



Chaffey  College

Higher Education Assessment Team 2025 Third Annual Report



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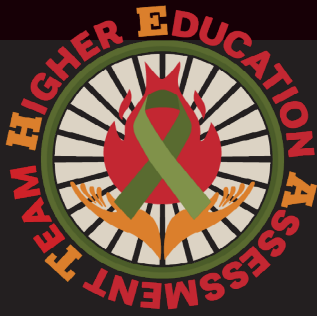


BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



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HEAT Overview

In response to increasing concerns around mental health issues, substance use, and targeted violence, a new approach was adopted to strengthen CCPD's capabilities, leading to the launch of the Higher Education Assessment

Team (HEAT). Based on the threat assessment model developed by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's School Threat Assessment Response Team (START), HEAT brings together law enforcement and mental health professionals to intervene early and support individuals who may pose a safety risk.

HEAT provides proactive assessments, early identification, case management, training, and consultations to help prevent violence and support student well-being. Key members of the team include Social Workers from the San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), including Roxanne Trevino (July 2023-Jan 2025) and Rodrick Phillips (Feb. 2025-present). These social workers serve as vital liaisons, connecting students to behavioral health services and other community resources tailored to their needs. Their collaborative efforts play a critical role in fostering safety, stability, and positive outcomes across the campus community, while also ensuring that students receive timely and compassionate support.

Chaffey College has three main campuses located in Rancho Cucamonga, Chino, and Fontana. In addition, there are two satellite locations, with two more full campus developments -- one in Fontana and a new location in Ontario. The Chaffey College Police Department (CCPD) provides safety and security across all college sites, serving about 20,000 students, as well as faculty and staff.



Leadership and Team Members

Dr. Henry Shannon
Superintendent/President

Troy Ament
*Associate Superintendent of Administrative
Services and Emergency Operations*

Steven Griffin
Chaffey College Police Department Chief

Cheryl Newman-Tarwater
HEAT Project Manager

Raymond Bercini
Law Enforcement and Public Safety Training Expert

Stephanie Moya
*Executive Assistant,
Administrative Services and Emergency Operations*

Maria Rodriguez
HEAT Police Officer

Richard Munoz
ACSW HEAT Social Worker

Roxanne Trevino
Rodrick Philips
San Bernardino County Social Worker II

Dr. Rosemary Alamo, DBH, LCSW, PPSC
Dr. Rick Ornelas, DBH, MSW
*University of Southern California Suzanne-
Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Professors*

Dr. Maria Martinez, Ph.D., LCSW
Threat Assessment and Training

Alisha Chavez
Intelligence Analyst and Training

Alexis Hoffman
Jennifer Ortega
*USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
Master of Social Work Interns*

Funding Sources



Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services

The Behavioral Health Justice Intervention Services (BHJIS) grant accepted proposals seeking to divert individuals with mental health and substance use disorders from the criminal justice system. The Request for Applications (RFA) resulted in 34 awards totaling more than \$14 million initial funding for programs across California. Chaffey College was the only community college and one of three higher education institutions across California to receive funding from this grant. Chaffey College was awarded \$310,970 initially in 2022. Due to the continued success of the program, the state of California awarded additional grant funds through March 2025, bringing the total award amount to \$902,970.



Bureau of Justice Assistance

Connect and Protect Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) sought funding proposals to support law enforcement-behavioral health cross-system collaboration to improve public health and safety responses and outcomes for individuals with mental health disorders and co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions. Chaffey College was awarded \$550,000 in funding from this grant, allowing HEAT to continue providing services to the Chaffey Community. Chaffey was the only award in California and the only community college nationwide to receive BJA Connect and Protect Law Enforcement Behavioral Health Response Program grant funding during that application period.

The Model in Action



IDENTIFY

The identification phase involves recognizing behaviors or situations that could potentially lead to harm. Chaffey faculty or staff observe concerning behavior and submit a report to the Chaffey Connects Team. Examples include a student's self-report about needing mental health support, observed anger outbursts, concerning emails, etc. The Chaffey Connects reports are triaged and assigned to HEAT when the individual poses a potential risk to campus safety.



ASSESS

During the assessment phase, information is gathered to understand the nature and severity of the threat, including the individual's background, capabilities, and intent. HEAT's intelligence analysts facilitate this research by investigating the individual's background and relevant social media history. Common areas of research include:

- Relevant prior criminal history
- Known possession of weapons (if any)
- Any mental health history
- Social media activity



