March 5, 2026
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON**
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Julie Hayden, Member at Large – District 2
Robin Sales, Member at Large – District 3
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Amanda Berry, Chair – District 4
John Byrom – District 5
Donald Romo – District 5
Aaron Byzak – District 5
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer - Seat 21

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON**
William "Bill" Stewart – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE**
Gaurav Mishra, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1, Just Cause Option (1/2)
Jessica Kramer – District 3, ADA Accommodation
Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair – District 4, Just Cause Option (1/2)

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Amanda Berry at 2:33 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Aaron Byzak seconded by Robin Sales, the following consent calendar items were approved:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the meeting of February 5, 2026.
2. Behavioral Health Services Transformation Board Letter Draft.
3. Administrative Services Organization (ASO) Contract Extension Board Letter Draft.

AYES: 16 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

DRAFT

**III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

Total of ten (10) in-person comments and three (3) via Zoom comments.

**In-Person Comments**

- Robert Alm, BHAB member, suggests the additional Proposition 1 treatment beds be allocated to Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) facilities.
- Stuart Gaiber, BHAB member, expressed support of an independent ethics commission and a nonpartisan budget office, and suggest BHAB to support the Board of Supervisors and review forthcoming proposals.
- Kathleen Derby, a peer with San Diego Peers, highlights the need for community and leaders to address stigma and trust peers with lived experience.
- Steve Dilley, with the Veterans Art Project, requests support as they continue to serve veterans through art classes, art practices, date nights, open houses, and art demonstrations.
- Travis Leonardi, veteran and peer support specialist, emphasized peer support and the arts are crucial to wellness and requested increased funding and support for these services for veterans.
- Jerry Hall, with BHAB Recovery, encourages BHAB to attend community meetings related to the upcoming draft integration plan, offer input, and consider releasing the community engagement report in advance for review.
- Mary Jo O'Brien shared key priorities identified by San Diego Peers, including warmlines, clubhouses, part-time peer support roles, peer-run respite, County collaborative committee, and the Wellness Return Action Plan (WRAP).
- Timmy Holland, a veteran and community member, shares that art helps express emotions and supports veterans during their transition to civilian life.
- Janice Luna-Reynoso, BHAB member with Mundo Garden Community, invites BHAB to the Community Land Trust Workshop to learn about alternative resources and planning for housing.
- Robin Sales, BHAB Member and community volunteer with the Encinitas Union School District, advocates for increased counseling and support funding for schools.

**In-Person Comments via Zoom:**

- Ellen Stone, with San Diego Peers Coalition, highlighted the importance of establishing clubhouses in each county district to provide peers with community spaces and gathering opportunities.
- Madison, a public health advocate for youth and family substance use prevention and mental health, emphasized the need for continued focus on youth prevention and early intervention within the behavioral health system.
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- Zoe Kornweibel, founder of Communities Voices, expressed BHAB to protect peer run benefits and create regular listening sessions.

**IV. PRESENTATION AND ACTION ITEM: YOUTH OPTIMAL CARE PATHWAYS (OCP) FRAMEWORK BOARD LETTER DRAFT**

Total of one (1) in-person public comment and three (3) viz Zoom comments were received:

**In-Person Comments**

- Stephanie Gioia Beckman, Senior Director for Workforce and Community Impact at the Policy and Innovation Center, described the Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative as a resource that supports agencies serving children and youth.

**In-Person Comments via Zoom:**

- Courtney Baltiski, with San Diego County YMCA and Children First Collective, emphasized the importance of prioritizing the needs of children.

- Liliana Soriano, Director of Policy at Youth Will, highlighted the need for expanded community engagement, prevention efforts, and services for children, beyond the Transition Age Youth group.
- Erin Hogaboom, Director of San Diego for Every Child, emphasized the need for more prevention and crisis support for children and youth.

**PRESENTATION ITEM: YOUTH OPTIMAL CARE PATHWAYS (OCP) FRAMEWORK BOARD LETTER DRAFT**

Dr. Nicole Esposito, Chief Population Health Officer, BHS, Yael Koenig, LCSW, Deputy Director, BHS, and Daniel Romero, Agency Program & Operations Manager, BHS, presented on the following:

- The Youth OCP Framework focuses on expanding capacity across four core areas: early intervention and outpatient services, crisis response, intensive community-based care, and residential treatment.

