthy Food Policies presented by Healthy Food Policy Project.
- Cover policies and programs that improve food access and create healthier food environments
- Important due to food deserts, limited access to healthy foods, and related chronic health issues
- Open to anyone: CBOs, community leaders, city partners, or anyone interested in improving community health
- Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/hcilearning26>
- Funding Opportunity: Rauch Family Foundation: Inland Southern California Vital Conditions
- Focus: Strengthening social determinants of health in Inland regions of California
- Program: 2026 Vital Conditions
- Application window: Open now through July 30 to Nonprofits
- Funding: \$25,000 to \$100,000 per year
- Not a Public Health Department grant, but the team can help with questions about the Vital Conditions framework
- RFI: <https://files.constantcontact.com/5073fdb7001/8a240309-eacf-4d76-8444-8e7c4af62be7.pdf>
- Applications must be submitted online at: <https://therauchfamilyfoundation.wizehive.app/program/vital-conditions>
- Questions can be emailed to: Grants@therauchfamilyfoundation.org

Rural Health

Desert Sanctuary, Jess Pryor, jess@ds.inc.org

- Case managers follow the Life Program, which is focused on living intentionally, fearlessly, and empowered
- Supports clients with:
 - Safe and stable housing, Employment or career planning, Education or job training, Financial well-being and budgeting, accessing healthcare or counseling, Legal or community resources, parenting support, building confidence and healthy relationships, creating long-term stability, any other client-identified goals
- Partners with Barstow Community College through HHIP (Housing and Homeless Insecurity Program) to help pay rent or overdue utilities
- Assist clients with temporary restraining orders

- Services are offered to domestic violence survivors and the general community.
- Community challenges include:
 - Difficulty finding affordable housing for clients
 - Limited job opportunities in Barstow due to low hiring rates
- Learn more at [Desert Sanctuary Haley House Inc.](#)

CBO Collaborative 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
- Topic for August CBO Collaborative Meeting:
 - Dental Hygiene by Vernon Dental

The next meeting will be on
Tuesday, August 4, 2026
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Via Microsoft Teams