

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) – Information Notice

To:	BHS Contracted Mental Health Treatment Providers
From:	Behavioral Health Services
Date:	April 1, 2023
Title	Updated: Pathways to Well-Being BHS/CWS Information Exchange effective April 1, 2023

Background

The Katie A. Settlement Agreement (2011) transformed the way that California children and youth in foster care, or at imminent risk for being placed in foster care, receive access to mental health treatment services. Locally, Pathways to Well-Being is the County’s joint partnership between Behavioral Health Services (BHS) and Child Welfare Services (CWS), dedicated to collaboratively ensuring the safety, permanency, and well-being of youth involved in the foster system. This partnership is aligned with The California Children, Youth, and Families Integrated Core Practice Model (ICPM) guide, which provides a framework for collaborative practices across systems.

Updates to Progress Report to CWS/Information Exchange Form

In 2013, prompted by the Kate A. Settlement Agreement, BHS and CWS initiated a process for exchanging pertinent information via the **Progress Report to Child Welfare Services** form. This form is used as an information exchange for youth being served by a BHS mental health treatment provider who also has an open CWS case. **Effective April 1, 2023**, the form has been updated and renamed the **BHS/CWS Information Exchange** form.

The significant changes in the form include:

- Portions of the form are now optional and can be requested upon need.
- The sections of the form that are required include:
 - Enhanced Services (Subclass) or Open to CWS (Class) designation;
 - Current CANS exchange;
 - DSM-V Diagnosis on Page 2, which may be attached to court reports;
 - Document changes to align with CalAIM (i.e. Problem List and Client Plan).

BHS providers shall initiate the exchange of information within 30 days of opening the client to the program, by faxing the form and attachment(s) to the regional contact indicated at the top of the form and request documents from the CWS Protective Services Worker (PSW).

Attachments

- BHS/CWS Information Exchange Form – effective April 1, 2023
- BHS/CWS Information Exchange Explanation Sheet – effective April 1, 2023

References

- [The California Integrated Core Practice Model \(ICPM\) for Children, Youth, and Families](#)

For More Information:

- Contact your Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) or
- Shaun Goff, Pathways to Well-Being Program Manager, shaun.goff@sdcounty.ca.gov