April 2, 2026
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON
Dr. Gaurav Mishra, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Julie Hayden, Member at Large – District 2
Skylar Phillips – District 2
Robin Sales, Member at Large – District 3
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Brad Stone – District 4
Amanda Berry, Chair – District 4
John Byrom – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON
William "Bill" Stewart – District 1
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Donald Romo – District 5
Aaron Byzak – District 5
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer - Seat 21

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE
Jessica Kramer – District 3, ADA Accommodation

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
Aurora Kiviat Nudd, MPP, Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer, 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 2:30 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Dr. Devesh Vashishtha seconded by Robin Sales, the following consent calendar items were approved:

1. Approval of the meeting minutes from March 5, 2026.
2. Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Round 2 Grant Funding Board Letter Draft

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

DRAFT

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Total of seven (7) in-person comments, six (6) via Zoom comments, and three (3) e-comments.

In-Person Comments:

- Bob Stonebrook, encouraged reviewers of the BHSA Integrated Plan to focus on whether it clearly supports California's new behavioral-health performance metrics.
- Leonor Garrison shared that she found support through Southern Caregiver Resource Center (SCRC) free caregiver programs.
- Robert Velasquez, President and CEO of Southern Caregiver Resource Center, advocated to include the mental health needs of adult and older adult family caregivers in the BHSA plan.
- Jerry Hall emphasized the importance of participating earlier in the process to influence program decisions, compare priorities, and ensure that voices not typically heard are included.
- Dean Scadeto, with Golden Coast Rehab, highlighted the importance of greater investment in the middle stage of intensive outpatient or PHP services for adults and adolescents to reduce costly cycles of detox and inpatient care.
- Stuart Gaiber emphasized the value of caregiver support programs, stating the program provides critical skills that prevent higher-cost interventions.
- Osama Ghadi shared that he was accepted to a 2019 Harvard fellowship for homelessness research. He expressed continued interest in joining the Youth board seat if an opportunity opens in the future.

In-Person Comments via Zoom:

- John Brady, executive director of Lived Experience Advisors, expressed caution in adopting language or policies that blame individual's mental health rather than the conditions of houselessness. He noted the need for accessible and non-coercive support.
- Julie Neward, with the Natalie Project, highlighted the high rates of sexual abuse experienced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and promotes an upcoming film screening hosted by their organization at University of San Diego (USD) on April 19.
- Madison raised concerns about new research showing that even minimal teen cannabis use is linked to higher rates of depression, anxiety, and other psychiatric issues. She noted that dependency develops quickly and cautions around policies that normalize marijuana use among youth.
- Mary Jo OBrien, family member of Community Voices, asked the county to prioritize support for peer-run organizations in the integrated plan. She requested that peers be included on source selection committees and in developing scopes of work for upcoming RFPs.
- Jessica Kramer shared the importance of providing appropriate accommodation for individuals with behavioral health disabilities who become overwhelmed by sensory input. She urged the County to budget for these accommodations and reduce stigma for people with sensory-related needs.
- Becky Rapp urged the County to recognize the psychiatric risk of high-potency cannabis for youth and ensure the Board receives evidence-based information, highlighting a local case of cannabis-induced psychosis as an urgent example.

E-Comments:

- Marilyn Vickaryous, community member, noted the proposal to spend $28.1 million to refurbish a facility appears costly for such limited capacity. Suggesting to consider a larger, newly constructed facility could provide more beds and comprehensive support.
- Kelly Anderson, volunteer with Mothers of Moderation and High Hopes Parenting Collective, expressed the need for more paid, virtual job opportunities for certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists within San Diego County Behavioral Health.

- Kmarie shared serious concern about a loved one with serious mental illness whose lack of insight has prevented meaningful engagement in treatment, despite being under county programs and LPS holds.

IV. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM: INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL (IST) PROGRAMMING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD LETTER DRAFT

Megan O'Dowd, Chief, Grant Development & Management, BHS, and Dr. Andrea Dauber-Griffin, Public Safety Group Executive Office, led the discussion on the following:

- Upcoming Board of Supervisors Boar Letter proposing acceptance of state funds to support programming for individuals found incompetent to stand trial

ACTION ITEM: INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL (IST) PROGRAMMING AND INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD LETTER DRAFT

On motion of Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair, seconded by Dr. Devesh Vashishtha, the action item Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Programming and Infrastructure Board Letter Draft was approved.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 1 ABSTENTIONS: 1

V. ACTION ITEM: BHAB 2025 AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Public comment: Total of one (1) in-person comment and one (1) via Zoom comment.

