



NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH



Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS) recognizes:

World Suicide Prevention Day: September 10

Suicide Prevention Week: September 13-19

Suicide Prevention Month: All of September

BHRS honors these observances each year through a proclamation and community awareness efforts. This month is a reminder that **everyone has a role to play in suicide prevention**, whether through education, offering support, or simply starting a conversation.

BHRS is committed to raising awareness, sharing life-saving resources, reducing stigma, encouraging open conversations, and supporting individuals and families affected by suicide.

The official Suicide Prevention Awareness Ribbon is **purple and teal**, symbolizing hope and remembrance.

5 Steps You Can Take to Help:

1. **ASK** - Don't be afraid to ask directly, "**Are you thinking about suicide?**" Research shows that asking this question does not increase risk, it can save lives.
2. **BE THERE** - Be present and listen without judgment. Showing you care can make a difference.
3. **KEEP THEM SAFE** - Help reduce access to lethal means. Ask if they have a plan and help them develop a safety strategy with support.
4. **HELP THEM CONNECT** - Encourage connection to friends, family, mental health services and community resources. Save the **988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline**: call or text **988**.
5. **FOLLOW UP** - Stay connected. Ongoing support, especially after a crisis or discharge from care can be crucial.

You are not alone. Help is here. Hope is real.

24/7 Crisis Line: 1-855-838-0404

Warm Line for Non-Crisis Emotional Support: (707) 472-2311 or Toll-Free: 1-833-955-2510

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call or text **988**, or chat online at **chat.988lifeline.org**

A Safe & Healthy Community

September 2026



Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT)

SUDT and Prevention have NARCAN, Fentanyl test strips, and Xylazine test strips in our lobby for easy access to the populations in treatment. There are also NARCAN, Fentanyl test strips, and Xylazine test strips in the main lobby for access to the public.

On August 5, BHRS SUDT and Prevention attended the *Fentanyl High* screening at the Point Arena Theater in partnership with the Mendocino County Office of Education. The event included a screening, community conversation, and a question-and-answer session following the showing. NARCAN was distributed, and attendees received information on how to recognize an overdose and administer NARCAN. SUDT and Prevention is currently planning additional *Fentanyl High* screenings in Covelo and Willits in the near future.

For access to SUDT services within Mendocino County: 1-855-765-9703
or TTY: 1-800-735-2929 or 711.

Mental Health

In September, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) recognizes Suicide Prevention Month and raises awareness throughout the community. September 10 is World Suicide Prevention Day, and September 13–19, 2026, is National Suicide Prevention Week.

This month and every day, is an important reminder to raise awareness about suicide risk factors, increase community comfort with seeking support and treatment for suicidal thoughts.

BHRS believes suicide is preventable. Normalizing conversations about suicide, recognizing signs and symptoms of suicide risk, increasing comfort discussing concerns with loved ones, and knowing where to go for support and resources can help prevent and reduce loss to suicide.

Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, and 8th leading cause of death in Mendocino County.

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health or suicide-related crisis, support is available:

- **988 National Suicide Hotline:** Call or text **988**
- **Mendocino County Behavioral Health Crisis Line:** 1-855-838-0404

Throughout September, BHRS will share suicide prevention information and resources through social media and outreach and awareness activities. BHRS will also coordinate with NAMI Mendocino to honor those that died at Mendocino County's State Hospital. A memorial event is planned for the week of September 21 at the Russian River Cemetery.

An Effective County Government Organization

September 2026



Substance Use Disorder Treatment (SUDT)

SUDT continues to actively seek new grant opportunities. Additionally, SUDT is actively pursuing Prop 36 funding to support staff who have been completing screenings and assessments for individuals incarcerated or recently released from incarceration and who are referred under Prop 36 by the Public Defender's office and/or courts.

Mental Health

Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) facilitates the joint Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and Quality Improvement Committee (QIC) Forum meetings every other month to provide stakeholders with updates on behavioral health services and opportunities to share feedback and input regarding their experiences with behavioral health services. The most recent meeting was held on Thursday, August 20, from 12:30-2:30pm in Point Arena at The Center, 225 Main Street.

Join BHRS at the upcoming BHSA and QIC Forum!

- **Yuki Trails, 23000 Henderson Road, Covelo, Thursday, October 1 | 2:00-4:00pm**

Additional information regarding meetings is available on the County website at www.mendocinocounty.gov/departments/behavioral-health-and-recovery-services/mental-health-services/mental-health-services-act.

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services also recognized: Overdose Awareness Day: August 31



On August 31, BHRS recognized Overdose Awareness Day, by honoring and remembering those lost to overdose. BHRS shared information about overdose prevention and available resources to help raise awareness, reduce stigma, and support individuals and their families.

Mendocino County Access Line: 1-800-555-5906 (TTY: 1-800-735-2929)

**For access to SUDT services within Mendocino County: 1-855-765-9703
or TTY: 1-800-735-2929**

A Safe & Healthy Community

September 2026



Public Conservator Office

The number of LPS conserved individuals in July 2026 was consistent with the previous months. The Public Conservator office and the placement team is always reviewing individuals in higher level of placements to work towards achieving their goals to be eligible for lower level of placements including independent housing. In July 2026, there were more clients placed out of county than in county due to needing higher level of care.

Number of Clients Placed In and Out of County			
FY 26/27	Out of County	In County	Total Number of Clients
Jul 2026	45	25	70

LPS Conservatorship (Mental Health) Placement Costs FY 26/27			
FY 26/27	Total Costs	General Funds	Realignment Funds
Jul 2026	\$424,962.56.	\$0	\$424,962.56.
Total (YTD)	\$2,962,841.19	\$0	\$2,962,841.19

LPS Conservatorship

A conservatorship established under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act to provide for individualized treatment, supervision, and placement of individuals who are gravely disabled as a result of a mental health disorder or impairment by chronic alcoholism (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5350).

Grave Disability:

An individual may meet criteria for LPS conservatorship when, due to a serious mental health disorder, a severe substance use disorder, or a combination of both, they are unable to provide for their basic needs, including food, clothing, shelter, personal safety, or necessary medical care.



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