

CAADPE

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF
ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES

2023 - 24' ANNUAL REPORT



(916) 329-7409



1215 K St., Suite 1100
Sacramento, CA 95814



www.caadpe.org



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MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 year, we are proud to share the progress we've made in advancing substance use disorder treatment and behavioral health services in California. The California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Inc. (CAADPE) remains committed to expanding equitable access to care, ensuring that individuals seeking help are met with compassion and support, free from stigma or barriers.

Our Annual Report highlights the collaborative efforts that have shaped policies to protect the well-being of individuals and families statewide. Through our work with stakeholders and the dedication of our members, we have driven meaningful change to address the challenges of addiction and mental health, improving lives across our communities.

We are particularly grateful to the Governor and Department of Health Care Services for their continued leadership. By streamlining payment processes under CalAIM, reducing documentation requirements for the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery Systems (DMC-ODS), and investing billions in behavioral health infrastructure through the BHCIP, Opiate settlement funds and PATH-CITED grants just to mention a few, While collectively working with counties and providers you have significantly eased the administrative burdens on providers and enhanced service delivery. The Transitional Rent services initiative and the expansion of the Recovery Incentives Program for stimulant use disorders are also making a profound impact, helping individuals secure stable housing and stay on the path to recovery.

While much has been achieved, our work is far from over. CAADPE remains steadfast in pursuing innovative policies, expanding access to life-saving services, and strengthening our provider network to ensure the highest quality of care. Together with our members, partners, and advocates, we will continue leading the charge towards a future where recovery is not just a possibility but an opportunity for all.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to this vital mission. Let's keep pushing forward together.

Albert Senella, President

Robb Layne, Executive Director

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ADVOCACY & LEGISLATIVE IMPACT

- **AB 816:** Signed into law allowing youth to consent to opioid addiction treatment.
- **AB 2711:** Requiring schools to adopt public health approaches for drug-related infractions.
- **Proposition 1:** Expands housing access for SUD needs and promotes parity between mental health and SUD services.
- **SB 1320:** Requires health plans to reimburse integrated MH and SUD services.
- **Opposition to bills restricting SUD services:** Defeating efforts that would limit local SUD services.
- **Student Overdose Prevention Bill SB 997:** Governor signs law to allow students to carry opioid antagonists.
- **Other CAADPE-Supported Bills:** Expanding MAT access, opioid antagonists in workplaces, and increasing SUD treatment capacity.
- **Advocacy on Parity:** Coalition comments on SB 855 for parity in SUD and MH care.
- **PAGA Reform:** Supporting changes to the Private Attorneys General Act.
- **Opposition to AB 2557:** Joining coalition against contracting restrictions for local governments.



TRAINING, EDUCATION & CAPACITY BUILDING



- **SUD 101 Fact Sheet:** Public release of an educational resource on SUD services.
- **Open Doors Training Program:** Creating behavioral health training for non-medical professionals interacting with youth.
- **SPARK-T Technical Assistance:** A DHCS-supported initiative focusing on capacity building for SUD providers.
- **Webinars and Workshops:** Hosting SPARK-T webinars; presenting at the SUD Integrated Care Conference.
- **988 Crisis Policy Advisory Group:** Participating in state crisis policy advisory.
- **Proposition 1 Implementation Webinar:** High-level discussions on implementing housing and SUD services expansion.
- **Legislator Vote Record:** Educating members on how legislators voted on key SUD policies.
- **CAADPE Youth Committee:** Focusing on youth SUD issues and hosting presentations on state policies.

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- **Collaboration on SB 855: Coalition work on implementing mental health and SUD parity.**
- **Meeting with MH Oversight & Accountability Commission: Engaging with key stakeholders in behavioral health.**
- **AB 2473 Implementation Workgroup: Partnering with others to implement this legislation.**
- **Opposition to Workforce Cuts: Coalition letter opposing BH workforce reductions.**
- **Parity Enforcement Updates with DMHC: Meeting with the Director of DMHC to discuss enforcing parity regulations.**
- **Workshop at Integrated Care Conference: CAADPE presents alongside HealthRight 360.**
- **HCAI Workforce Development Discussion: Hosting a discussion on increasing diversity and supply of SUD counselors.**
- **Coalition work on SB 997 and AB 2711: Collaborating to advance harm reduction and public health approaches.**

COLLABORATIONS, COALITION WORK & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT





GRANTS, FUNDING & ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

- **Grants Awarded:** Open Doors training grant from HCAI and DHCS HEAR US grant to improve recovery services.
- **SPARK-T Grant:** Awarded DHCS grant to support SUD training for providers.
- **988-Crisis Policy Advisory Group Membership:** Joining state group to shape crisis response policy.
- **Youth Committee:** A new committee focusing on youth SUD issues, supported by the HCAI grant.
- **Proposition 1:** Proposing language to prohibit discrimination against MAT recipients in housing.
- **Opposition to BH Workforce Cuts:** Joining a coalition in opposition to cuts affecting the behavioral health workforce.
- **Award for Excellence in Service:** Recognition by the National Hispanic Science Network.

