



## High Desert Regional Steering Committee

Tuesday, September 8, 2026, 2:00pm – 4:00pm

**NEW MEETING PLACE**

Adelanto Stadium. 12000 Stadium Way, Adelanto, CA 92301

The public may observe the meeting online via Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 213-710-829-447-9 Passcode: 9VR7EC6x

Note: Public participation at the meeting via Teams is being offered as a courtesy and may be unavailable if technology fails. In the event of a disruption that prevents the meeting from being broadcast or receiving public comment, the in-person meeting of the High Desert Regional Steering Committee (Committee) will continue. Should you wish to participate remotely, please remember to MUTE your phones. DO NOT place this call on hold should you get another call. Hang up and then rejoin the meeting.

To address the Committee regarding an item on the agenda, or an item within its jurisdiction but not on the agenda, please complete and submit a Public Comment Request form or if you are joining us virtually, indicate by typing “Public Comment” in the chat box. Requests must be submitted before the item is called for consideration. Speakers may address the committee for up to three (3) minutes on Public Comment, up to three (3) minutes on each item on the Discussion agenda, and up to three (3) minutes on the Consent Calendar.

### MEETING AGENDA

| OPENING REMARKS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | PRESENTER                                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| A. Call to Order (3 minutes)<br>B. Pledge of Allegiance/Invocation<br>C. Roll Call<br>D. Round Table Introductions (Name and Organization)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson<br>and Amanda Uptegrove<br>Co-Chairs |
| PUBLIC COMMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                  |
| E. Any member of the public may address the Committee on any matter not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                  |
| CONSENT CALENDAR                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                  |
| F. Approve Special Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson                                      |
| PRESENTATIONS (15 mins)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                  |
| G. Receive an update on the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act from the City of Victorville.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | William Lamas                                                    |
| H. Receive updates from the following regional providers on their Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) awarded:<br>1. Desert Manna – Eugene Buttici<br>2. Go-Go Barstow – Elizabeth Givins<br>3. Family Assistance Program – High Desert Homeless Services – Jimmy Waldron<br>4. Symba Center – Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson<br>5. New Life Fellowship - Ron/Rose Bearshear | Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson                                      |

**DISCUSSIONS (30 mins)**

A. Appoint a new secretary for the Committee.

Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson

**CLOSING**

B. Individual Committee Member Comments (3 mins. each) or at the end of the agenda under closing.

- a. City of Adelanto
- b. Town of Apple Valley
- c. City of Barstow
- d. City of Hesperia
- e. 1<sup>st</sup> Board of Supervisor District Representative
- f. Family Assistance program
- g. GoGo Barstow
- h. High Desert Homeless Services
- i. Moses House
- j. Symba Center
- k. Victor Valley Family Resource Center (VVFRC)

- a. Amanda U.
- b. Kanisha W.
- c. Maribel H./D
- d. Melinda S.
- e. Samuel S.
- f. Shannon W.
- g. Elizabeth G.
- h. Michael G./D
- i. Dawn Q.
- j. Antoinette J.
- k. Sharon G

C. Adjournment.

**Next Meeting will be on  
Tuesday, October 13, 2026  
2:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Adelanto Stadium. 12000 Stadium Way, Adelanto, CA 92301.**

***Mission Statement:*** *The Mission of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership is to provide a system of care that is inclusive, well- planned, coordinated, and evaluated and is accessible to all who are homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.*

The San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership meeting facility is accessible to persons with disabilities. If you require reasonable modification or accommodation for a disability in order to participate in the public meeting, requests should be made through the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) at least three (3) business days prior to the partnership meeting. The OHS telephone number is (909)501-0610 and the office is located at 560 E. Hospitality Lane suite 200. San Bernardino ca 92415. Agenda and documentation can be obtained there or by email.

[OHS@HSS.SBCOUNTY.GOV](mailto:OHS@HSS.SBCOUNTY.GOV)



