

# Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence: November Office Hours

November 20, 2025

# Housekeeping

- » Today's Office Hours will be recorded for notetaking purposes and will not be shared publicly.
- » Please submit questions in the Q&A function.
- » There will be no Office Hours in December due to holidays; Office Hours will resume on January 15, 2026.

# Overview of Recent Updates



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

# High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) Center of Excellence (COE)



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# High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW) COE

- » [Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice \(RCFFP\)](#), a program within the Division of Continuing and Professional Education at the University of California, Davis was selected as the **COE for High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW)**.
- » An update on timing of county consultations will be sent to all counties who have already submitted Engagement Initiation Form (EIF) in **December**.
- » Policy guidance on HFW (e.g., fidelity milestones, staffing) anticipated during the **first quarter of 2026**.



[High Fidelity Wraparound \(HFW\) Concept Paper](#)

# Small County Exemptions for Full Service Partnership (FSP) Evidence-Based Practices (EBP)



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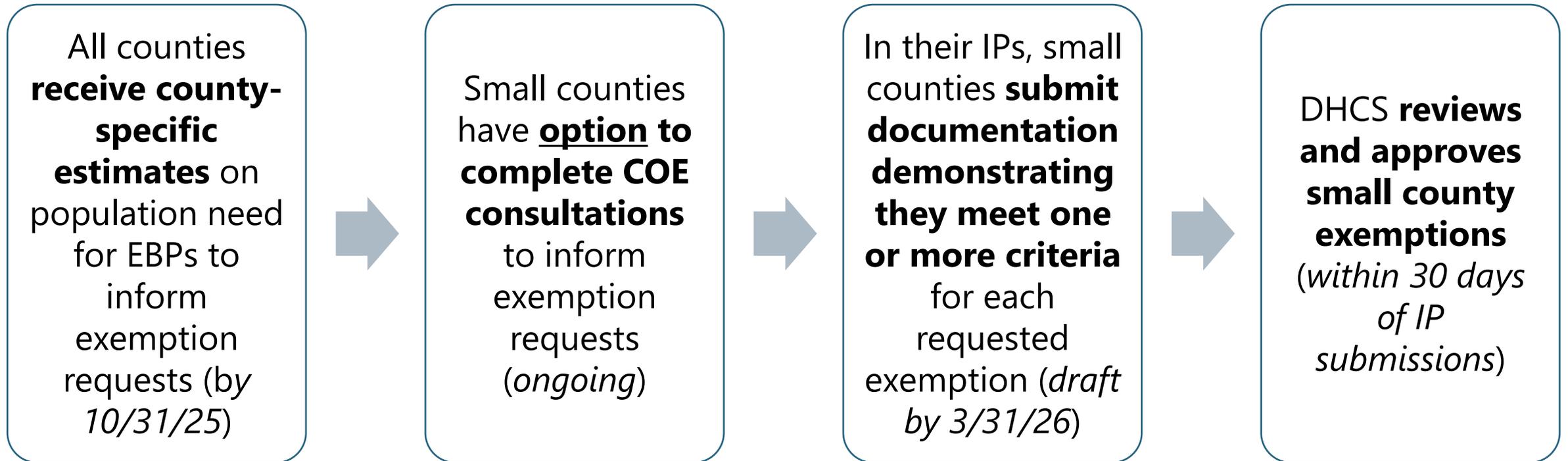
# Small County Exemptions for FSP EBPs

- » **Current BHSA policy** is that between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2029, counties must:
  - Participate in ongoing training and technical assistance for all FSP EBPs.
  - Understand gaps to fidelity for each FSP EBP by December 31, 2027.
  - Complete full fidelity reviews and demonstrate counties are implementing all FSP EBPs with fidelity by June 30, 2029.
- » For the first Integrated Plan (IP) covering FYs 2026-2029, all counties, regardless of their size, will be exempt from the EBP fidelity requirements for ACT, FACT, IPS Model of Supported Employment, and HFW. Counties are still required to begin offering the required EBPs by July 1, 2026.
- » DHCS is updating this policy in Module 4 to **permit small counties (population <200,000) to request an exemption** in the first Integrated Plan (IP) for one or more of the following FSP EBPs:
  - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
  - Forensic ACT (FACT)
  - Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment

# Criteria for FSP Exemption Requests

- » **Criteria for FSP exemption requests is already established** in [BHSA Policy Manual Section B.3.4](#).
- » The criteria for FSP exemption requests include:
  - Limited workforce (e.g., qualified providers).
  - Limited need (e.g., the estimated population with a clinical need for an EBP).
  - Other hardships, subject to DHCS review.
- » **Exemption requests must include:**
  - Documentation demonstrating that one or more of the criteria for exemption are met (e.g., workforce or county demographic data, information from a COE consultation).
- » Counties with exemptions are encouraged, but not required, to engage with COEs and work towards implementing EBPs with fidelity over time.

# Approach for Small County Exemptions



# Small County Exemptions Not Applicable to Following EBPs

## **Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for First Episode Psychosis (FEP)**

- Not under FSP but under Behavioral Health Services and Supports, Early Intervention.