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2023 - 24' LEGISLATIVE CHAMPIONS

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Legislative Champions

MENJIVAR (DISTRICT 20)

SENATOR

Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 3 on Health and Human Services

Senator Caroline Menjivar, elected in 2022, proudly represents the communities of Burbank and the San Fernando Valley. As a first-generation American born to Salvadoran immigrants, Menjivar's deep ties to her district, alongside her lived experiences, drive her commitment to addressing critical issues such as health care access, housing, and social justice.

In the 2023-2024 legislative session, Menjivar introduced SB 987, which authorizes counties like Los Angeles to use independent agencies for pretrial services. This bill would have ensured more effective and compassionate pretrial processes, which include SUD treatment, to individuals in Los Angeles and San Francisco counties. As Chair of the Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services, Menjivar was instrumental in protecting funding for critical behavioral health initiatives, including workforce programs and CalWORKS, which were under the microscope for cuts in the wake of a bad budget year.



PORTANTINO (DISTRICT 25)

SENATOR

Senator Anthony Portantino has been a steadfast advocate for behavioral health, education reform, and public safety throughout his tenure in the California State Senate. His work has championed policies that promote early intervention, support mental health education, and expanded access to opioid antagonists in public spaces, all of which has helped to create a healthier and more resilient behavioral health system of care in California.

During the 2023-2024 legislative cycle, Portantino authored a CAADPE co-sponsored bill, SB 997, which allows students in middle and high schools to carry fentanyl test strips and opioid antagonists for emergency use, reflecting his commitment to addressing the opioid crisis and enhancing pupil health and safety. His dedication to public health is further exemplified in SB 234, which requires large venues like stadiums and concert halls to maintain opioid antagonists, ensuring public safety in emergency situations. With this being the Senator's last term in office due to term limits, CAADPE is proud to name him as one of their champions for all that he and his office has done for combating the opioid crisis.



CORTESE (DISTRICT 15)

SENATOR

*Chair, Transportation and Ethics Committees
Senate Majority Whip
Member, Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission*

Senator Dave Cortese, representing much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley, has a long-standing record of public service with a focus on addressing critical issues such as behavioral health, housing, and justice reform. With nearly three decades of experience as a city council member, county supervisor, and school board trustee, Cortese has led efforts to tackle systemic inequities, reduce homelessness, and reform the criminal justice system.

In the 2023-2024 legislative session, Senator Cortese authored SB 999, the California Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Patient Safety and Fairness Act, which ensures that Californians with substance use disorders receive medically necessary treatment in line with standards set by the American Society of Addiction Medicine. This bill is a crucial step in preventing insurance companies from cutting short life-saving treatments and increasing patient safety for those battling addiction. Additionally, Cortese introduced SB 908 to combat fentanyl exposure among young children, mandating the Department of Public Health to track fentanyl-related deaths and develop preventive measures to protect vulnerable populations.



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Legislative Champions

WAHAB (DISTRICT 10) SENATOR

Chair, Public Safety Committee
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on Corrections, Public Safety, Judiciary, Labor and Transportation

Senator Aisha Wahab, elected in 2022, represents the cities of Hayward, Union City, Newark, Fremont, Milpitas, Sunnyvale, San Jose, and Santa Clara. She made history in 2018 as the first Afghan-American woman elected to public office in the U.S. while serving on the Hayward City Council.

In the 2023-2024 legislative session, Wahab authored a CAADPE sponsored bill, SB 1320, which requires health plans to establish processes to reimburse providers for mental health and substance use disorder treatments integrated with primary care services. The bill addresses the issue of fragmented care by promoting a model where primary care and behavioral health services are intertwined, thus reducing the need for patients to navigate multiple systems to receive comprehensive care. This bill reflects her commitment to improving access to comprehensive behavioral health care for Californians, particularly those facing mental health and addiction challenges.

QUIRK-SILVA (DISTRICT 67) ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 5 on State Administration
Chair, Select Committee on Orange County Homelessness and Mental Health Services

Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva has been a steadfast advocate for SUD providers throughout her time in the California Assembly. Representing the 67th Assembly District, encompassing parts of North Orange and Los Angeles Counties, Quirk-Silva has consistently worked to address the needs of her constituents and ensure equitable access to behavioral health services. Her legislative efforts in the 2023-2024 cycle have reflected this dedication, including her collaboration with CAADPE, CBHA, and The Alliance to pass a bill streamlining paperwork requirements for treatment providers, though it was ultimately vetoed by the governor.

Quirk-Silva also introduced AB 1477, aimed at stabilizing licensing and certification fees for nonprofit residential treatment facilities by freezing them at 2022 levels until California's opioid overdose death rate declines by 50%. Additionally, her bill AB 2452 revised transportation services for CalWORKs participants, mandating a \$200 monthly advance transportation payment to support welfare-to-work activities. Her commitment to improving access to addiction treatment and supporting working families solidifies her as a vital ally for those in need of these critical services.

JACKSON (DISTRICT 60) ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Chair, Budget Subcommittee No. 2 on Human Services
Chair, Select Committee on California's Mental Health Crisis

Assemblymember Dr. Corey A. Jackson, elected to the California State Assembly in 2022, is a dedicated advocate for youth services, behavioral health, and social equity. Representing the 60th Assembly District, he draws on his experience as a social worker, educator, and community leader to address systemic inequities in human services and work towards breaking cycles of poverty.

