

On Friday Morning (April 24, 2026), the California Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS) issued the latest Behavioral Health Transitional Update newsletter.

DHCS has added the inclusion of *three* new Integrated Plan questions into the template related to the CARE Act (sometimes called CARE Court). The following questions are located within the County Behavioral Health System Overview Section, Populations Served by County Behavioral Health System, Adults and Older Adults (questions 8-10). DHCS states that answers to these questions must be included in Behavioral Health Services Act Integrated Plans (BHSA IP). As Fresno's plan is current in revision pending approval of the draft, Fresno County will be including these three and the responses to its revisions due back by May 5, 2026.

Below are the three additional CARE Act related information that are required now in the BHSA IP.

**1. Identify the specific service components within your 3-year Integrated Plan that will support CARE participants. Explain how the county will ensure these individuals receive priority access and specialized coordination within the broader behavioral health continuum, including housing if appropriate.**

**2. Describe how CARE referral pathways will be integrated into existing referral and service pathways within the county behavioral health system.**

**3. Describe the process for identifying and redirecting individuals who are potentially eligible for CARE to alternative pathways when a formal petition is not required or appropriate. For individuals redirected from CARE, describe how the county will confirm and document successful connection to services.**