November 6, 2025
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON
William "Bill" Stewart – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Julie Hayden – Member-At-Large, District 2
Robins Sales – District 3
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Minola Clark Manson – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4
Amanda Berry, Member-At-Large, District 4

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Donald Romo – District 5
Supervisor Lawson-Remer – #21

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE
Joel San Juan – District 1
Jessica Kramer – District 3
John Byrom – District 5
Aaron Byzak – District 5

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Nadia Privara Brahms, Acting Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavior Health Advisory Board Coordinator, BHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Robin Sales at 2:30pm in person and via Zoom.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

BHAB approved the following consent calendar item:

1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the meeting of October 2, 2025.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Total of four (4) in-person comments and three (3) e-comments.

In-Person Comments:

- Dang Le, an active-duty military personnel member transitioning to civilian life, highlighted the role of VETART in supporting veterans through arts-based community engagement.

DRAFT

- Purita Javier, a community member, raised awareness regarding a home business that uses a ceramics kiln, leading to toxicity and creating health concerns in a populated residential zone.
- Cesar Javier, a community member, raised awareness of the Tijuana River Valley sewage problem.
- Jerry Hall, with BHAB Rehab, encouraged BHAB members participation in planning sessions regarding homelessness, justice-involved, people, and more.

E- Comments:

- Mary Jo O'Brien, a community member, expressed appreciation for BHAB and BHS efforts for their awareness and responsiveness to the needs and impact of peer respite services.
- Sandra Robinson raised awareness of the use of jails for individuals with serious mental illness and advocated for expanded long term treatment options and improvements to board-and-care facilities.
- June Dudas expressed support for County efforts on involuntary behavioral health treatment and psychiatric advance directives and raised concerns regarding the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) program implementation when individuals decline voluntary participation.

IV. ACTION ITEM: VOTE ON THE SLATE OF 2026 BHAB OFFICERS

Public Comments: In-Person

- Cesar Javier recognized the Chair's leadership and encouraged selection of the most qualified candidate.

ACTION ITEM: VOTE ON THE SLATE OF 2026 BHAB OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee presented the following recommended Slate of 2026 Executive Officers with no contestation.

- Amanda Berry – Chairperson
- Minola Clark Manson – 1st Vice Chairperson
- Gaurav Mishra – 2nd Vice Chairperson
- Julie Hayden – Member-at-Large *(Representing the alcohol and substance use community)*

On motion of Joel San Juan, seconded by Judith Yates, the Vote on the Slate of 2026 BHAB Officers for the non-contested seats was approved.
On motion of Minola Clark Manson, seconded by Gaurav Mishra, BHAB approved to vote for the contested seat via live ballot with details to be shown in minutes was approved.

AYES: 15 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

The following BHAB members were nominated to serve as the Member-at-Large, representing the mental health community:

- Robin Sales – Member-at-Large
- Janice Luna Reynoso - Member-at-Large

Voting records are as follows:

BHAB Members	Vote for Robin Sales	Vote for Janice Luna Reynoso
Bill Stewart – District 1		X
Gaurav Mishra – District 1	X	
Joel San Juan – District 1		X
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2	X	
Robert Alm – District 2	X	
Julie Hayden – District 2	X	
Robin Sales – District 3	X	
Jessica Kramer – District 3	X	
Dr. Davesh Vashishtha – District 3	X	
Minola Clark Manson – District 4		X
Kathy Watkins – District 4		X
Judith Yates – District 4	X	
Amanda Berry – District 4	X	
John Byrom – District 5	X	
Aaron Byzak – District 5	No vote received.	
TOTAL VOTES:	**10**	**4**

With a total vote of 10, Robin Sales has been approved to serve as a BHAB Executive Officer Member-at-Large, representing the mental health community for the 2026 calendar year.

