



COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, EMPOWERMENT AND RECOVERY (CARE) ACT

NAPA COUNTY HHSA



NAPA COUNTY
Health & Human
Services Agency

NAPA COUNTY CARE ACT PARTNERS

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WHAT IS THE CARE ACT?

CARE ACT IS AIMED TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT TO PEOPLE WHO ARE EXPERIENCING UNTREATED SCHIZOPHRENIA OR OTHER PSYCHOTIC DISORDERS

CARE ACT ALLOWS A WIDE ARRAY OF “PETITIONERS” TO REQUEST COURT ORDERED TREATMENT, SERVICES, SUPPORTS AND HOUSING PLANS FOR PEOPLE 18 YEARS AND OLDER WHO MEET ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

NAPA COUNTY WILL BE LIVE PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER 1, 2024 MANDATORY IMPLEMENTATION DATE

CARE ACT TARGETS PEOPLE EXPERIENCING PSYCHOSIS AND HOMELESSNESS

- While people with Schizophrenia make up only 1% of overall population, they make up*:
 - 20-30% of homeless population
 - 15% of state prison population
 - 24% of jail population
- While overall prevalence of Serious Mental Illness (SMI) remains steady, the prevalence in the California prison population continues to grow, rising from 6.4% in 2020 to 9.2% in 2023.



CARE ACT IS DESIGNED TO BREAK THE CYCLE

- As a civil court process, CARE is an upstream diversion designed to break the cycle of homelessness, criminalization, and institutionalization.
- The success of CARE will be based on whether this process can connect the respondent to the right services and supports including stabilization medications, wraparound behavioral health services, and housing.



CARE ACT BROADENS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT & TREATMENT

	CARE Court	AOT	Conservatorship
Accepts referrals from hospital facilities	X	X	X
Accepts referrals from first responders	X		
Accepts referrals from family	X	X	
Accepts referrals from behavioral health providers	X	X	
Involuntary treatment			X
Requires grave disability criteria			X
Involuntary medication			X
Court ordered treatment	X	X	
Requires prior negative outcomes		X	
Allows for Respondent-identified Supporter to assist in the process	X		



WHO IS INVOLVED IN CARE ACT PROCESS?

The respondent, as well as:

- Petitioner
- Civil Court
- Public Defender/Conflict Public Defender/Private
- County Behavioral Health Branch
- Voluntary Supporter, if desired



A PROVEN FOUNDATION

Successful models of Court & HHS Service Collaboration

- Drug Court
- Mental Health Court
- Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Napa CARE will be based upon a supportive team approach designed to improve participant engagement

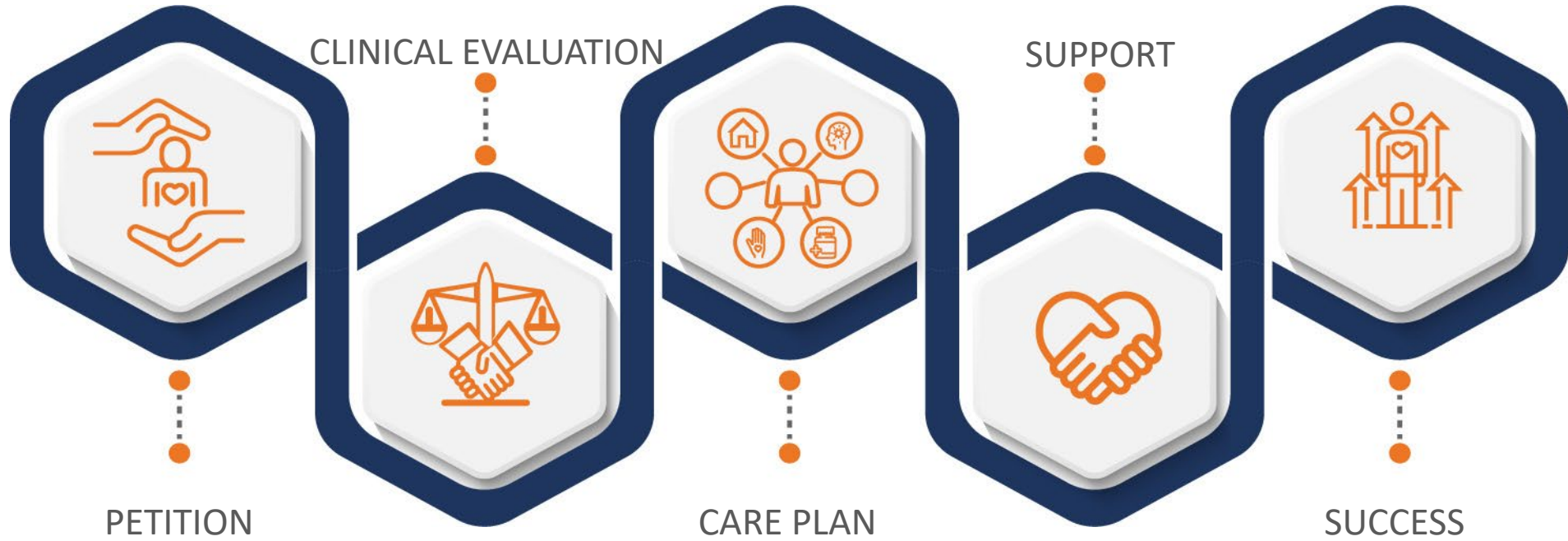


WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR CARE ACT PROCESS?

