

Support Material Agenda Item No. 25

Board of Directors Meeting

**April 2, 2025
10:00 a.m.**

Location

**San Bernardino County Transportation Authority
First Floor Lobby Board Room
1170 W. 3rd Street, San Bernardino, CA 92410**

**TELECONFERENCING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATION:
Needles City Hall, 817 Third Street, Needles, CA 92363**

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Council of Governments

25. California Governor's Presentation for Proposition 1 and CARE Court

Receive a presentation from the California Governor's office about Proposition 1 and Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court.

A PowerPoint presentation was received after the posting of the agenda and is being provided as a separate attachment.



Transforming California's Behavioral Health System

CARE Court Overview

Governor's Office of External Affairs

San Bernardino Council of Governments (SBCOG/SBCTA)

4.2.2025



Updated: 2/21/2025

Counties' New **Toolbox** to Focus on the High-Risk/High-Need Residents

- [Behavioral Health Bridge Housing](#) – immediate, interim housing
- [Encampment Resolution Funds](#) - services & supports to people experiencing homelessness in encampments
- [Mobile Crisis](#) (Infrastructure and Service Delivery) and [AB 988](#)
- [Full Service Partnership](#) (funded through MHSa, Medi-Cal, Realignment)
- [CARE Act](#)
- [LPS Conservatorship Reform](#) (SB 43)
- [Opioid Response](#)



A New Tool for Cities

- For the first time, entities other than counties can **petition the court directly** to help a person with untreated psychosis receive treatment and housing, including:
 - **Families and roommates;**
 - **Mayor's offices, first responders, homeless outreach coordinators; and**
 - **Licensed behavioral health professionals, local hospital directors, among others.**
- **Visit:**
 - [CARE Act Resource Center](#) for technical assistance and toolkits
 - [Judicial Council of California \(JC\) CARE Act Website](#) for petition forms, etc.
 - [CalHHS CARE Act website](#) for updated information and communication tools.



CARE Act Progress

Updated: 2/21/2025

ALL County CARE Courts are operational as of December 1, 2024.

CalHHS, DHCS, and Judicial Council continue to:

- Work closely with operators - Courts, counties, legal representation, and others - including support for data, engagement, and treatment and housing to CARE respondents.
- Work closely with new petitioners - like families, mayors, and first responders, who have no other way to start treatment - including outreach and training through NAMI (families and self-advocates), California Medical Association, and more

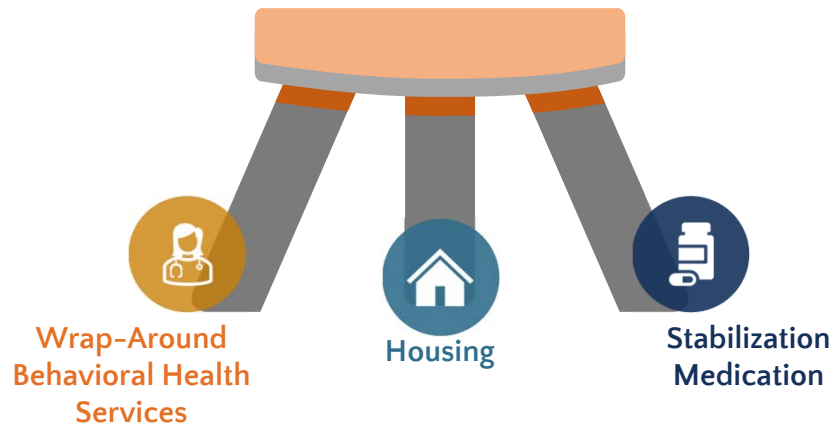
Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act

- **'Upstream' diversion to prevent more restrictive conservatorships or incarceration.**
- CARE is a **new civil court process**, that can be supported and served by **existing programs**.
- **Provides** behavioral health services to **severely ill, vulnerable individuals** while preserving **self-determination** to the greatest extent possible.
- Serves individuals who have **schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders** who meet certain health and safety criteria.
- Designed so people can **stabilize**, begin healing, and **exit homelessness**.



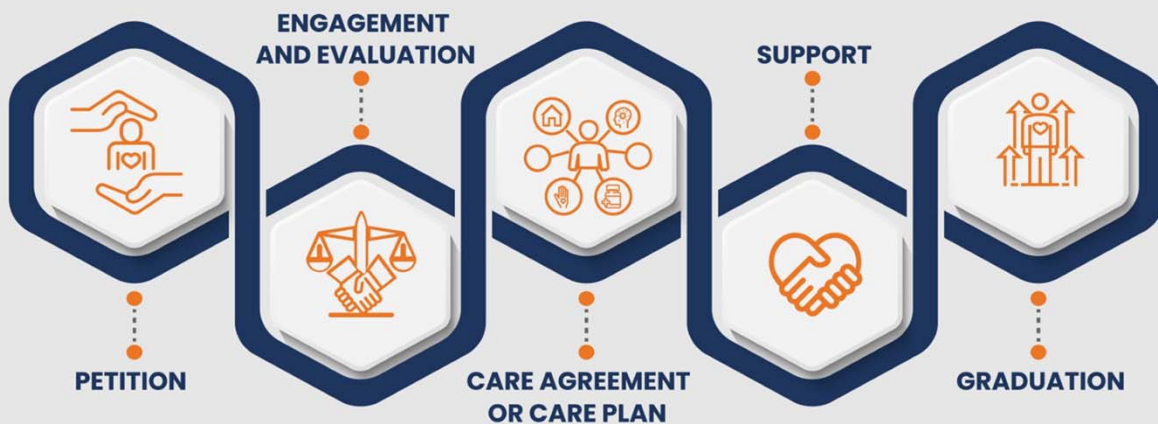
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Three-Legged Stool



