



Public Health Health Equity

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CBO Collaborative Meeting Summary

November 04, 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

- We are currently in respiratory virus season, which includes flu, COVID-19, and RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus).
- This season typically runs from November 1 through March 30.
- The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) expects this fall and winter's respiratory virus season to have similar hospitalization rates to last year, largely due to COVID-19's continued influence on RSV trends.
- Hospitalization rates are not projected to decrease because of increased summer activities and lower vaccination rates.
- There has been an increase in whooping cough (pertussis) cases, with 32 reported cases in 2025 in San Bernardino County, compared to 15 cases in 2024.
- Infants are the most affected by whooping cough.
- It is recommended that pregnant women receive the Tdap vaccine during the late third trimester to help protect both the mother and the newborn.
- Another respiratory-related illness of concern is hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD).
- HFMD is very common among school-aged children.
- Symptoms include fever, sore throat, mouth sores, and rash.
- There is no vaccine or specific treatment for HFMD. Preventive measures include:
 - Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
 - Stay home when sick.
 - Wash your hands regularly with soap and water.
- To protect yourself from seasonal viruses, schedule your vaccine appointments at www.myturn.ca.gov

San Bernardino Countywide Vision

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](#)

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- 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 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

Disabilities Awareness

Rolling Start, Lisa Hayes and Eddie McCreight EMcCreight@rollingstart.com

- In observance of Disabilities Awareness Month this December, Lisa and Eddie presented on disability etiquette, equality, and ableism.
- Independent living is both a cultural movement and a program that prioritizes the individual first and the disability second. It emphasizes self-determination, autonomy, and the right of people with disabilities to live independently.
- Rolling Start is a cross-disability, community-based Center for Independent Living whose mission is to empower people with disabilities to live the independent lives of their choice. The organization serves individuals of all ages and with all types of disabilities.
- Ableism refers to discrimination and social prejudice against people with disabilities, based on the belief that typical abilities are superior. It assumes that people with disabilities need to be “fixed” and defines them by their disability rather than their individuality.
- Ableism often appears in everyday language through common expressions. For example, the phrase “*wheelchair-bound*” implies restriction rather than mobility or freedom. A more inclusive alternative is “*wheelchair user*.”
- Attitudes and assumptions that reflect ableism may show up in behaviors such as:
 - Speaking to a caregiver instead of directly to the person
 - Helping without asking, such as pushing their wheelchair for them
 - Praising someone for performing ordinary tasks
 - Asking invasive or personal questions
- Systemic ableism can also occur within organizations and institutions, for instance:
 - Buildings with stairs but no ramps, elevators, or automatic doors
 - Videos or meetings without captions or transcripts
 - Treating disability services as “add-ons” rather than part of core diversity and equity initiatives
 - Requiring in-person participation when virtual options are possible
- Common microaggressions include phrases like:

“You’re too young to be disabled,” “You poor thing,” “I’m sorry,” “You’re so brave for living like that,” or “I don’t even see your disability.”

- Effective allyship is about being respectful, responsive, and open to learning, it's not about knowing everything.
- Key tips for respectful interaction:
 - Always ask before helping
 - Avoid over-apologizing or over-praising
 - Respect each person's autonomy and choices
 - Be open and receptive to feedback

Behavioral Health Services Act Overview

San Bernardino County, Department of Behavioral Health, La Mika Lydia,
LaMika.Lydia@dbh.sbcounty.gov

- The purpose of this overview is to explain the transition from the *Mental Health Services Act (MHSA)* to the *Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA)* under *Proposition 1* and its impact on counties, programs, and communities.
- Prop 1 updates the previous MHSA system to the new BHSA, effective July 1, 2026.
- BHSA updates behavioral health funding, expands eligible populations, and emphasizes housing and substance use treatment.
- Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was passed in 2004.
- The aim was to transform public mental health services with focus on recovery, resilience, and community-based care.
- MHSA Example Programs
 - Eating Disorder Collaborative
 - Progressive Integrated Care (PIC) – integrates physical & mental health services.
 - Cracked Eggs –art therapy
- Proposition 1 & Transition to BHSA
 - Approved March 2024 and first major reform since MHSA began.
 - State allocation increases from 5% to 10%.
 - Substance use disorder treatment eligibility which is now covered even without a co-occurring mental illness.
- Behavioral Health Services and support
 - Early intervention programs, outreach, and engagement
- Housing Interventions
 - Expands permanent and supportive housing for individuals with behavioral health needs.
- Key Takeaways
 - BHSA emphasizes integration, housing, substance use treatment, and community accountability.
 - Counties will have more flexibility but must meet new data, planning, and outcome reporting requirements.
 - Community input remains vital. The Department encourages collaboration with local organizations and residents.
 - Contact and follow-up opportunities available for stakeholders interested in planning or outreach events at mhsa@dbh.sbcounty.gov

CBO Business

Speaker: Karen Rodriguez, EquityInAction@dph.sbcounty.gov

Observance Learning Topic Poll:

1. Mental Health Awareness
2. Cervical Health Awareness

3. Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention

Poll Results – Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention

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

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

Community Partner Roundtable

- **Dignity Health Community Hospital** is hosting their Annual Community Thanksgiving Celebration on Monday November 24th from 5pm – 7pm. This year's celebration will be a drive-through meal pick-up and no-sales event. They invite community organizations to table to provide their resources. If your organization has access to non-perishable food items, or fresh fruits and vegetables, we invite you to distribute from your booth.
For registration information, contact: Faviola.Garcia-Robles@CommonSpirit.org or call (909)806-1816
- **Institute for Public Strategies** are currently looking for youth who are interested in interning as a young advocate for public health and volunteering to help collect data and research. They invite any youth who are interested in volunteering and getting hands on experience in public health.
See applications here: [Survey & Outreach Advocate Description](#) & [Young Advocate Internship Role Description](#)
- **Foothill Family Shelter** is having their Annual Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway on November 22nd from 10am – 1pm (While supplies last) at Hillside High School in Upland.
For more information contact: (909)920-0453
- **San Bernardino County, Department of Behavioral Health** invites you to join their Inland Empire Opioid Crisis Coalition. They provide training sessions on Narcan and help with distribution. They also provide presentations on substance abuse and fentanyl awareness
To get involved, email: Gustavo.Cisneros@dbh.sbcounty.gov

The next meeting will be on

Tuesday, December 2nd

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Via Zoom: [CBO Collaborative Meeting Link - Zoom](#)