**ACTION ITEM: YOUTH OPTIMAL CARE PATHWAYS (OCP) FRAMEWORK BOARD LETTER DRAFT**

On motion of Stuart Gaiber, seconded by Dr. Rosolyn Harper, the action item Youth OCP Framework Board Letter Draft was approved.

AYES: 15 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**V. DISCUSSION ITEM: BHAB AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEES SUNSETTING REPORT OUT**

Julie Hayden and Robin Sales, Members-at-Large, BHAB, led the discussion on the following:

- Re-entry Support for Justice-Involved Youth and Adults Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Robin Sales reported the subcommittee discussed improving transitions from incarceration to the community through stronger communication and data sharing, noted duplicative efforts among groups working in this area, and committed to refining recommendations to ensure they are applicable and specific to the subcommittee's scope.
- Pathways to Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults impacted by Alcohol and Other Drugs Ad Hoc Subcommittee
  - Julie Hayden reported the presentations highlighted available resources such as 211, the Access Crisis Line, and private and County funded providers; members noted ongoing navigation challenges and presented a proposed solution; the group identified brief motivation windows and vulnerable transition periods due to funding or care changes; and members highlighted a lack of continuity across systems as a key barrier.

**VI. PRESENTATION ITEM: LANTERMAN-PETRIS-SHORT (LPS) ACT OVERVIEW**

Raquel Young, Supervisor Deputy County Counsel, County Counsel, presented on the following:

- The LPS Act's intent to provide services in the least restrictive way while outlining required medical treatment, placement decisions, and timeliness for LPS and Murphy Conservatorship, emphasizing that Murphy Conservatorship prioritize treatment and public safety.

**VII. ACTION ITEM: BHAB QUARTERLY REPORT Q1**

On motion of Donald Romo, seconded by Kathy Watkins, the action item of BHAB Quarterly Report Q1 was approved.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Nadia Privara Brahms, Director, BHS, provided the following updates:

- The Behavioral Health Services Transformation and Administrative Services Organization (ASO) Contract Extension board letters are scheduled for placement on the consent calendar at the March Board of Supervisors meeting.
- The BHSA Integrated Plan is nearing completion with a 30-day public comment period (March 17, 2026-April 15, 2026) via Engage Headquarters.
- Highlighted statewide engagement activities, including participation in Lobby Day in Sacramento to advance priorities related to Mobile Crisis services, peer provider workforce requirements, and ongoing Proposition 36 funding.
- Edgemoor Skilled Nursing Facility held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new inpatient building, noting construction is underway to expand capacity and provide short-term intensive psychiatric care for individuals experiencing serious behavioral health crises.
- We invite the public to join upcoming listening and input sessions on the Recommended Budget, with public input open now through March 22 via Engage HQ; the budget will be available for public review after May 1, comments may be submitted through 5 p.m. on June 11, and Board of Supervisors public budget hearings will begin on June 1

**IX. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Amanda Berry, Chair, BHAB, provided the following updates:

- The Community Planning Process (CPP) Ad Hoc Subcommittee will hold its next meeting via Zoom, with the public able to listen to the Integrated Plan summary presentation from BHS.
- The 2026-2027 Ad Hoc Subcommittees will convene their first meetings, including:
    - Access to the Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Mental Health and Substance Use Ad Hoc Subcommittee, meeting on the second Wednesday of each month from 3:00–4:30 p.m.
    - Involuntary Treatment – LPS Ad Hoc Subcommittee, meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:30–5:00 p.m.

**X. ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES: HEALTHY SAN DIEGO, HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD, AND OTHER STATE AND LOCAL BOARD**

The following BHAB members provided these updates:

- Kathy Watkins, BHAB member, volunteered to be the BHAB representative for the Healthy San Diego Advisory Board.
- Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair, BHAB, volunteered to be the BHAB representative for the Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB).
- Jessica Kramer, BHAB member, attended the County Committee for Persons with Disabilities, which meets on the third Wednesday of each month and is open to the public. She reported the committee's priorities include emergency operations planning, transportation, housing, and behavioral health services, including crisis stabilization units.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Aaron Byzak, seconded by Dr. Devesh Vashishtha, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51p.m.