V. ACTION ITEM: BHS PROCUREMENTS AND CONTRACT EXTENSIONS BOARD LETTER

Public Comments: In-person/zoom

- Cesar Javier expressed the importance of competitive procurement for alcohol, substance use, and mental health services.
- Jessica Kramer, BHAB member, discussed about the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM) implementation and shared concerns regarding contractual expectations, access to community supports through insurance providers, and processes related to Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) reasonable accommodations.
- Mary Jo O'Brien stated the historical involvement of peer support specialists in developing scopes of work and recommended including peers on Source Selection Committees for procurement processes reflected in the Board Letter.

ACTION ITEM: BHS PROCUREMENTS AND CONTRACT EXTENSIONS BOARD LETTER

On motion of Gaurav Mishra, seconded by Dr. Rosolyn Harper, the BHS Procurements and Contract Extensions Board Letter was approved.

AYES: 9 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 5

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT-OUTS

Public Comments: In-person

- Cesar Javier inquired about BHAB's focus related to behavioral health in San Diego and raised concerns about potential health impacts associated with the Tijuana River Valley sewage issue.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT-OUTS

Robin Sales, Chair, BHAB

- Pathways to Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Alcohol and other Drugs Subcommittee
    - Julie Hayden, Subcommittee Chair, reported that the subcommittee met in October and co-hosted a Community Program Planning (CPP) input sessions with the BHS Community and Engagement Team to identify gaps and challenges across the alcohol and drug continuum of care.
- Re-Entry for Justice-Involved Youth and Adults Subcommittee
    - Robin Sales, Chair, reported the next subcommittee meeting is rescheduled to Monday, November 17 and will be led by Minola Clark Manson in her absence.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nadia Privara, MPA, Acting Director, BHS provided the following updates:

- Population Health Unit, led by Dr. Nicole Esposito, continues naloxone distribution and overdose efforts, including the San Diego Relay Program, which provides peer support following nonfatal overdoses or behavioral health holds. Expansion to additional hospitals and pursuit of Medi-Cal certification are in progress.
- Data Science reported continued progress on major data-integration efforts. Mental health and substance use electronic health records were successfully unified under SmartCare, and BHS is joining the County's enterprise Data Lake, which will enhance access to secure, integrated, cross-departmental data. Data Science continues ongoing monitoring of the CARE Act, Senate Bill 43, and BH-CONNECT.
- Community input sessions for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated plan for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2029 will continue through Winter 2026. Community members may participate in the input sessions to provide feedback on behavioral health priorities, service needs, and future system treatments.
- Under the BHSA, responsibility for certain statewide prevention activities is transitioning to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). CDPH will release the next phase of its Statewide Prevention Plan, and the session will be open to the public. Counties, Tribes, and community partners are encouraged to provide feedback on proposed funding levels and implementation strategies prior to finalization of the 2026–2029 plan.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Robin Sales, Chair, BHAB provided the following updates:

- Expressed appreciation to BHS staff for supporting the BHAB Fall Retreat held on November 1, 2025, and noted the benefit of strengthened member engagement.
- Acknowledged Skylar Weatherford and Cristina Rios Vega for their support for BHAB as they transition to other assignments.
- BHAB sought volunteers to serve on the BHAB 2026 Priorities Committee, which will develop the board's priorities for 2026. Minola Clark Manson, Julie Hayden, and Robert Alm, volunteered to participate and will convene to organize and refine the priority areas for the board.
- Announced District 1 and District 5 currently need representatives for the Community Program Planning (CPP) Committee and invited volunteers from those districts to fill the vacancies.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Bill Stewart, BHAB member, provided the following announcements:
  - The California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) have cultural competency and cultural bias trainings available to BHAB members and the public on their website.
  - The Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act Quarterly Working Group Meeting will take place on November 19, 2025, from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. via Zoom.
  - The California Behavioral Health Planning Council Quarterly Meeting will be held in San Diego from January 20 – January 23, 2026. More information to come.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Robin Sales, seconded by Gaurav Mishra and Minola Clark Manson, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.