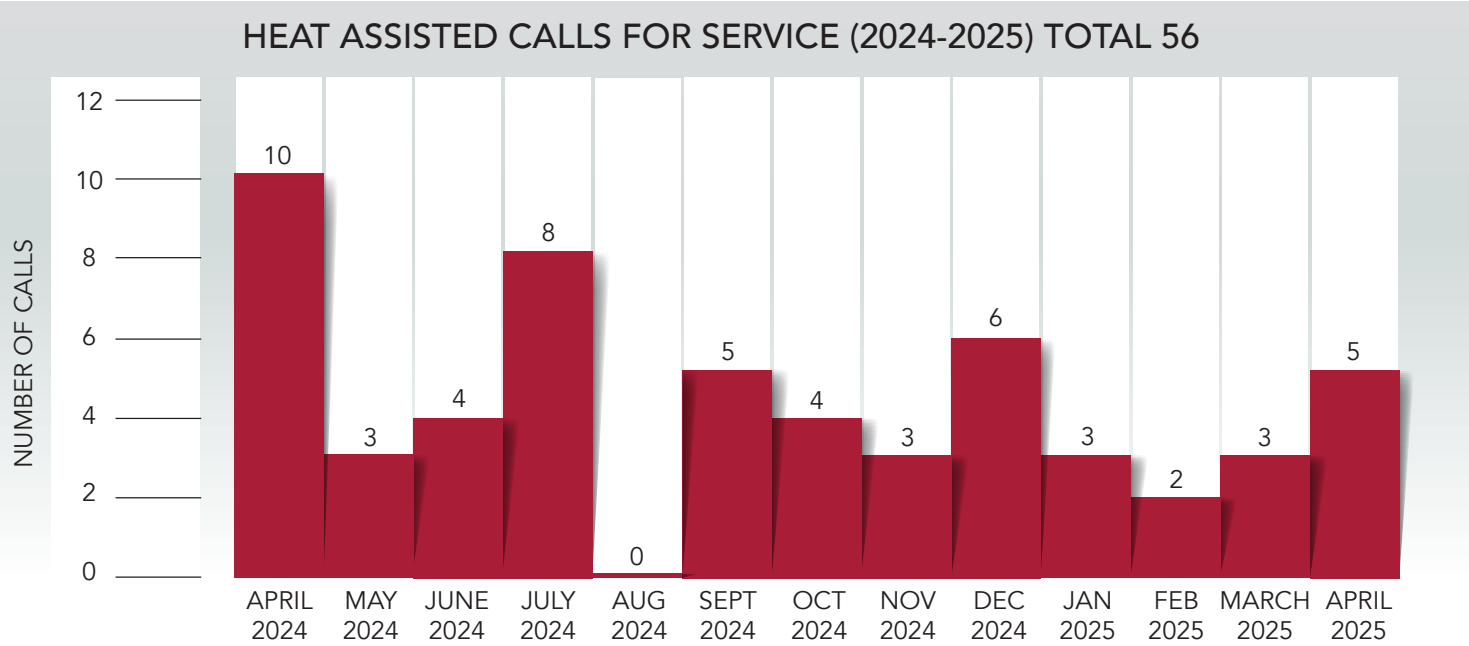
MANAGE

During the management phase, the focus is on mitigating the threat, preventing harm, and supporting the individual involved. The goal is to neutralize the immediate danger, ensure the individual receives necessary support, and prevent the creation of new grievances towards the school. Actions taken in cases include:

- Collaboration with external partners such as law enforcement and other mental health professionals
- Monitoring any legal cases and the student's status on an ongoing basis.
- Efforts to support the students and their families, including making appointments for check-ins and coordinating necessary support services.