In the 2023-2024 legislative cycle, Dr. Jackson introduced AB 2995, which updates substance use treatment language to person-first terminology, reducing stigma around terms like "alcohol abuser" and "drug abuser." He also authored AB 1450, aiming to ensure guardians of young patients are informed about behavioral health screening benefits, reflecting his commitment to early intervention in youth mental health. His leadership continues to push for transformative policies that enhance access to behavioral health care and protect vulnerable populations.



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Legislative Champions

HANEY (DISTRICT 17)

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

*Chair, Fentanyl, Opioid Addiction, and Overdose Protection Select Committee
Assembly Majority Whip*



Assemblymember Matt Haney has been a critical advocate in California's fight against the opioid crisis, focusing on expanding access to life-saving treatments and being a strong ally of SUD treatment providers. Serving as the Chair of the Fentanyl, Opioid Addiction, and Overdose Protection Select Committee, Haney has worked tirelessly to ensure that individuals struggling with addiction have greater access to crucial services.

In the 2023-2024 legislative cycle, Haney introduced and passed several groundbreaking bills directly addressing the opioid epidemic. AB 1976 mandates that workplaces include naloxone or another opioid antagonist in first aid kits, ensuring immediate access to opioid overdose reversal medication. Haney also championed AB 2115, which authorizes practitioners to dispense a three-day supply of methadone for individuals suffering from opioid use disorder while longer term care is set up. Additionally, although AB 2365, AB 3073, and AB 1339 did not ultimately pass, these bills addressed gaps in addiction treatment—whether through regulating kratom products to protect consumers, utilizing innovative wastewater epidemiology to combat opioid overdoses, or combating discrimination against MAT in housing programs. Haney's commitment to pushing forward transformative legislation underscores his determination to create a safer, healthier California for all.

WEBER (DISTRICT 79)

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

*Chair, Budget Sub Committee No. 1 on Health
Chair, Select Committee on the Social Determinants of Health*



Dr. Akilah Weber has been a staunch advocate for health equity and access throughout her time in the California Assembly, leveraging her background as a physician to champion critical reforms in public health policy. Her leadership has been instrumental in addressing health disparities and advancing legislative initiatives to improve community well-being. In the light of a huge budget downturn, she was instrumental in fighting against many proposed budget cuts to health care as Chair of the Budget Sub Committee on Health.

In the 2023-2024 legislative cycle, Dr. Weber also introduced several key pieces of legislation focused on improving public health outcomes. AB 1841, signed into law, mandates that public postsecondary institutions stock and distribute opioid overdose reversal medication in student housing facilities, ensuring students have immediate access to life-saving treatments. Additionally, Dr. Weber's AB 2119 updated California's mental health code to utilize person-first language, reducing stigma for individuals seeking treatment.

Dr. Weber's expertise and passion continue to drive progress in creating healthier, more inclusive communities across California.

RAMOS (DISTRICT 45)

ASSEMBLYMEMBER

*Chair, Select Committee on Native American Affairs
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 6 on Public Safety*



Assemblymember James C. Ramos has been a strong advocate for public safety, youth services, and Native American issues during his tenure in the California Assembly. As the first California Native American state lawmaker, Ramos has utilized his unique perspective and leadership to champion legislation aimed at reducing disparities in public health, youth homelessness, and addiction services, particularly within underserved communities.

In the 2023-2024 legislative cycle, Ramos introduced several key pieces of legislation addressing critical issues in public safety and youth services. AB 2711, now chaptered into law, focuses on providing alternatives to suspension for students who voluntarily disclose substance use in order to seek help. This legislation aims to connect students with support services rather than punitive measures, promoting a compassionate approach to youth substance use and mental health.

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GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Governor Gavin Newsom has made remarkable progress in addressing California's behavioral health challenges over the past year, with a focus on transforming the mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment landscape. His administration has spearheaded historic investments in behavioral health infrastructure through Proposition 1, which allocates billions toward the expansion of mental health and SUD facilities across the state. This unprecedented investment is expected to add thousands of inpatient and outpatient treatment slots, significantly increasing access to care for Californians in need.

The Governor's 2024 budget reflected his deep commitment to behavioral health, with a \$4.7 billion allocation aimed at improving services, increasing the behavioral health workforce, and integrating care through CalAIM. Newsom has been a vocal advocate for tackling the opioid crisis, increasing mental health services for youth, and enhancing crisis response systems, all while focusing on preventive care and early intervention. His CARE Act, a landmark piece of legislation, further exemplifies his dedication to addressing severe mental illness by diverting individuals from incarceration to treatment and care.

Though Governor Newsom vetoed AB 1470, which aimed to streamline documentation for SUD providers, citing budgetary concerns, his administration continues to support reducing administrative burdens in ways that align with the state's fiscal realities. Overall, the Governor's leadership has ushered in significant changes, positioning California as a leader in behavioral health reform and ensuring that more individuals have access to life-saving treatment.

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