

**Health and Human Services Coordinating Council**  
**Ex-Officio Report by Chevon Kothari, Deputy County Executive**  
**February 19, 2026**

### **Health and Human Services Agency Updates**

- **CBO Partnership Initiative:**
  - The County awarded about \$1.7M to the Sacramento County Regional Community Foundation to support the operational capacity and sustainability of our community-based non-profit providers. This spring, ten community-based organizations (CBOs) aligned with the County's service priorities (homelessness, behavioral health, and food security) will be selected through a request for proposal (RFP) process to participate in capacity-building cohorts.
  - County departments are continuing their efforts to streamline the grant application, contract reporting, and fiscal processes for our community providers.
- **County Budget:** Departments are currently preparing their Fiscal Year (FY) 26/27 budgets. In January, the Board of Supervisors directed the departments to propose a 2.5% reduction, which will be reviewed by the County Executive's Office and then by the Board of Supervisors during the June Budget Hearings. Within the next few weeks, some County providers might be informed that their contracts could be reduced or terminated by the Board in June. This information will be made public in late May. If the HHSCC or other advisory groups want to participate in the budget process, they can do so by contacting their individual Board members or Chiefs of Staff, or by considering letters of priorities to be sent to the Board before the Budget process.
- **Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency:** SHRA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) between the City of Sacramento and the County. Both the County and City have collaborated to select a new Interim Executive Director, Kris Warren of CVR Associates, who will start on February 23rd. The next step involves launching an assessment of the agency to seek recommendations regarding governance, operations, and opportunities for improving housing and re-housing efforts. Read more here: <https://www.saccounty.gov/us/en/articles/2026-articles/board-approves-shra-assessment-and-interim-executive-officer.html#gsc.tab=0>

### **Homeless Services and Housing Updates**

- **Regional Collaboration:** The Board of Supervisors has approved a model designed to strengthen regional collaboration between the County, the cities within the County, the Sacramento Continuum of Care (CoC), and SHRA. Numerous discussions are currently underway involving county and city elected officials, the CoC, and Senator Ashby's Office to determine the best approach to collaboration. You may have seen this topic covered in the news. We are pleased to offer Emily Halcon as a speaker at your next quarterly meeting to discuss all matters related to homelessness, including this new collaborative model.

- **Point in Time Count (PIT):** The PIT drew nearly 1,000 homeless services providers, elected officials, stakeholders, and volunteers last month to support this effort. We expect to have the result in April. Read more here: <https://www.sacramentostepsforward.org/nearly-1000-volunteers-fan-out-across-sacramento-to-count-unsheltered-individuals-experiencing-homelessness/>

## Health Services Updates

- **Mushroom Poisoning Outbreak:** California is experiencing severe illness and deaths linked to wild mushroom consumption (Death Cap and Western Destroying Angel). Four cases have been confirmed in Sacramento County. Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) has issued health alerts in eight languages, advising residents to avoid picking or eating wild mushrooms and to keep children and pets away from them. It is recommended to purchase mushrooms only from trusted retailers. Share the SCPH health alerts on mushroom poisoning and promote safe practices: <http://www.scph.com>
- **Measles on the Rise:** SCPH joins the State Department of Public Health in urging vaccination against measles as cases increase across several counties. <https://www.saccounty.gov/us/en/articles/2026-articles/scph-joins-cdph-in-urging-vaccination-against-measles-as-cases-r.html#gsc.tab=0>
- **Behavioral Health Services Workforce Challenges:** BHS continues to face a workforce shortage. Community members are encouraged to apply – many positions are available. Visit the BHS employment webpage for job listings, application details, benefits, and testimonials. <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Employment/Jobs-in-Behavioral-Health.aspx>

## Human Assistance Updates

- **Benefits Changes:** The Department of Human Assistance is gearing up to address the changes brought by HR 1, the federal bill that overhauled funding and service criteria for programs like Medicaid (Medi-Cal) and SNAP (CalFresh). Information on statewide impacts can be found here: [https://www.counties.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/HR-1-Impacts-to-Counties\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.counties.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/HR-1-Impacts-to-Counties_FINAL.pdf)

## Child, Family and Adult Services Updates

- **The Local Age Friendly and Disability Action Plan**, adopted last year, consists of four work groups that convene regularly to discuss progress and next steps. For more information on joining one of these groups, visit: <https://dcfas.saccounty.net/SAS/Pages/Age-Friendly-SacramentoCounty.aspx> or email [agefriendly@saccounty.gov](mailto:agefriendly@saccounty.gov)