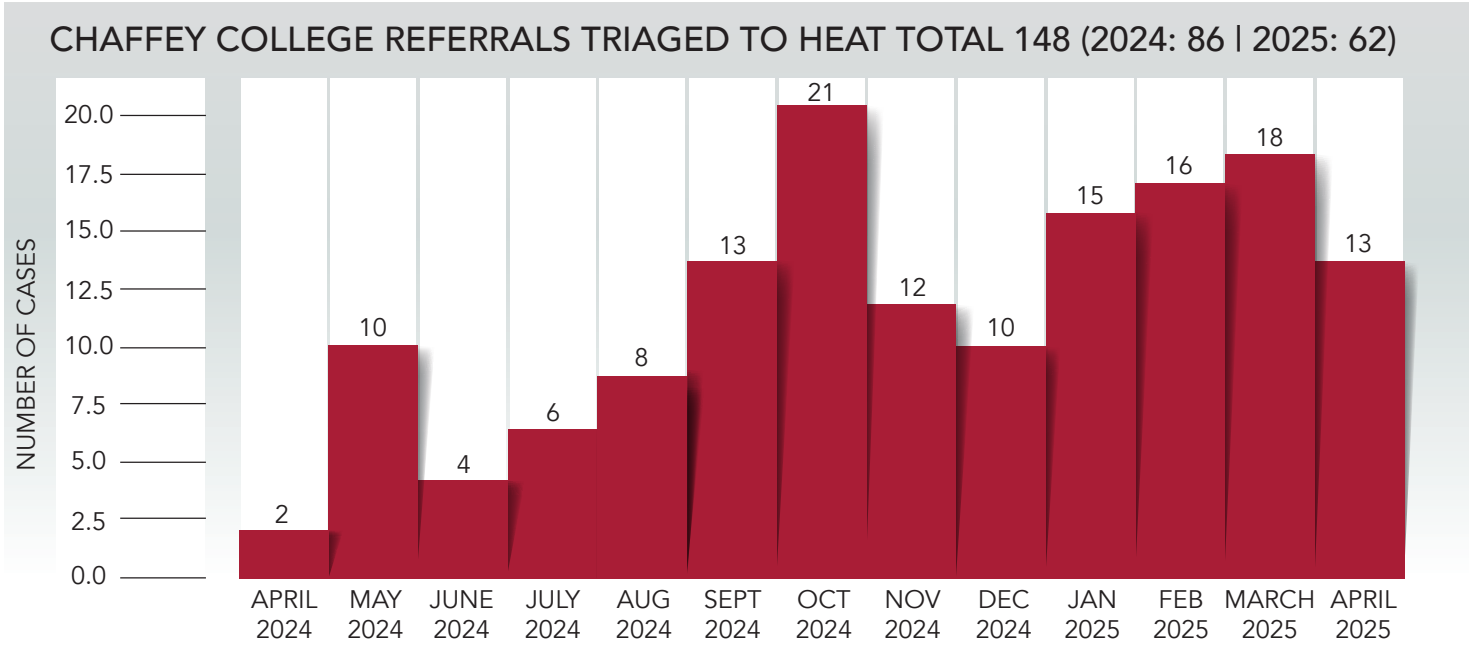
Program Impact

Chaffey Campus Police Calls for Service Assisted by HEAT



Chaffey Connects Referrals Triaged to HEAT

Of the 601 Chaffey Connects Referrals during the reporting period, **148 (approximately 25%) involved HEAT intervention or collaboration.** These cases demonstrate the significant and growing role of HEAT in supporting early intervention, behavioral assessment, and de-escalation across campus settings.



Training

The Higher Education Assessment Team (HEAT) continued its commitment to campus safety and wellness by delivering targeted professional development workshops to Chaffey College faculty, staff, and HEAT partners. These trainings aim to reduce stigma, increase early intervention, and promote help-seeking and reporting behaviors.

Highlighted workshop topics included:

- Disruptive vs. Dangerous Behavior
- Human Trafficking Awareness
- The Intelligence Analysis Process
- Self-Care Strategies for Faculty & Staff
- Behavioral Intervention Protocols for Public Safety Personnel

One of the most popular trainings, **Disruptive vs. Dangerous Behavior**, helps participants distinguish between behavioral concerns and determine appropriate response pathways, including referrals to Student Discipline, the Chaffey Connects Team, Threat Assessment, or campus police.

A key advancement this year was the integration of the **MILO System**, a cutting-edge, scenario-based interactive video training tool that enhances decision-making, de-escalation, and trauma-informed crisis response. HEAT has used MILO internally to train campus police, faculty, staff, and students in crisis response, threat assessment, and bystander intervention. Externally, HEAT has partnered with local law enforcement, mental health agencies, and regional colleges to deliver joint trainings and share best practices. Notably, HEAT can also produce custom MILO videos tailored to specific campus needs.

HEAT remains committed to empowering the Chaffey College community and its partners with innovative tools, practical strategies, and collaborative training experiences to foster a safer, more supportive learning environment.

Training Data from April 2024 – April 2025

Training Category	Number of Trainings	Number of Attendees
Program Overview & Outreach	16	533
De-Escalation & Disruptive vs. Dangerous	9	197
Other (Threat Assessment, Human Trafficking)	4	169
MILO System Application	4	122
Total	33	1,021

Collaboration & Partnerships

HEAT Strategic Partnerships

HEAT's collaborative efforts are supported by a wide range of dedicated partners across mental health, law enforcement, intelligence, and higher education sectors, including:

Mental Health and Behavioral Support

- San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health
- Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health – School Threat Assessment Response Team (START)

Federal Agencies

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

Regional Intelligence and Public Safety Coordination

- Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC)
- California College and University Police Chiefs Association

Law Enforcement Partners

- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office – Rancho Cucamonga Station
- San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office
- Fontana Police Department
- Chino Police Department
- Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
- California State University, San Bernardino Police Department
- Ontario Police Department – CART Team

Conclusion

As we conclude our third year, the Higher Education Assessment Team (HEAT) extends deep gratitude to our academic, public safety, and mental health partners who continue to support and believe in the HEAT model. Your collaboration and dedication have been essential to our ongoing success in creating a safer, more supportive environment at Chaffey College.

We especially recognize the law enforcement officers who have partnered with HEAT this year. Despite the complex and high-risk nature of this work, these professionals have demonstrated integrity, compassion, and a steadfast commitment to protecting our campus community. Their efforts are a vital part of our shared mission.

HEAT remains committed to collaboration, innovation, and early intervention as we continue to evolve and respond to emerging challenges. We welcome ongoing dialogue about our work and invite any questions or interest in learning more about the HEAT model.



For more information, please contact

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Troy Ament

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Together, we can continue to promote safety, strengthen mental health systems, and support the well-being of every student.