

# Behavioral Health

## Subsector Coverage:

**I/DD****Autism****Mental Health****Substance Use  
Disorder**

## Recent Publications & Upcoming Conferences

### Publications

[Autism Services Market Update](#)[Behavioral Health Market Update](#)

### Conferences

[Autism Investor Summit 2026](#)[Behavioral Health Business: INVEST 2026](#)[Council of Autism Services Providers 2026](#)

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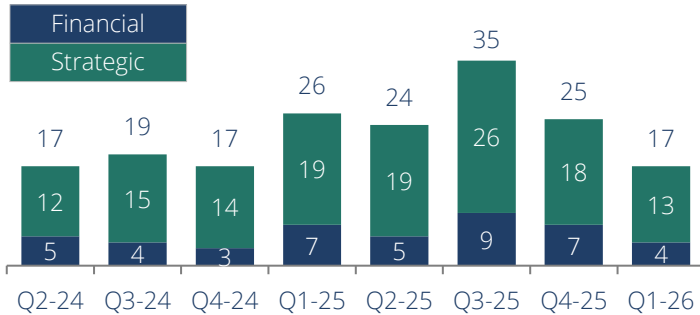
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# Behavioral Health | M&A Market Update

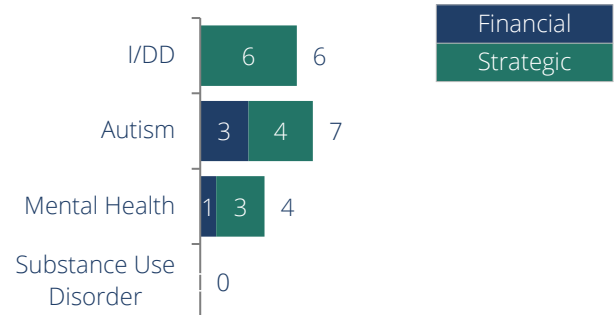
Q1 2026

<b>Q1 2026 Metrics</b>	<b>4 Platform Investments</b>	<b>13 Add-On Acquisitions<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>5 Secondary Transactions</b>	<b>15 Unique Buyers</b>
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## Quarterly Transaction Volume



## Q1-26 Transactions by Subsector



## Notable Transactions

To acquire  
**Talkspace**

In March, UHS announced the acquisition of digital mental health provider, Talkspace, for \$835M. The transaction reflects UHS' thesis of building an end-to-end behavioral health platform that provides access to virtual, outpatient, and inpatient services through a single platform.

Has been acquired by  
**ncgCARE**

ncgCare announced the acquisition of Broadstep of North Carolina, also known as Coastal Southeastern United Care. The transaction will help to expand statewide access to behavioral healthcare services and expands ncgCARE's footprint across eastern and southeastern North Carolina.

## Select Transactions

Month	Investor	Target	Subsector
Mar-26			Autism
Mar-26		Talkspace	Mental Health
Feb-26			Mental Health
Feb-26		LearnWell	Mental Health
Feb-26			Autism
Feb-26	Spring Health		Mental Health
Feb-26			I/DD
Feb-26			I/DD
Jan-26			I/DD
Jan-26			Autism
Jan-26			I/DD

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes subscale transactions with less than \$5M of revenue.

Sources: SEC Filings, Company Press Releases, PitchBook, Provident research.

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# Subsector Spotlight: Autism Services

Q1 2026

## Market Update

Against the backdrop of strong investor interest, recent coverage from *The Wall Street Journal* has brought attention to Medicaid reimbursement dynamics and billing practices within the autism services space. The reporting highlighted outlier reimbursement and utilization, along with alleged fraud in isolated situations. These developments highlight the gaps in compliance that can arise in sectors that experience rapid scale, and in some cases, regulatory frameworks lag industry growth.

While the headlines may appear negative on the surface, we view the increased scrutiny as a long-term benefit for the sector. Increased oversight should help accelerate standardization across clinical and billing guidelines, while reinforcing the value of high-quality operators with strong compliance infrastructure. Importantly, we do not expect this to hinder M&A activity for scaled, high-quality platforms.

## Notable Transaction

General Atlantic-backed ACES recently acquired Ally Pediatric Therapy (Ally), which was previously owned by SBJ Capital. SBJ Capital initially invested in 2022 and exited four years later.

The transaction represents one of few platform-to-platform trades in the space, as most secondary deals over the last 24 months have traded to sponsors. Provident expects an increase in the volume of strategic secondary transactions as organizations look to capitalize on the staffing, marketing, and other operational synergies available to providers that compete within adjacent footprints.

















**ALLY**  
PEDIATRIC THERAPY

**Has been acquired by**

**ACES**

**January 2026**

## Select Transactions

Month	Investor	Target	Care Model	Locations	Geography
Mar-26			Home-Based	n/a	Southwest
Feb-26			Home-Based	n/a	Southwest
Jan-26			Clinic-Based	1	West
Jan-26			Clinic-Based	7	South Central
Jan-26			Clinic-Based	8	Southwest
Jan-26			Hybrid	1	Southeast
Jan-26			Clinic-Based	2	Southwest

## Quarterly Transaction Volume