## **Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Multisystemic Therapy (MST), and Functional Family Therapy (FFT)**

- Required under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) based on medical necessity.

## **High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW)**

- Required under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) and covered by Medi-Cal.

## **Clubhouse Services**

- Optional EBP and not impacted.

# CaMHSA Eligibility Estimates



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# CalMHSA Population Eligibility Estimates for ACT, FACT, IPS, and CSC

- » The eligibility estimates provided to counties include both (1) an estimate of the population with a clinical need for each EBP listed above; and (2) an estimate of the number of FTE practitioners/multidisciplinary teams that would be needed to serve the estimated population with a clinical need for each EBP.
- » Counties are **not** required to serve the population indicated in the estimates or to staff the number of practitioners/teams indicated.
- » During county consultations, COEs will work with counties to understand EBP requirements, so counties can adjust estimates based on county needs and resources.



# BHSA vs. BH-CONNECT Intersection: Requirements and Timelines

Evidence-Based Practice (EBP)	BH-CONNECT <i>Services are available as Medi-Cal benefits at county option effective <b>January 2025.</b></i>	BHSA <i>All counties must begin offering by <b>July 1, 2026</b>, reach fidelity by <b>June 30, 2029.</b></i>
Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)	✓	✓*
Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT)	✓	✓*
Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC) for First Episode Psychosis (FEP)	✓	✓
Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment	✓	✓*
Clubhouse Services	✓	
High Fidelity Wraparound (HFW)	✓^	✓
Functional Family Therapy (FFT)	✓^	
Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)	✓^	
Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)	✓^	
<p>^ <i>Required to be available under Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT)</i></p> <p>* <i>Please reference earlier slides on Small County FSP Exemptions.</i></p>		

# BH-CONNECT Opt-In

## Opt-In to Cover Individual EBP(s)

- » County BHPs may opt to cover the following EBPs as bundled Medi-Cal services **in any combination at any time** (i.e., a county can opt in to only cover one or two EBPs):
  - ACT
  - FACT
  - CSC for FEP
  - IPS Supported Employment
  - Clubhouse Services
  - Enhanced Community Health Worker (CHW) Services (Note: no COE for CHW)

## Other Opt-In Options and/or Requirements

- » County BHPs participating in Mental Health Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) Federal Financial Participation (FFP) Program must opt-in to cover each EBP as a bundled Medi-Cal service (i.e., ACT, FACT, CSC, IPS Supported Employment, and Enhanced CHW Services).
- » Counties that cover Community Transition In-Reach Services must also cover ACT, FACT, CSC, and IPS Supported Employment.



[More Information on Opting-In to BH-CONNECT](#)

# BH-CONNECT and BHSA EBP Resources

## BH-CONNECT

- [DHCS BH-CONNECT webpage](#)
- [BH-CONNECT Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [BH-CONNECT EBP Training and Fidelity Manual](#)
  - Draft for public comment from September 2025. To be finalized in December 2025/January 2026.

## BHSA

- [DHCS Behavioral Health Transformation webpage](#)
- [Understanding the BHSA: Myths vs. Reality](#)

## Both BH-CONNECT and BHSA

- [BHSA AND BH-CONNECT EBP Overlap FAQ](#)

# Open Question and Answer

# Discussion

- » Based on identified timelines and new information available (e.g., FSP small county exemption), how has your county adjusted engagement plans with COEs and/or EBP implementation?
- » What is needed to support your county's decision-making to offer specific EBPs and engage with the COEs?

# County Case Scenario

- » County A has a population of less than 200,000 with limited workforce but has sufficient demand/need for an ACT team.
- » What are the pros and cons for this county to:
  - Submit an EIF to consult with the COE?
  - Apply for a FSP small county exemption?
  - Opt-in to BH-CONNECT for bundled payments?
- » What other resources can County A leverage to support their efforts to stand up an ACT team?

# Resources and Upcoming Events



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# COE Resource Hub

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

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

The information included in this pres

The screenshot shows the website for 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, Resources, Events, and Contact. A language dropdown menu is set to English. The main content area has a large banner with the text "Behavioral Health Centers of Excellence (COE) Resource Hub". Below the banner, there is an "Overview" section with a sub-header "Overview". The text in the overview section states: "Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) 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. To support California behavioral health delivery systems and behavioral health practitioners in implementing EBPs, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has established COEs. **The Behavioral Health COE Resource Hub connects practitioners to training, technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring resources for:**

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

# 2026 Monthly Office Hours

## January



- » Date: Thursday, January 15
- » Time: 1 - 2 p.m. PST
- » [January 2026 Office Hours Registration Link](#)

## February



- » Date: Thursday, February 19
- » Time: 1 - 2 p.m. PST
- » [February 2026 Office Hours Registration Link](#)

## March



- » Date: Thursday, March 19
- » Time: 1 - 2 p.m. PST
- » [March 2026 Office Hours Registration Link](#)

# Thank you for attending!



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