

Background

The Behavioral Health workgroup for the 2026-2028 VCCHIC Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS) held its second virtual session on August 28, 2025. Approximately 25 participants representing a range of behavioral health, health system, education, social services, and community-based organizations and members attended the meeting. Participants reviewed discussions from the first virtual session. Courtney Lubell, Special Projects MHSA/BHSA Manager at Ventura County Behavioral Health provided a landscape overview of key initiatives and activities for Behavioral Health. The discussion was facilitated and ideas were captured live using this [VCCHIC CHIS Behavioral Health Session 2 Google Slides](#). This document provides a summary of key discussions from the meeting.

Overarching Goal

The group reviewed and approved the following overarching goal for the priority area:

To create inclusive, low barrier, culturally responsive, and community-driven behavioral health supports that ensure equitable access to services for all individuals, especially underserved populations.

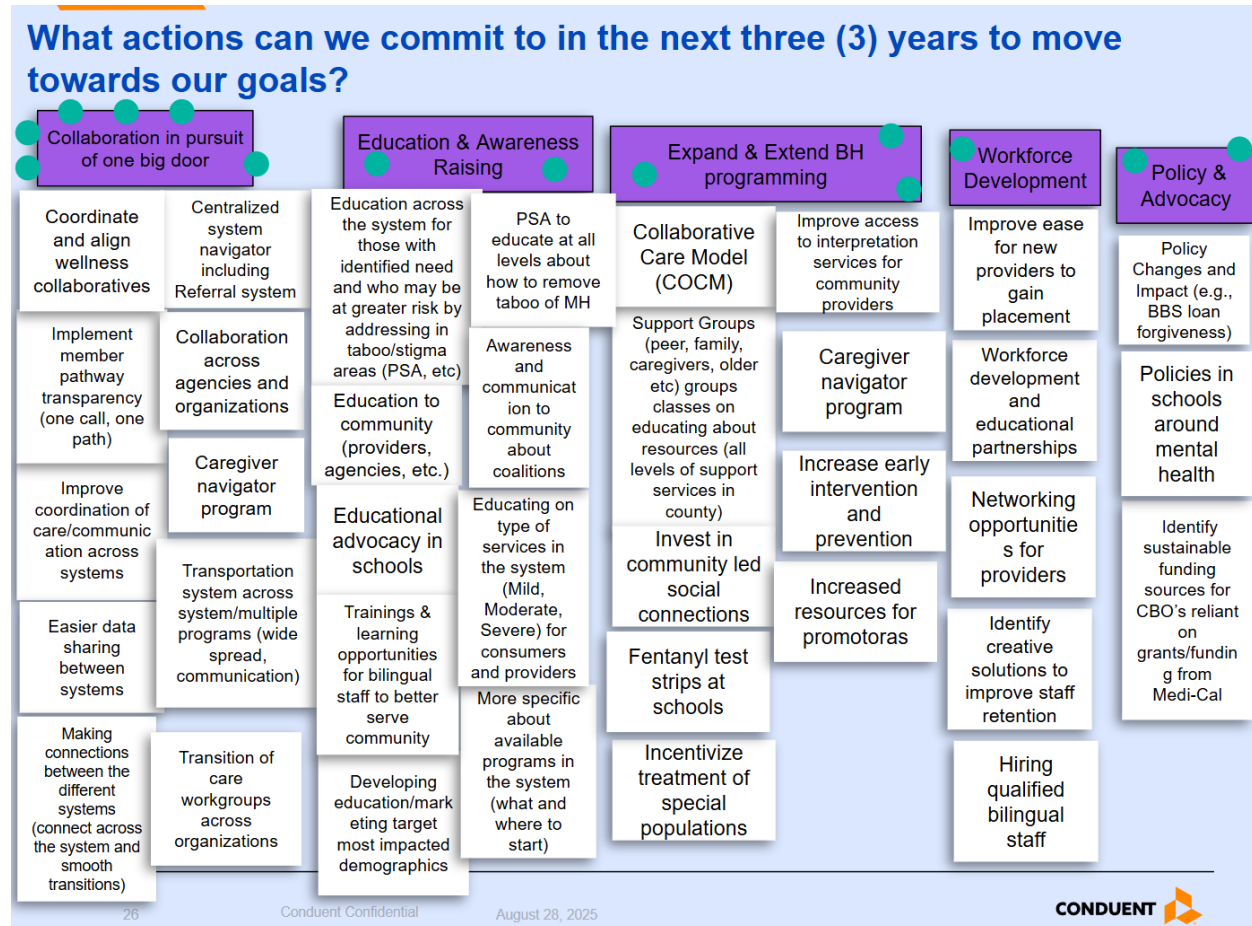
Strategy Workshop

Conduent Healthy Communities Institute facilitated a consensus workshop to agree on key strategies to focus on over the next three years, supporting progress toward their overarching goal. The process included individual brainstorming, small group discussions, and a facilitated session with the full group. During the workshop, participants shared ideas, grouped those with similar intent, and collaboratively refined them into five strategy categories:

1. Collaboration in pursuit of “one big door”
2. Education and awareness raising
3. Expand and extend behavioral health programming
4. Workforce development
5. Policy and advocacy

2026-2028 Ventura County Community Health Implementation Strategy Behavioral Health Workgroup Session #2 - August 28, 2025 Summary

The following board shows the ideas submitted by the groups under each strategy category. Participants used dots to indicate strategies they were most interested in working on.



Based on the group's interest, the following were identified as key strategies for the workgroup to work on in the next three years.

1. Collaboration in pursuit of "one big door"
2. Expand and extend behavioral health programming

The group acknowledged "Policy and advocacy" as an important strategy necessary to advance other strategies. However, there were concerns about the feasibility of making progress in this area and interest in Ventura County Community Health Improvement Collaborative (VCCHIC) working on policy and advocacy as a collaborative.

Draft Strategies

The following are strategies drafted after the meeting to summarize the intent of the overall category and create consistency across all priority area strategies. These will be further refined by the workgroup at Session #3:

1. Collaboration in pursuit of “one big door”: Collaborate across organizations to build an accessible, user-friendly behavioral health service system for all.
2. Expand and extend behavioral health programming: Expand and extend evidence-based behavioral health programming in Ventura County.

Strategy Workgroup Sign Up

After agreeing on the two strategies, participants signed up to work on a strategy at the next meeting. The sign-up form is shown below.

Strategy 1: Collaboration in pursuit of one big door	Strategy 2: Expand & Extend BH programming
Courtney Lubell, VCBH	Alma Diaz
Melissa Hannah, United Parents	Rosie Ornelas, VCHSA
Kierstin Sanchez, HCA Ambulatory	Leora Lopez -Ventura Housing (HACSB)
Grissel Marquez, VC Ambulatory Care	Maureen Hodge, Community Memorial Healthcare
Gillian Stucki, Kaiser Permanente	Magali Williams- GCHP