In-Person Comment:

- Jerry Hall shared the need to integrate juvenile and adult systems and use a unique identifier to track individuals over time and identify opportunities for prevention.

In-Person Comments via Zoom:

- Becky highlighted the lack of strong position on prevention and education around marijuana use and its potential mental health consequences. She shared the need to educate youth and families on the risks of substance use.

ACTION ITEM: 2025 BHAB RE-ENTRY SUPPORT FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH AND ADULT AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On motion of Dr. Gaurav Mishra, seconded by Stuart Gaiber, the action item Re-Entry Support for Justice-Involved Youth and Adult Ad Hoc subcommittee recommendations with the request to receive quarterly updates was approved.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

ACTION ITEM: 2025 BHAB PATHWAYS TO CONTINUUM OF CARE FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS IMPACTED BY ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS AD HOC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

On motion of Robin Sales, seconded by Dr. Rosolyn Harper, the action item Pathways to Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Alcohol and Other Drugs Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommendations was approved.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT-OUTS

Julie Hayden, Member-at-Large, and Robert Alm, BHAB reported out on the following:

- Julie Hayden shares that the new subcommittee on the Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Affected by Mental Health and Substance Use will meet on April 8. Meetings will rotate focus across age groups and include speakers, system reviews, and problem-solving.
- Robert Alm shares that the Involuntary Treatment (LPS) subcommittee held its first meeting in March. The group will continue to meet on the 4th Wednesday each month, with the next meeting on April 22, with presentations from Dr. Aaron Meyer and Amory Council.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public comment: Total of one (1) in-person comment.

- Stuart Gaiber, BHAB member, urged BHAB to strongly advocate for restoring funding to the Southern Cambridge Resource Center noting that it's a small cost and provides valuable services

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Aurora Kiviat Nudd, MPP, Assistant Director and Chief Operations Officer, BHS provided the following Director's Report updates:

- Reported the implementation of Transitional Rent benefits, noting key differences from major state initiatives.
- Progress under Proposition 2's No Place Like Home program, with additional supportive housing developments advancing.
- Advancement of the Behavioral Health Services Act Integrated Plan, with efforts underway to enhance clarity and public accessibility of state-required materials.
- Required submissions for the Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program grant completed, supporting development of the Midway Wellness Campus; additional service-level details forthcoming.
- The East Region Community Crisis Stabilization Unit is preparing to open, repurposing County property to establish the region's first local crisis stabilization facility.
- Community engagement activities highlighted, including the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Annual Walk, which serves as a community event promoting mental health awareness and supporting fundraising efforts.
- The County budget will be made available for public review, with a public comment period and Board of Supervisors budget hearings to follow.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Amanda Berry, Chair, BHAB, yielded time to Maria Molina-Melendez, BHAB Coordinator, to provide the following updates:

- Senate Bill (SB) 707 introduced new provisions to the Brown Act authorizing BHAB member participation via teleconference under defined "just cause" circumstances. Maria to email this information to BHAB following the meeting.

Amanda Berry, Chair, BHAB provided the following updates:

- The BHSA Integrated Plan will be presented at the May BHAB meeting following the close of the public comment period, and members and the public were encouraged to attend the upcoming presentation and submit comments.
- The Community Planning Process (CPP) Ad Hoc Subcommittee will convene several virtual meetings at which the public may listen to the Integrated Plan summary presentation from BHS.
- The 2026-2027 BHAB Subcommittees will convene their first meetings via zoom at the following cadences:

- Access to the Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Mental Health and Substance Use Subcommittee, meeting on the second Wednesday of each month from 3:00–4:30 p.m.
- Involuntary Treatment – LPS Subcommittee, meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3:30–5:00 p.m.

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

None.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

XI. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Dr. Gaurav Mishra, seconded by Stuart Gaiber, the meeting was adjourned at 4:59 p.m.