



Commission on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAOD)

Policy and Advocacy

November 2025





Roles and Responsibilities of CAOD



CAOD Bylaws

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

C: Policy and Planning Committee The Policy and Planning Committee shall have the following responsibilities:

1. Review federal, State and County budgets and their impact on communities and delivery of programs and services in the County and regularly update the Commission on the same;
2. Review and make recommendations on all processes used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of planning for, delivery of, and evaluation of programs and services for prevention and treatment of alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction;
3. Review and advise on proposed federal, State and local legislation and laws that impact the alcohol and other drugs field and are within the committee's subject matter jurisdiction.



Policy and Advocacy



Board-Directed Federal and State Legislative Priorities

Equity

- Advocate for policies that promote equitable outcomes for historically marginalized and underserved communities.

Health, Public Health, and Behavioral Health

- Provide public health services that protect and promote health among individuals and communities, and address the growing need for prevention, diagnostic, and treatment services for individuals with behavioral and other health conditions.

Housing and Homelessness

- Reduce barriers to housing. Transition residents who are experiencing homelessness into safe, stable, and permanent housing. Implement effective strategies to reduce inflow into homelessness.

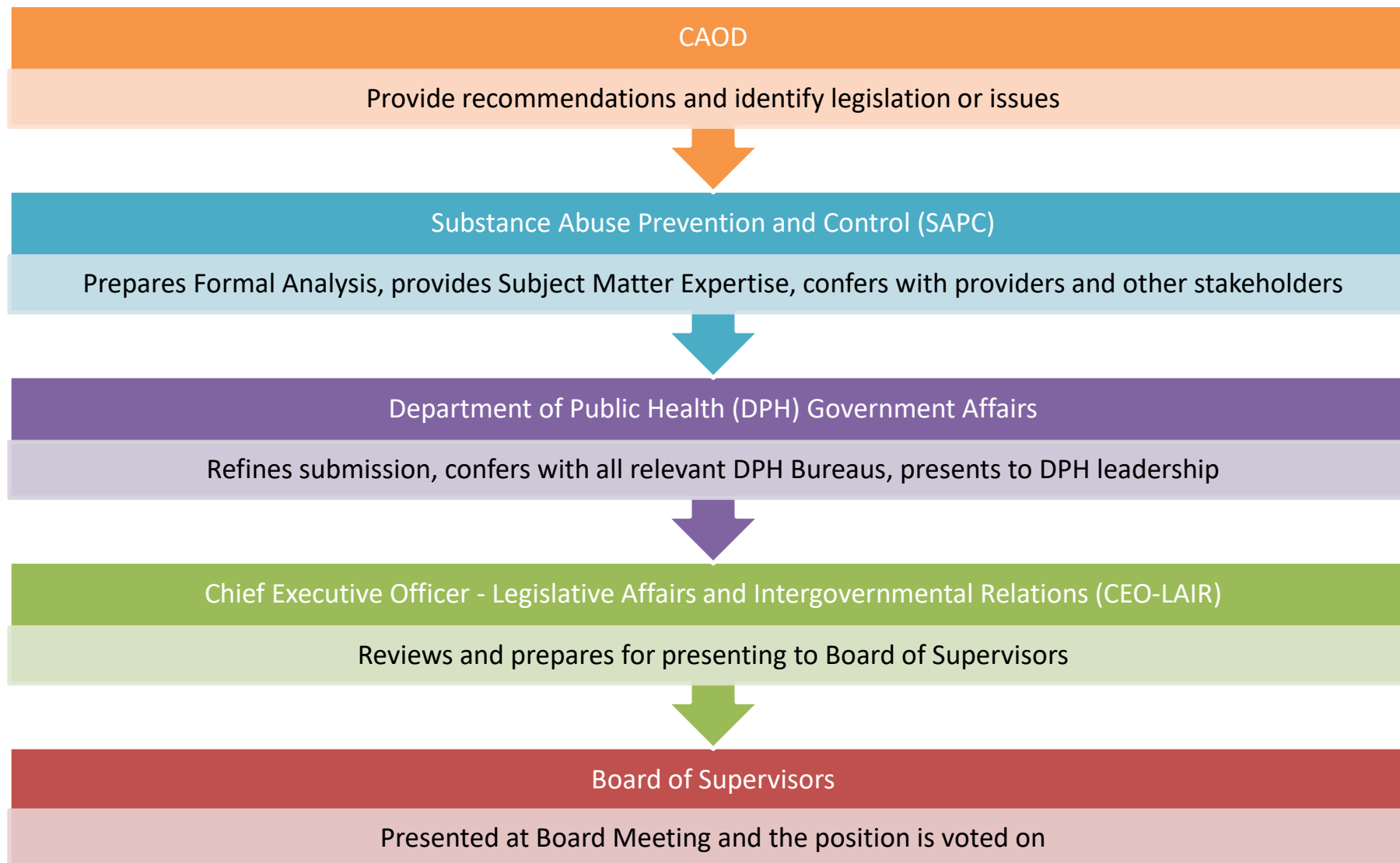
Human Services

- Alleviate financial hardship, address food insecurity, provide affordable health care, promote the well-being of families, prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect, provide aging and disability services, provide child support services, and prevent or mitigate poverty, all while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Justice, Public Safety, Emergency Management systems

- Support reforms to justice and public safety systems in pursuit of the “Care First, Jails Last” vision. Support preemptive emergency management and response investments.

