

# Introduction to Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence (COE)

July 30 and July 31, 2025

# Housekeeping

- » Today's presentation (with the exception of Q&A) will be recorded and posted on the [Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence Resource Hub](#) following this call.
  - The recording and slides will also be sent via email.
- » After the presentation is complete, the recording will be stopped to provide participants with an opportunity to ask questions.
- » We will keep record of all questions, and if not answered during the call, DHCS/HMA will follow up via email.

# Agenda

## » Topics for today:

- Introduction and overview of the Centers of Excellence (COE)
- Behavioral Health COEs and COE Administrative Entity (AE)
- COE engagement process overview
- Subsequent webinars and other engagement opportunities
- Next steps and questions

## » Out of scope for today:

- EBP policy guidance on fidelity requirements
- Billing-related questions
- Data elements and reporting requirements

# Introduction and Overview of the Centers of Excellence (COE)



The information included in this presentation may be pre-decisional, draft, and subject to change.

# COE Support for Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)

## COEs to support following EBPs:

- » Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Forensic ACT (FACT)\*
- » Clubhouse Services
- » Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for First Episode Psychosis (FEP)\*
- » High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW)\*^
- » Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment\*
- » Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- » Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)
- » Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

\*EBPs in BHSA and BH-CONNECT.

^Additional information on HFW forthcoming.

- » **EBPs are central to California's goal** of expanding access to and strengthening the continuum of community-based behavioral health services for individuals living with significant behavioral health needs.
  - EBPs are key components of both the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and BH-CONNECT.
- » **DHCS has established COEs** to support behavioral health practitioners and counties in implementing EBPs under both BHSA and BH-CONNECT. COEs are actively:
  - **Supporting DHCS in developing requirements** on training, technical assistance, fidelity monitoring, and data collection for all EBPs.
  - Developing materials and **beginning to provide training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring** to counties implementing EBPs under both initiatives.

# Implementation of EBPs in BHSA and BH-CONNECT



## Shared features of EBPs in BHSA and BH-CONNECT:

- » Implementation requirements (e.g., eligibility criteria, staffing, fidelity monitoring).
  - » Access to training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring support.
  - » Workforce (i.e., the same ACT teams may support both Medi-Cal and non-Medi-Cal members).
- » The implementation of EBPs included in both initiatives is closely coordinated.
  - » Counties may opt-in to provide ACT, FACT, IPS, and CSC in Medi-Cal under BH-CONNECT beginning in 2025.
  - » MST, FFT, PCIT, and HFW are required services already covered under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT).
  - » Under BHSA, counties must offer ACT, FACT, IPS, CSC, and HFW beginning July 1, 2026.
  - » **For EBPs in both initiatives, core requirements will be identical regardless of whether a county opts in to BH-CONNECT** (e.g., ACT teams must complete the same trainings to meet Medi-Cal and BHSA standards).

# Status of Guidance on EBPs

**DHCS has released initial guidance on coverage of EBPs under Medi-Cal and is currently developing detailed training, technical assistance, fidelity monitoring, and data collection guidance for counties and practitioners that applies to both Medi-Cal and BHSA.**

- » In April 2025, DHCS released [BHIN-25-009](#) outlining coverage, payment, and other compliance requirements for counties that elect to cover ACT/FACT, IPS, and CSC for FEP **under Medi-Cal**.
  - In May 2025, DHCS released the [BH-CONNECT EBP Policy Guide](#) to support the implementation of EBPs in BH-CONNECT and BHSA.
- » In June 2025, DHCS also released a draft BHIN outlining coverage, payment, and other compliance requirements for MST, PCIT, and FFT. Final guidance will be released in the coming months.
- » DHCS will include guidance on BHSA minimum service capacity requirements in future BHSA County Policy Manual updates and release additional guidance on training, technical assistance, fidelity monitoring, and data collection requirements for ACT, FACT, IPS, and CSC for FEP that **applies to both Medi-Cal and BHSA**.
- » DHCS will also release guidance to support implementation of HFW under BHSA and Medi-Cal. Additional details about HFW are forthcoming.

