

Memo

Date: February 19, 2026

To: Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Providers

From: Tracy Hazelton, BHSA Division Director 

Torfeh Rejali, Quality Assurance Division Director 

Subject: BHSA Transition: SMHS Documentation Training and Resources

Purpose

This memo is to notify providers who plan to transition to becoming Specialty Mental Health Service (SMHS) Early Intervention providers of upcoming documentation training and other resources to assist with this transition.

Background

Due to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) transition to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) effective July 1, 2026, Alameda County Behavioral Health Department (ACBHD) is providing an opt-in opportunity for Early Intervention (EI) Providers to transition to becoming Specialty Mental Health Service EI (SMHS EI) Providers. This will require compliance with all SMHS Medi-Cal regulations.

ACBHD Training: SMHS Documentation Requirements

ACBHD is offering a series of training modules to assist providers who have chosen to opt-in to this transition. The next training topic, *SMHS Documentation Requirements* is in two parts, each followed by a live Question/Answer session. Topics include the following:

- Screening and Transition Tools
- Informing Materials
- Assessments
- Problem Lists
- Progress Notes
- Plan Development

Please register for these training modules and the Question and Answer sessions using the links below. Part 1 and 2 of the training will be recorded and posted on the QA Training webpage.

Note: As additional training modules are scheduled, the training details and registration information will be shared via email.

SMHS Documentation Requirements – Part 1

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

This training will also be recorded

Registration link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3155558143167955038>

Q&A for SMHS Documentation Requirements – Part 1

Thursday, March 19, 2026

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Registration link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5656336867404962396>

SMHS Documentation Requirements – Part 2

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

This training will also be recorded

Registration link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/335869369829466453>

Q&A for SMHS Documentation Requirements – Part 2

Thursday, April 2, 2026

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Registration link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4986329665810392409>

Additional Resources

- **CalMHSA's Resources:** California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) has published helpful SMHS clinical documentation manuals and recorded self-paced training modules on their website. Providers are encouraged to review the following:
 - Clinical Documentation Guide: Mental Health Services
 - Documentation Training:
 - Foundations of Documentation and Service Delivery
 - Access to Services
 - Assessments
 - Diagnosis, Problem Lists, and Care Planning
 - Progress Notes
 - Care Coordination
 - Screening Tools for SMHS

- Transition of Care Tool
- Discharge Planning
- Effective Use of Screening Tools

- **Quality Assurance Training website:**
 - *MHSA to BHSA Transition: Becoming a Medi-Cal Provider training module:* See recording and presentation deck.
 - Q & A from this training will be posted on this page once available.

Action Required

Please share this information with your teams and register for the upcoming training, as appropriate.

For questions regarding this memo, please contact QATA@acgov.org.

For questions regarding the BHSA transition, please contact BHSATransition@acgov.org.