


Communication from the Office of the MHSA Division Director –

Date: July 10, 2024
To: Behavioral Health Provider Networks & Community Stakeholders
From: Tracy Hazelton, MPH, MHSA Division Director 
Subject: **Early Intervention Services - Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Operational Update #1**

This departmental communication has been provided in order to ensure that our county's behavioral health provider networks and community stakeholders receive timely operational updates regarding how upcoming changes to the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) state funding stream will impact the system, and specifically for this communication, how those impacts and/or changes related to **early intervention services**.

Background

On July 1, 2026, per Senate Bill (SB) 326, the MHSA funding stream will convert to the newly coined Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) funding stream. Out of the total BHSA funding allocation for each county behavioral health department, 10% will be utilized at the state level and 90% will be distributed to counties at the local level. The 90% of funds distributed to counties will be divided into three funding categories:

- Housing Continuum (funding at 30%);
- Full Service Partnerships (funding at 35%); and
- Behavioral Health Services and Supports (BHSS; funding at 35%).

Early Intervention Services

It is important to note that 50% of the funding in the BHSS category must be allocated to a **subcategory** of Early Intervention Services. Of this subcategory, the majority of the funds must be directed towards individuals between the ages of 0-25 years of age.

Per [SB 326 SEC 50, Section 5840](#): Each county shall establish and administer an **early intervention program** that is designed to **prevent mental illnesses and substance use disorders from becoming severe and disabling and to reduce disparities in behavioral health**.

Additionally, an **early intervention program** must include the following components:

- Outreach,
- Access and Linkage,
- Treatment services for the purpose of preventing mental health illness and substance use disorders from becoming severe,
- Early Psychosis, and
- Additional components to be developed by the state's Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

Please note that DHCS **may require** that a county implement specific evidence-based and community-defined evidence practices. More information is scheduled to be provided by DHCS beginning in the Winter of 2025, when we anticipate new BHSA guidelines will be released periodically and on an ongoing basis. Our department is committed to providing system updates regarding these operational changes as soon as possible.

To stay up to date on mental health resources and the BHSA transition please visit: * [Behavioral Health Transformation \(ca.gov\)](#)

* Mental Health for All: <https://mentalhealth.ca.gov/>

* Locally coming soon, BHSA section of the [ACMHSA.org](#) website