

Item available for public inspection in the Clerk's office during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 5 PM)

**February 11,
2025
Regular
Meeting**

Item #7a. - Updated Presentation

Overview of CARE Court Readiness in Mono County

Community, Assistance, Recovery, & Empowerment

Presented by Robin K. Roberts, MFT



CARE Act Overview

The goal of the CARE Act is to provide services upstream, before clients are hospitalized, incarcerated, or placed on an LPS conservatorship.

Community, Assistance, Recovery, & Empowerment (CARE) Act provides needed services to Californians living with untreated **schizophrenia spectrum** or other **psychotic disorders** through a **civil court process**.

Collaborative, individualized CARE plan includes clinically appropriate and community-based services & supports

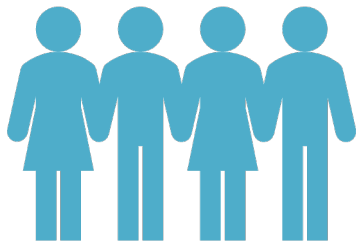


Who is Eligible for CARE?

- Adults (18+)
- Have a diagnosis of Schizophrenia spectrum & other psychotic disorders in the same class
- Not clinically stable with ongoing voluntary treatment
- Additionally, one of the following:
 - *Unlikely to survive w/out supervision &/or*
 - *Two long term hospitalizations (5250)*
- The respondent's participation in a CARE plan or a *voluntary* CARE agreement must:
 - *be the least restrictive alternative necessary to ensure the respondent's recovery and stability, and*
 - *be likely to benefit the respondent*
- ❖ *Homelessness and mental illness alone are not enough to meet eligibility requirements.*

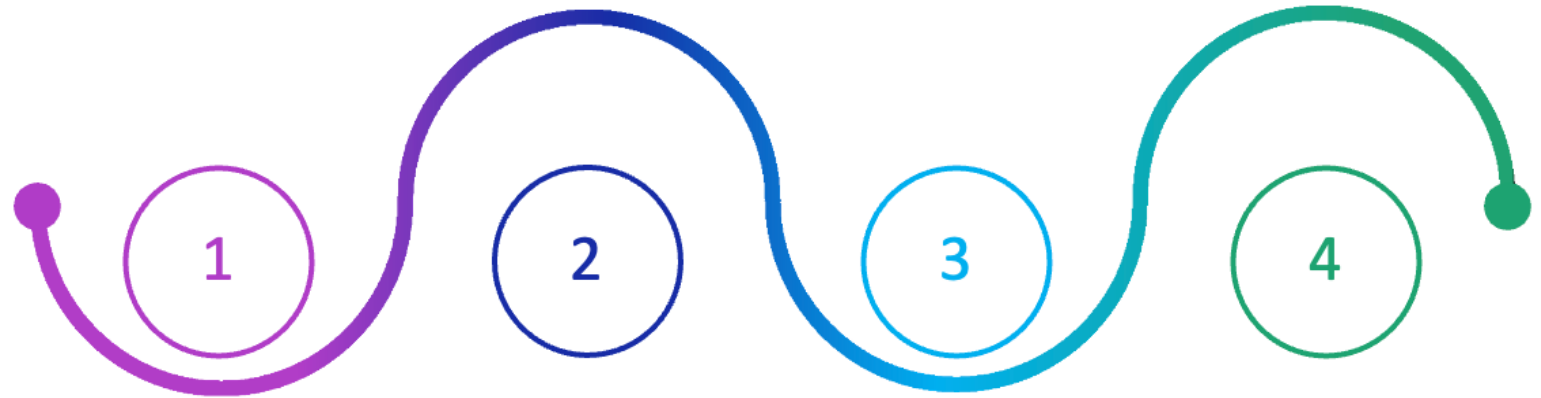


Who Can File a Petition?



- Public
 - Select family members
 - First responders
 - Hospitals
 - Specific non-profit agencies
 - Clients themselves
- The County
 - Behavioral Health Services
 - Adult Protective Services
 - Public Guardians Office
- Court referral

CARE Act Process



Petition

- Petition is filed with the court & reviewed
- Behavioral Health Services investigates
- Initial Hearing is set OR Petition is dismissed

CARE Agreement or CARE Plan Creation

- Behavioral Health Services engages the participant in services
- Initial hearing, Hearing on the Merits of the Petition, Case Management Hearing, etc

Support

- Check in (Status Review Hearings)
- Participant engages in their CARE services for 12-24 months

Graduation

- Graduation plan is created
- Participant graduates from CARE





Roles & Responsibilities

Judge



Determines appropriateness of Petitions and Respondent eligibility



Orders CARE investigations & reports



Authorizes CARE Agreement, CARE plan of action, & status updates



Pursuant to the legislation, sets expectations and deadlines as ordered to the parties responsible for execution of CARE plan



Self-Help Center



PROVIDES GUIDANCE TO COURT USERS ABOUT THE CARE ACT PROCESS



GIVES REFERRALS, PURSUANT TO JUDICIAL ORDERS, WHEN CARE IS NOT APPROPRIATE



COLLABORATES WITH CARE TEAM TO ENSURE UPDATED INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO COURT USERS



Mono County Behavioral Health



Investigates public petitions & develops clinical recommendations



Leads CARE plan development



Provides mental health, substance use disorder, & care coordination; provision of health-related social needs



Data collection & reporting to Department of Health Care Services

County Counsel



LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE
FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
SERVICES



COLLABORATES ON CARE
PLAN



STATUS UPDATES &
GRADUATION
RECOMMENDATIONS



Public Defender



Legal representative for the Respondent



Collaborates on CARE Plan



Status updates and Graduation recommendations



Public Guardian

May refer cases to CARE when
Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS)
conservatorship is not appropriate

May receive a referral for a Lanterman-
Petris-Short (LPS) investigation if
Respondent needs a higher level of
care than CARE Act services can
provide



Common Misconceptions	CARE Facts
CARE is a new crisis stabilization program providing acute care.	CARE is a long-term stabilization program designed to link Respondents to existing outpatient programs, social services, resources, and benefits.
CARE Respondents will be placed on conservatorship if they don't complete treatment.	Respondents who choose not to engage in CARE or decline ongoing services are not automatically placed on conservatorship. If the CARE Judge finds the Respondent meets criteria, they could refer for an existing Conservatorship investigation and legal process.
CARE is a "homeless program."	CARE eligible participants may be homeless, but some may have stable housing. Housing may be a part of an individual's CARE plan if it supports their mental health recovery and stability.
CARE is no different than all other county programs.	<p>CARE legislation includes unique requirements that create accountability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judge can issue financial penalties on MCBH for non-performance. • Petitioners attend initial hearing and will speak directly to judge and counsel. • MCBH is required to submit detailed data to state every quarter, including specifics on CARE plans and progress.

