



Joint Oversight Hearing
Senate Health and Judiciary Committees

First Annual Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Report

Overview and Mapping the Landscape

November 13, 2025 – 10 a.m.

Orange County Superior Court Civil Complex Center

751 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, CA

Room CXC-101

I. Welcome and Opening Comments

- Senator Caroline Menjivar, Chair, Health Committee
- Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair, Judiciary Committee
- The Honorable Terri K. Flynn-Peister, Assistant Presiding Judge, Superior Court for the County of Orange

II. A Deeper Dive into the First Nine Months of the CARE Act

- Stephanie Welch, Deputy Secretary, Behavioral Health, California Health and Human Services Agency
- Ivan Bhardwaj, Chief, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Policy, Department of Health Care Services
- Anne Hadreas, Supervising Attorney, Judicial Council of California

III. The CARE Act in Practice

A. Experiences: Family Petitioners and Supporters

- Anita Fisher, Petitioner and Supporter, County of San Diego
- Kaino Hopper, Petitioner, County of Sacramento
- Nancy Eldred, Vice President of Advocacy and Public Affairs, NAMI-California

B. Experiences: Behavioral Health Professionals & Stakeholders

- Dr. Karyn L. Tribble, Behavioral Health Director, County of Alameda
- Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director, Forensics/Public Guardian/Housing, County of Riverside
- Dr. Aaron Meyer, Behavioral Health Officer, City of San Diego
- Keris Jän Myrick, Board Member, Disability Rights California

C. Experiences: Judges and Attorneys

- The Honorable Scott Herin, CARE Court and Mental Health Judge, Superior Court for the County of Los Angeles
- Charles Bruce, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, City and County of San Francisco
- Desirae Sanders, Supervising Deputy Public Defender, Mental Health Unit & CARE Court for the County of San Diego

IV. Public Comment