## Minutes for High Desert Regional Steering Committee Meeting – **Special Meeting**

August 12, 2026

3:00pm – 5:00pm

14343 Civic Drive – City Of Victorville Conference Room A

Victorville, CA 92395

Minutes were recorded and transcribed by **Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson, Co-Chair Special Projects Advisor, Symba Center**

| TOPIC         | PRESENTER                   | OPENING REMARKS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Call to Order | Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson | <b>The meeting was called to order at 3:07pm unofficially due to lack of a quorum</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Roll Call     |                             | <p>The following Committee Members or their alternates were present at the meeting:</p> <p>Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson – Symba Center – Chair</p> <p>Elizabeth Givens – Go Go Barstow</p> <p>Pastor Sharon Green – Victor Valley Family Resource Center <b>arrived at 4:15pm DRSC at Quorum</b></p> <p>Michael Grabhorn – High Desert Homeless Services</p> <p>Kanisha Withers – Town of Apple Valley</p> <p>Susie Nelson – City of Barstow</p> <p>Amanda Uptergrove – City of Adelanto</p> <p><b>Members absent:</b>, Melinda Sayers, City of Hesperia, Mike Catalano – Sheriff’s HOPE Team/INNROADS, Dawn Quigg, Moses House Ministries, Shannon Waldron, Family Assistance program</p> |

|  |  | PUBLIC COMMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>The Chair opened the floor to Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elizabeth Cook (Probation Dept.):</b> Reported on Shelter Court events. Recent Ontario court served ~130 people, resolved 200+ cases. July court served ~200 people, resolved ~400 cases. Upcoming Veterans Shelter Court scheduled for October.</li> <li>• <b>Pastor Paul Jones:</b> Food program at Hesperia Senior Center served 63 people. Programs held every second Wednesday.</li> </ul> |

|                 |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 |                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jonathan Shelton (CD Shelter, Barstow):</b> Weekly food distribution serving 212 people; created 7 jobs and housed 12 individuals.</li> <li>• <b>Tyrese (San Bernardino School District):</b> Homeless education coordinator. Distributed 5,000 backpacks over summer. Training programs for McKinney-Vento and foster youth. Advocating youth empowerment through Sacramento trips and upcoming Nashville conference.</li> <li>• <b>Veteran Housing Update:</b> Four beds available for veterans with disabilities. Coordination through CES and Tuesday case conferencing.</li> <li>• <b>Pastor John:</b> Multiple food programs monthly with 25–35 vendors. Invited community partners to participate.</li> <li>• <b>Jasmine Nelson (Inspire Together):</b> Youth services organization with drop-in centers and transitional living program in Apple Valley. Openings available.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                 |                             | <b>CONSENT ITEMS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Meeting Minutes | Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson | <p>The Chair opened the consent calendar portion of the agenda.</p> <p>The Chair opened the item for public comments. No Public comments were made. Pastor Green made a motion to approve the consent calendar and was seconded by Shannon Waldron.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of March 10, 2026, minutes.</li> <li>• Motion made and approved unanimously after quorum confirmed.</li> <li>• Note: Previous minutes had missing records due to secretary’s transition.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                 | <b>PRESENTER</b>            | <b>PRESENTATIONS</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                 |                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City of Barstow:</b> Strategic plan kickoff with HomeBase. Collaboration with Seaton Shelter and New Leaf Ministries for clothing closet soft launch on Sept. 19.</li> <li>• <b>GoGo Barstow:</b> Finalized H-HIP contract. Opened scattered site housing units (2BR/3BR) at full capacity. Offering employment services (guard training, food handler certificates). Back-to-school giveaway with 150 children registered.</li> <li>• <b>Family Assistance Program:</b> Partnering with city to repurpose shelter for senior citizens. Renovations underway (roofing, parking lot, trash enclosure).</li> <li>• <b>Indian House Clinic (Barstow):</b> Offering free mental health and addiction counseling services. Addiction classes are available for families and individuals.</li> <li>• <b>Symba Center:</b> HAP 3 funds expended; HAP 4 funds (25% remaining) used for psychoeducational groups (financial literacy, life skills). Addressing “skill erosion” among participants. Interactive journaling program in place. Primary care services are now available through Symba’s certified medical center. Partnerships with Redlands and Ontario Wellness Centers are ongoing.</li> </ul> |

|       |           | <b>Town of Apple Valley:</b> Upcoming CDBG awards on August 25. New housing specialist, Yvette, introduced. |
|-------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| TOPIC | PRESENTER | DISCUSSION ITEM ACTION/OUTCOME                                                                              |
|       |           |                                                                                                             |

|             |                             | ADJOURNMENT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Adjournment | Antoinette (Nettie) Jackson | <p>The committee adjourned 4:35pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>The next meeting for the Desert Regional Steering Committee</b><br/> <b>September 8, 2026</b><br/> <b>Adelanto Stadum</b><br/> <u><b>12000 Stadium Way, Adelanto, CA 92301</b></u> </p> |