# Timeline for Upcoming Policy Guidance

Date	Milestone
<b>July 30 and July 31</b>	Introduction to COEs: <b>Webinar #1</b>
<b>July</b>	Prepare guidance for public comment
<b>August 6</b>	Adult EBPs: <b>Webinar #2</b>
<b>August 7</b>	Children & Youth EBPs: <b>Webinar #3</b>
<b>Late August</b> (Timing TBD)	<b>Public comment on draft guidance on EBP training and fidelity standards</b> <b>Public comment on draft guidance on minimum service capacity</b> (via County BHSA Policy Manual)
<b>September – October</b>	Revisions and finalization of guidance
<b>October</b> (Timing TBD)	<b>Publication of guidance on EBP training and fidelity standards</b> <b>Publication of guidance on minimum service capacity</b> (in County BHSA Policy Manual)

# COE Implementation Timeline

**Statewide EBP  
webinars for all  
COEs**

Q3 2025

**County consultations  
and training and  
technical assistance  
materials available to  
counties and providers**

Starting Q3/Q4 2025

**Engagement Initiation  
Forms submitted by  
counties**

Q3 2025

(Ongoing submissions  
when ready to consult  
with COE for each EBP)

# Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence (COE) and COE Administrative Entity (AE)



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# Role of COE Administrative Entity (AE)

## Infrastructure

Build infrastructure and standardize processes, engagement, and collaboration across all COEs to deliver EBP model training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring statewide.

## Communication

Develop a centralized approach for socialization of the COEs and communication with counties/practitioners, including a Behavioral Health COE Resource Hub.

## Alignment

Collaborate with DHCS to ensure alignment of COE training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring with state behavioral health policy and broader initiatives.

## Oversight

Manage COE performance and costs to develop scalable and sustainable short/long-term strategy for statewide training, technical assistance, fidelity monitoring, and data collection/reporting.

COE Administrative Entity



DHCS has partnered with Health Management Associates (HMA) as the BH COE AE.

# Selected COEs and Responsibilities

COEs to support training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring of EBP to support the BH-CONNECT and BHSA initiatives.

	Children & Youth	Adult	
	<b>1</b> Multisystemic Therapy (MST) <b>MST Services</b>	<b>5</b> Assertive Community Treatment (ACT/FACT) <b>UCLA Public Mental Health Partnership</b>	
	<b>2</b> Functional Family Therapy (FFT) <b>FFT LLC</b>	<b>6</b> Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for First Episode Psychosis (FEP)* <b>EPI-CAL (UC Davis)</b>	
		<i>*CSC serves ages 12 through 40.</i>	
	<b>3</b> Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) <b>PCIT International</b>	<b>7</b> Individual Placement and Support (IPS) <b>IPS Employment Center</b>	
	<b>4</b> High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) <b>Pending October 2025</b>	<b>8</b> Clubhouse <b>Clubhouse International</b>	

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# Role and Responsibilities of COEs

- » Beginning late summer/early fall, COEs will be available to counties to provide training, technical assistance, fidelity monitoring, and data collection support for all EBPs.
- » COEs will support county behavioral health (BH) agencies and their practitioners through:
  - County consultations.
  - Training and technical assistance to counties and behavioral health practitioners (new and existing).
  - Conducting fidelity assessments.
  - Collecting data to inform continuous quality improvement (CQI) and outcomes.

# COE Engagement Process Overview



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# How Counties Engage with COE: Engagement Initiation Form (EIF)

- » Submit an EIF to initiate a consultation with one or more COEs:
  - When: Up to three months ahead of desired consultation.
  - Who: County BH agency director or designee.
  - What to expect: Counties will receive a follow-up email from each respective COE to schedule county consultation within three business days.
- » All counties must submit a form for each BHSA EBP by March 31, 2026, to ensure initial COE consultation is completed by June 30, 2026.