- 18 years and older
- Has a serious mental disorder in the class of Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders which is not caused by a medical condition.
- Not clinically stabilized in on-going voluntary treatment
- **Either:** Unlikely to survive safely without supervision and condition is substantially deteriorating **OR** in need of services to prevent relapse or deterioration that would likely result in grave disability or serious harm to self/others.
- CARE Act plan is the least restrictive alternative
- It is likely that the person will benefit from a CARE Act plan/agreement
- Clinical opinion or two WIC 5250 holds; one within the last 60 days.



CARE ACT PROCESS



WHAT IS A CARE ACT AGREEMENT/PLAN?

- Document that specifies services to support recovery
 - Behavioral healthcare, psychiatric medications, access to housing...
- Developed with respondent, Counsel, County Behavioral Health and a Supporter (if desired by respondent)
- **Agreement:** Voluntary; **Plan:** Court ordered
- 1 year, with interim status review hearings set by court



CARE ACT PLAN: MAY INCLUDE

- Full Service Partnership (FSP) level of service or justify to the court why FSP is not the correct treatment modality
- Review of available housing resources
Prioritized for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH)
- Referral to individualized social services, as needed
- Medications can be ordered but not forced



HOUSING AND CARE ACT

- HHSA used grant and other funds to purchase, in partnership with the City of Napa and Mentis, a 6 bed multi-housing unit - purchase completed in May 2024 for CARE Act clients



CARE ACT PETITION

- Use Judicial Council forms (6 pages)
- Must submit either Mental Health declaration from clinician or documentation of two WIC5250s, with at least one in the last 60 days
- Court makes prima facie determination ASAP (assumed 2-3 days)
- If individual does not meet criteria, case does not move forward
- If filing passes prima facie review, Behavioral Health has 14 days to investigate and submit a report to the court



GRADUATING FROM A CARE ACT PLAN

Court sets 1-year status hearing in month 11 of CARE Act Plan.
Court will determine whether respondent will:

- a) Graduate with a voluntary graduation plan
- b) Be reappointed to CARE Act plan for another term (maximum of 1 additional year)
 - Respondent may also voluntarily request reappointment

Respondent will continue to be eligible for appropriate services



CARE OUTREACH: IMPROVING ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

- Community Partners
 - Law enforcement, within-county hospitals, Fire & EMT, ABODE
- Internal Partners
 - Crestwood CSS, Mobile Response Team, Outreach teams
- General Public
 - County CARE Resource Website



CARE RESOURCE WEBSITE

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF NAPA

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- Napa County Superior Court Announces New Court Commissioner. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- Napa Court Rolls Out Ability-To-Pay Online Tool for Infractions. Click [HERE](#) for more information.
- Subpage [CARE Act](#) has been updated.

Revisions Usage Translate

CARE Act

CARE Act



What is the CARE Act?

The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act allows specific people, called "petitioners," to ask the court to create a voluntary CARE agreement or court-ordered CARE plan for other persons, called "respondents," who have certain untreated severe mental illnesses, specifically schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders. A CARE agreement or plan may include treatment, housing support, and other services.

CARE Act proceedings involve assessments and hearings to determine whether the respondent meets eligibility requirements. A county behavioral health agency will be involved in the process. If the person qualifies for CARE, a CARE agreement or plan can be made.

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CARE Act

CARE Act

Who Qualifies?

- Adults, 18 years or older.
- Diagnosed with a Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders.
- Currently experiencing behaviors and symptoms associated with severe mental illness (SMI).
- Not clinically stabilized in on-going voluntary treatment.
- At least one of the following:
 - Unlikely to survive safely without supervision, and condition is substantially deteriorating.
 - Needs services and support to prevent relapse or deterioration, leading to grave disability or harm to others.
 - Participation in a CARE Plan or Agreement is the least restrictive alternative.
 - Likely to benefit from participating in a CARE Plan or Agreement.

If the "respondent" does not meet the requirements for the CARE Act proceedings, options for assistance are still available at [Napa County Behavioral Health](#)

FAQs

How do I get started?	+
Where do I go to file a petition?	+
Additional Resources	+



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