Transforming California's Behavioral Health System

# CARE Court Overview & Petition Training

***Governor's Office of External Affairs***

July 7, 2026





# Welcome

**Mayor Elizabeth Becerra**

*City of Victorville*

**Stephanie Welch, MSW**, Deputy Secretary of Behavioral Health

*California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)*

**Dr. Karen Linkins**, Principal

*Desert Vista Consulting (DVC)*



**GOVERNOR  
GAVIN NEWSOM**

# Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act – Live in All Counties

- **‘Upstream’ diversion to prevent more restrictive conservatorships or incarceration**
- CARE is intended to be a **new civil court process**, that can be supported and served by **existing programs**
- **Provide** behavioral health services to **severely ill, vulnerable individuals** while preserving **self-determination** to the greatest extent possible while supporting the person to gain purpose and a sense of belonging
- Hold the **behavioral health system accountable** to holistically serve those who often have the most complex care needs
- **Not a homelessness intervention** though many served will be homeless
- **People can stabilize, begin healing, and exit homelessness**

# CARE Eligibility Criteria



## All of the following:

- Aged 18 years+.
- Experiencing a serious mental disorder with severe and persistent symptoms, interfering with daily functioning.
- Diagnosis of schizophrenia spectrum or other psychotic disorders (including Bipolar 1, beginning January 1, 2026).
- Not stabilized with ongoing voluntary treatment.
- CARE is the least restrictive alternative.
- Will likely benefit.

## At least one of the following:

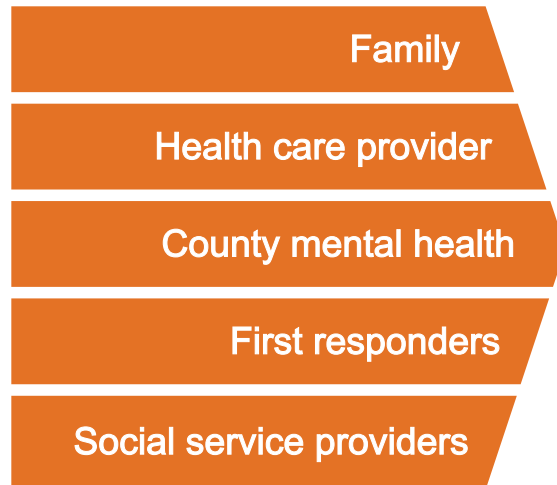
- Unlikely to survive safely in the community without supervision, and condition is substantially deteriorating.
- Intervention needed to prevent relapse or deterioration.

For more information, visit the [CARE Act Eligibility Criteria Fact Sheet](#), the [Eligibility in Practice](#) training materials, and [California Welfare and Institutions Code \(W&I Code\) section 5972.4](#)

# CARE Act At a Glance

## PATHS IN

Paths in for people with untreated psychotic disorders who meet health and safety criteria. A range of people can refer someone to get help.



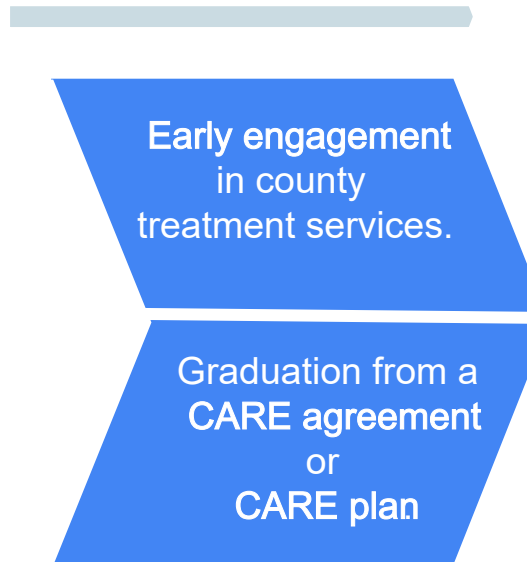
## CARE PROCESS

New civil court process to **connect and prioritize** treatment, support services, and housing.



## PATHS OUT

There are many paths out of the CARE process.



## HELP CONTINUES

At the end of the process, help can continue.



- For an introduction to the CARE Act, visit the [CARE Act at a Glance](#) brief and the [CARE Process Flow](#) brief.

# How Can CARE Help?

CARE helps people access care, engage in trauma informed services and supports, and improve adherence to treatment over time.