# COE County Consultations

**All counties must complete a consultation with a COE by July 1, 2026, for ACT, FACT, CSC, and IPS Supported Employment.**

**Consultations will be held virtually in 1:1 or small group settings and will cover topics such as:**

- » County-specific implementation timelines for ACT, FACT, IPS, and CSC.
- » County-specific resources available to establish and/or expand ACT, FACT, IPS, and CSC programs.
- » Anticipated number of individuals in a county that may be eligible for each EBP.
- » Referral sources to support identification of individuals that may be eligible for each EBP.
- » Training, technical assistance and data collection requirements for each EBP.
- » Adaptations for rural areas.
- » Other county-specific concerns.

# COE AE Role to Monitor Progress and Needs



» Track county/COE engagement to support timely connections and progress.



» Work with each COE on status of county/team engagements and assist in addressing needs.



» Monitor data/information to support timely access to COE training, technical assistance, and fidelity assessments.

# COE Resource Hub

Get connected to trainings, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring resources:

- » [BH COE Resource Hub](#)
- » [Join the newsletter](#)
- » Ask questions: [bhcoe.info@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:bhcoe.info@dhcs.ca.gov)

The information included in this pres

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence (COE) Resource Hub. The header features the DHCS logo and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Evidence-Based Practices, and Contact. A language dropdown menu is set to English. The main banner area displays the title 'Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence (COE) Resource Hub'. Below this, an 'Overview' section provides information about Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) and lists several specific services: Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Forensic ACT (FACT), Clubhouse Services, Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for First Episode Psychosis (FEP), Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment, Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), and Functional Family Therapy (FFT). A button labeled 'Explore the Evidence-Based Practices' is visible. At the bottom, a section titled 'About the Centers of Excellence' is partially visible, showing a table with columns for 'Organization' and 'Evidence-Based Practice'.

# Upcoming Webinar and Other Engagement Opportunities



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# Webinar #2 and Q&A Session: Introduction to the Adult EBP COEs

## Intended Audience



- » County BH agency directors, designees, and other staff identified by the county BH director.
- » County and contracted practitioners and team members interested in receiving training and technical assistance.

## Topics



- » Overview and introduction of adult EBPs, target populations, and eligibility criteria.
- » Training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring approaches.
- » COE engagement process and Engagement Initiation Form.

## Logistics



- » Date/Time: Wednesday, August 6 at 1 p.m. PDT.
- » [Webinar #2 and Q&A Session Registration Link](#)
- » Recording will be available on the BH COE Resource Hub.
- » Q&A Session on Wednesday, August 13 at 1 p.m. PDT.

# Webinar #3 and Q&A Session: Introduction to the Children/Youth EBP COEs

## Intended Audience



- » County BH agency directors, designees, and other staff identified by the county BH director.
- » County and contracted practitioners and team members interested in receiving training and technical assistance.

## Topics



- » Overview and introduction of children/youth EBPs, target populations, and eligibility criteria.
- » Training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring approaches.
- » COE engagement process and Engagement Initiation Form.

## Logistics



- » Date/Time: Thursday, August 7 at 1 p.m. PDT.
- » [Webinar #3 and Q&A Session Registration Link](#)
- » Recording will be available on the BH COE Resource Hub.
- » Q&A Session on Thursday, August 14 at 1 p.m. PDT.

# Monthly Office Hours

## Intended Audience



- » County BH agency staff.
- » County and contracted practitioners.

## Topics



- » Identified topics based on questions received via email, forms, and through county socialization webinars.
- » Opportunity to share county/practitioner insights and operational considerations.

## Logistics



- » Monthly offered in September, October, and November.
- » If continued interest, restarting in January 2026.
- » More information coming soon!

# Next Steps and Questions



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# Questions?



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