County Legislative Position Process and Advocacy





Legislative Report Highlights





State Legislative Updates



Bill	AB 1037 (Elhawary) The Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Care Modernization Act
Objective	AB 1037 seeks to change outdated requirements and policies within existing statutes to align with current evidence-based practices and increase access to SUD treatment.
Analysis	The SUD Care Modernization Act would help address historical stigmas, outdated policies, and significant statutory barriers to more successfully engage and treat people with SUDs and ultimately save lives. • This bill aligns statutes with the overarching policies of California around SUD treatment, recently enacted laws, and best practices throughout an individual’s recovery journey and no matter their readiness for change. • Whether someone is ready for complete abstinence from substances or not, they should benefit from SUD treatment. • California statutes can facilitate greater and more streamlined approaches to accessing care with the SUD Care Modernization Act.
Status	Signed by the Governor and chaptered on 10/10/2025.
Position	DPH Position: Support County Position: Support (LA County Sponsored) CBHDA Position: Support



Bill **AB 309 (Zbur) Hypodermic Needles and Syringes**

Objective AB 309 aims to indefinitely extend the current law that allows individuals 18 years and older to obtain hypodermic needles and syringes from licensed pharmacists or physicians without a prescription. The bill seeks to eliminate the January 1, 2026 repeal date of existing regulations.

- Analysis**
- Making permanent sterile syringe access at pharmacies and authorization for individuals to possess syringes for personal use will sustain the efficacy of harm reduction programs operating in LA County.
 - It will promote greater access to sterile syringes among people who use injectable drugs in LA County, prevent the spread of HIV and viral hepatitis, preserve opportunities for health engagement in pharmacies, and promote proper disposal of used syringes.

Status Signed by the Governor and chaptered on 10/13/2025.

Position **DPH Position:** Support
 County Position: Support
 CBHDA Position: No position taken



Bill **AB 255 (Haney)The Supportive-Recovery Residence Program**

Objective	AB 255 would allow state departments or agencies to fund supportive-recovery residences (SRRs) that have been certified by a National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) affiliated organization, comply with Housing First components, and meet other specifications.
Analysis	• While DPH-SAPC does not currently offer permanent supportive housing (PSH), this legislation could provide funding streams that expand its Supportive Recovery-Oriented Residences program for much needed recovery-oriented permanent housing. • This bill would also permit counties to require their own quality and performance standards when contracting for recovery residence services, in addition to NARR standards and Housing First principles.
Status	Vetoed by the Governor on 10/1/25.
Position	DPH Position: Watch County Position: Watch CBHDA Position: Support



Federal Updates



Item US Government Shutdown

Status Shutdown continues without resolution.

- Summary
- The government shutdown began on October 1, 2025.
 - Lawmakers remain unable to reach an agreement on how to fund the government for fiscal year 2026.
 - Medicaid, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) continue to operate because they have been designated as “essential services”.
 - CalFresh Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits are now being impacted by the federal government shutdown.

Item	H.R. 5642 – "Michelle Go Act"
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Status	9/18/2025 - Introduced.
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Summary	Amends title XIX of the Social Security Act to revise the definition of institution for mental diseases under the Medicaid program to exclude from such definition institutions having 36 beds or less if such institutions meet certain standards.
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Item	H.R. 2483 – SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Reauthorization Act of 2025
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Status	9/19/2025 - Passed Senate.
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| Summary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renews and strengthens important programs for prevention, treatment, and recovery through 2030.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helps individuals in recovery re-enter the workforce.• Reauthorizes specialized programs that treat pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders.• Reauthorizes comprehensive opioid recovery centers that provide a full spectrum of support services for individuals with substance use disorder.• Expands of access to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, a critical tool to help lower overdose deaths• Helps more health care workers enter the behavioral health workforce, including measures to expand student loan repayment for focus on addiction medicine and recovery in underserved areas, increasing capacity of recovery programs.• Ensures that 9-8-8 Suicide Prevention Lifeline is protected from cybersecurity threats.• Trains first responders to administer life-saving opioid overdose reversal medications. |
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Item	Executive Order (EO) 14356 Ensuring Continued Accountability in Federal Hiring
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Status	10/15/2025 - Issued, pending operationalizing language and regulations.
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| Summary | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imposes a freeze on most federal civilian hiring and requires agencies to establish Strategic Hiring Committees and submit Annual Staffing Plans.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• These plans must align with the administration's priorities and are subject to approval by the committees.• The order aims to improve efficiency and accountability by ensuring new hires and positions support administration goals, with exceptions for national security, immigration, and public safety. |
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