## **County of Fresno**



DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUSAN L. HOLT DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PUBLIC GUARDIAN

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Fresno County Approves Provider for Implementation of CARE Act

**Fresno, CA** – Today, the Board of Supervisors approved a contract with TURN Behavioral Health, the provider organization that will partner with the County in the outreach and treatment components of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act. Fresno County, along with 48 other California counties, will implement the CARE Act on December 1, 2024.

The CARE Act is a new civil court process that leverages existing services and resources, combined with court involvement, to support adults with schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders to participate in treatment. Fresno County implementation planning has been underway for the past year.

The CARE Act authorizes specified adult persons (such as family members, health care providers, first responders, and others) to petition a civil court to create a voluntary CARE agreement or a court-ordered CARE plan that may include treatment, housing resources, and other services for a person with a diagnosis of schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders who meets other specified criteria.

Board Chairman Nathan Magsig stated, "The CARE Act provides another opportunity for individuals to be engaged with behavioral health professionals and to access our excellent County behavioral health services. When people are meaningfully engaged and supported in treatment, their recovery really soars. CARE Act provides counties with another tool for that important engagement work."

More information about the CARE Act can be found at www.careactfresno.com.

For other information or questions please contact <u>dbhmedia@fresnocountyca.gov</u>