The CARE Process

- There are many pathways in CARE including opportunities for voluntary engagement at the beginning.

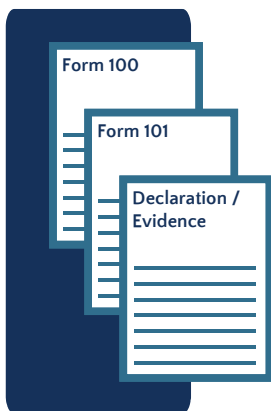


CARE Eligibility Criteria

- **18+ with a diagnosis of Schizophrenia Spectrum or Other Psychotic Disorders**
- Symptoms severe in degree and persistent in duration, which may cause behavioral functioning that interferes substantially with primary activities of daily living (i.e., basic activities related to personal care), and may result in inability to maintain stable adjustment and independent functioning without treatment, support, and rehabilitation for a long or indefinite period of time
- Not stabilized with ongoing voluntary outpatient treatment
- Unlikely to survive safely and independently in the community (i.e., maintaining personal safety, hygiene, diet, health, and/or necessary relationships without supervision) and the condition is deteriorating OR services and support are needed to prevent relapse or deterioration
- Participation in CARE Act is the least restrictive alternative, AND
- The person will likely benefit from participating in a CARE plan or CARE agreement



The Petition



- **Petition to Commence CARE Act Proceedings (form CARE-100):**
 - Allows for narrative information to support that the respondent meets eligibility criteria.
- **Plus, one of two things:**
 - **Mental Health Declaration—CARE Act Proceedings (form CARE-101):** Declaration from a licensed behavioral health professional who examined the respondent in the past 60 days (or has made multiple attempts)
 - OR**
 - **Declaration, evidence, or other documentation** of at least two intensive treatments (one within the previous 60 days)
- Find detailed how-to videos at: care-act.org/petitioners

Write what you observe & know.

The judge has broad discretion when conducting the initial (prima facie) review of petition.



For more information on the mandatory forms, see [Information for Petitioners – CARE-050](#), [Information for Respondents – CARE-060](#), [How to File the CARE-100 Form](#), the [CARE-101 form](#), and the [CARE Act Resources for Petitioners One-Pager](#).

Three Main Steps to File

1. Consider eligibility. CARE is for people with schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. The forms walk you through all of the eligibility criteria.
2. Identify the court accepting petitions and download forms CARE-100 and CARE-101. You can access this information on your county's CARE or court website. See: <https://care-act.org/library/county-website-directory/>
3. Fill out the forms electronically or on paper, and file in person, electronically, or by mail. There are no filing fees for CARE.



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Reminders

1. The goal of filing a petition is to ensure the respondent can get the help they need, so you don't need to worry about making it perfect.
2. The form is going to be read by a person (a judge), so just provide enough information to convey why the judge should ask county behavioral health to investigate further.
3. The person completing the form needs to make clear how the respondent may meet the CARE criteria. The forms may seem long, but the key eligibility information comes from one question on each form: question #5 (CARE-100) and #7 (CARE-101). You only need to put the eligibility information in one form.
4. It's ok to copy/paste or repeat information throughout the form.
5. If you have evidence of two 5250s (one within 60 days), you can attach that and only submit the CARE-100.
 - Evidence can include information from EHR, discharge paperwork, or a signed declaration from the petitioner if the petitioner had personal knowledge of the detentions.
6. CARE is not a last resort, if you think someone may be eligible, you can still file a petition



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What Happens Next? (in general)

- Petition is filed.
- If the court thinks the person might be eligible, it will order the county to investigate and file a report.
- The county will do outreach, try to connect the person to needed services, and submit their report to the court.
- The court will set an Initial Appearance. The petitioner should be present at the Initial Appearance or the case may be dismissed. (Can usually be done remotely, and the appearance is usually quite short.)
- After that, county behavioral health will take over from the petitioner and the process will continue.



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Next Steps

- Stay informed - [Mentalhealth.ca.gov](https://www.Mentalhealth.ca.gov)
- Submit petitions - [care-act.org/](https://www.care-act.org/)
- Sign-up for Stakeholder updates on BHT
(SCAN QR CODE)



GOVERNOR
GAVIN NEWSOM



THANK YOU

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