Outreach &  
Engagement

Comprehensive  
Wraparound Care

Housing

Medications

Peer Support

Individual CARE  
Agreement and  
CARE Plan

Psychiatric  
Advance Directive

Volunteer  
Supporter

Accountability to  
Provide Services

Less Restrictive  
Alternative to  
Conservatorship

# How is CARE different?

- No Wrong Door -- Diversity of petitioners allowed – **not just county behavioral health.**
- **First responders and other community partners play a vital role** in identifying potentially eligible individuals and petitioning the court or making referrals to county behavioral health.
- Partnerships formed between respondent, behavioral health team, public defender, and the judge.
- CARE is supportive, not punitive
- **County accountability** – the court ensures the county provides a robust and responsive set of services and supports to a population with the most complex care needs.
- Counties are reimbursed for outreach – including attempts.
- **Resources, including housing, are prioritized for CARE participants.**

# Diverse Pathways for Petitions

- First Responders
- Families
- Homeless services providers and Shelters
- County behavioral health, crisis teams, and contracted providers
- Hospitals and LPS Designated facilities
- Jail Mental Health (for pre-release transition planning)
- Public Defenders (supporting self-referral)
- Public Guardian / Public Conservator offices (for LPS diversions and step downs)
- Adult protective services
- Tribal courts
- Indian health services program or tribal behavioral health department
- MIST and FIST diversions

# Local Communities are Key to CARE Success

## How communities benefit from CARE Court

- A pathway beyond repeated crisis calls
- A structured alternative to enforcement-only responses
- Partners can identify and link people to CARE who are struggling and face poor outcomes (hospitalization, homelessness, incarceration)

## Where communities intersect with CARE Court

- Frequent/repeat encounters with individuals who could benefit from priority services available through CARE Act
  - Law enforcement and first responders
  - Homeless outreach teams
  - City attorneys, city managers, and leadership
- Encounter individuals during a crisis and can intervene before they transition to another level of care where they can fall through the cracks
- Have evidence that individuals are either not in treatment or treatment is not working adequately



# Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment Act

Petitioning at a Glance

# Reminders

1. The goal is to help more people living with severe mental illness onto a pathway to recovery -- 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.
4. It's ok to copy/paste or repeat information throughout the form.
5. CARE is not a last resort, if you think someone may be eligible, you can still file a petition

# What community partners can do

Support **petition** filing

Identify potential **candidates**

**Partner** with counties

Coordinate **referrals**



# Websites & Contact Info

- Visit the **CalHHS CARE Act** website for updated information and communication tools: [chhs.ca.gov/care-act/](https://chhs.ca.gov/care-act/)
- **CARE Act Resource Center** for TA and toolkits: [care-act.org/](https://care-act.org/)
- [Judicial Council of California \(JC\) CARE Act](#) website for petition forms, etc.
- **San Bernardino DBH CARE** website: [wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/careact/](https://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/careact/)

Contact us at:

- [CAREAct@chhs.ca.gov](mailto:CAREAct@chhs.ca.gov)
- [DBH-CAREQuestions@dbh.sbcounty.gov](mailto:DBH-CAREQuestions@dbh.sbcounty.gov)



# San Bernardino County CARE Act Office Hours

## *Information Session*

**Wednesday, July 15 | 12pm – 1pm**

This presentation from DBH will provide a brief overview of what to expect from upcoming CARE Act Office Hours session, as well as a summary of the CARE Act, who may be eligible, and its purpose.

Open to all community members, this session is an opportunity to ask questions and learn how the CARE Act can help connect individuals to treatment, housing, and recovery resources.



# Panelists

- **Hon. Michelle Gilleece**, Superior Court of San Bernardino County
- **Dr. Alyce Belford-Saldana**, San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)
- **Anna Mejia**, San Bernardino County DBH
- **William Lamas**, Homeless Solutions Manager, City of Victorville
- **Lt. Benjamin Henry**, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department
- **Michelle Brown**, Legal Aid Society of San Bernardino (LASSB)



# Discussion Questions

1. Overview of your role in CARE
2. What steps have you taken to align CARE processes with existing court, behavioral health, and community service workflows?
3. What implementation challenge has been the hardest to solve — and how are you addressing it?
4. How are you managing communication and coordination across systems (courts, behavioral health, public defenders, etc.) and with petitioners?
5. What are your next priorities for strengthening integration between CARE and the larger behavioral health system?



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# THANK YOU!

Spread the word...

Join the Meeting

◆ ◆  ◆ ◆

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY | Behavioral Health

## CARE ACT INFO SESSION



**JULY 15 | NOON - 1 P.M.**