

September 2026

PURPOSE: To keep Stanislaus County staff, contractors, and the community informed about updates to local, state, and federal programs, policies, and procedures, QS Information Notices will be distributed monthly and posted on the Stanislaus County website.



GENERAL UPDATES

Assistant Director, Behavioral Health Plan Announcement

Please join us in welcoming Abraham Andres, LMFT, as the new Assistant Director, Behavioral Health Plan for Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services. Abraham brings nearly two decades of County service, along with extensive clinical, program, and leadership experience, to this role. We congratulate him on his appointment and look forward to his continued contributions in this new leadership position. For additional details, please refer to the announcement sent by Behavioral Health Director Ruben Imperial on 8/21/26.

CSOC Children's Early Intervention, Mental Health Coordinator Announcement

On behalf of Children System of Care Chief, Kim Saing, LMFT, we are pleased to announce Stephanie Hernandez as the new Mental Health Coordinator for the Children's Early Intervention (CEI) Program, effective August 24, 2026. Ms. Hernandez holds a Master of Social Work from CSU Stanislaus and brings strong experience in children's behavioral health, including her role as Program Coordinator at Sierra Vista Child and Family Services and prior work with the Center for Human Services. Please join us in welcoming Stephanie to this new role. For additional details, please refer to the announcement sent by Sara Jacobo on 8/24/26.

Public Guardian Care Coordination Team, Behavioral Health Coordinator Announcement

On behalf of the Office of Public Guardian Chief, Kristy Johnson, LMFT, we are pleased to announce that Charles Insko has been appointed as the new Behavioral Health Coordinator for the Public Guardian Care Coordination Team. Known for his strong rapport with members, compassion, and dedication, Mr. Insko brings valuable expertise and a collaborative approach to this new leadership role. Please join us in welcoming Charles to the team. For additional details, please refer to the announcement sent by Sara Jacobo on 8/19/26.

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Implementation

Stanislaus County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services has received approval for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan from both the Board of Supervisors and the California Department of Health Care Services. This milestone sets the direction for expanding programs, strengthening behavioral health infrastructure, and improving treatment services over the coming year. The BHSA also increases accountability through measurable outcomes and enhanced performance reporting. BHRS will continue working with staff and partners to deliver high-quality services and demonstrate meaningful impact in the community. For additional information, please see the email sent from Behavioral Health Director Ruben Imperial on 8/11/26.

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QUALITY SERVICES (QS) & RISK MANAGEMENT (RM) UPDATES

Medi-Cal Informing Materials – September

This month, we are highlighting the Specialty Mental Health Services and Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) Member Handbook and Posters, which are available on the Stanislaus County BHRS website, intranet, and extranet. The handbook is offered in both English and Spanish, and in regular and large-print formats to support accessibility for all members. A handbook must be provided to Medi-Cal members upon their initial access to services and upon request. For more information, please scan the QR codes.



English Version



Spanish Version

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING UPDATES

The Training Department is transitioning to a paperless model. All training materials will now be shared virtually, making them easier to store and access while reducing paper use. Materials for each training will be included in the confirmation email or calendar invite sent in advance. Please bring a digital copy or print a copy for your reference. A limited number of printed materials will be available on the day of training. Please see the email from Workforce Development & Training sent on 8/21/26 for additional information.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INFORMATION NOTICE (BHIN) UPDATES

[BHIN 26-024](#) - Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Regulations superseded by Interim Guidance Provided through the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) County Policy Manual

This BHIN informs counties that Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) regulations—Title 9, Division 1, Chapter 14—will be superseded effective July 1, 2026, by the new Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) County Policy Manual. This change follows the passage of Proposition 1 and SB 326, which modernized the public behavioral health system and renamed MHSA to BHSA.

From July 1, 2026, through July 1, 2033, DHCS will issue BHSA-related guidance through the BHSA County Policy Manual and other instructions (e.g., county letters, bulletins) instead of formal regulations. The Manual will serve as the authoritative source for BHSA implementation until new regulations are adopted no sooner than July 1, 2033.

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COMPLIANCE, PRIVACY, & ETHICS UPDATES

Symplr Stats: Jan 2026 - July 2026

Type of Compliance Concern



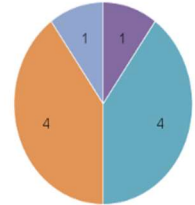
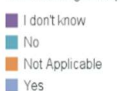
Source of Report



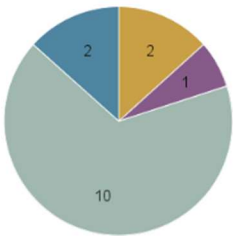
Did the staff member involved in this incident complete General Compliance training in the past year?



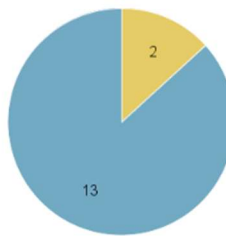
Did the staff member involved in this incident complete Code of Ethics training in the past year?



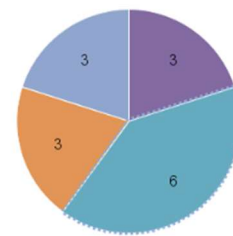
Source of Report



Is there a low probability that a breach occurred?



Did the staff member involved in this incident complete privacy and security training within the past year?



Compliance Principle: The goal is not to have zero reports, but to have employees who recognize opportunities for improvement and feel comfortable reporting concerns promptly.

From January 2026 through July 2026, the Compliance, Privacy and Ethics Division received reports through multiple reporting channels, reflecting employees' continued commitment to accountability, ethical practices, and timely reporting. Entries identified as "I don't know" or "Not Applicable" generally indicate that the report involved a system of care or department rather than an individual, or that the report involved an unknown individual and training information was not available.

The online reporting system continues to support efficient, standardized reporting, improved data collection, and meaningful analysis of compliance trends. These reporting efforts strengthen the organization's culture of integrity, support regulatory compliance, and promote continuous quality improvement. Thank you to all employees who utilize these reporting channels. For further information, please reach out to BHRS Compliance, Privacy, & Ethics at BHRSCompliance@stanbhrs.org



STANISLAUS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & RECOVERY SERVICES: QUALITY SERVICES

QS INFORMATION NOTICE

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SMARTCARE UPDATES

New BHRS Report – SmartCare

BHRS 184 displays attendance (show/no-show) for all group services. The summary table for this report also shows attendance by Program Type and the average number of participants attending each group. If a service record is missing a Group ID, it will display a warning flag indicating that the group was documented using an individual Service Note instead of the workflow for Managing Groups. Please use this report to identify where staff who facilitate groups may need additional documentation, support or guidance.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your supervisor first. Supervisors, if you have further questions, please contact SmartCare email for assistance. Please also see the email sent from the SmartCare Team on 8/6/26 for additional information.

Report ID	Status	Report Name	Role(s) Granted	Audience	Purpose	Recommended Frequency (report run time)	Last Updated
BHRS 184	In Prod	Group Attendance	All Roles including Reception/Front Desk	Clinical	Displays attendance (show/no show) for all groups services . Summary table organizes attendance data by Program Type, enabling users to monitor participation trends and average group attendance across programs. Service records with a missing Group ID indicate potential documentation errors, where group services were entered using an individual Service Note instead of the Managing Groups workflow.	As needed	8/4/2026

If you have any questions related to QS Information Notices, contact Quality Services by:
Email: QSEmail@stanbhhs.org, PHONE: (209) 525-6043, or FAX: (209) 558-4324