July 24, 2026

Behavioral Health Advisory Board

Amended Mid-Year Retreat Meeting Minutes Draft

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Janice Luna Reynoso – District 1
Dr. Gaurav Mishra, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Skylar Phillips – District 2
Jessica Kramer – District 3
Robin Sales, Member at Large – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Brad Stone – District 4
Amanda Berry, Chair – District 4
John Byrom – District 5
Aaron Byzak – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON

William "Bill" Stewart – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Dr. Julie Hayden, Member at Large – District 2
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Donald Romo – District 5
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer - Seat 21

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 1:14 p.m. in person.

II. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. RECAP OF 2026 ACHIEVEMENTS AND UPCOMING PRIORITIES

Amanda Berry, Chair, provided the following recap:

- Departmental developments, including:
  - The appointment of Nadia Privara Brahms as Director of BHS.
  - Transitioning from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) the beginning on this Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-2027.
  - The establishment of BHS as a standalone County department effective July 1, 2026.
- Highlighted BHAB's 2026 accomplishments, including:

DRAFT

  - Formation of subcommittees
  - Development of quarterly report updates
  - Recommendations for the FY 2026–2027 budget
  - Contributions to the BHSA Integrated Plan
  - Continued advocacy for investments across the crisis continuum, youth services, and community-based alternatives.
- Provided an update on Board member participation to the following engagements:
  - BHS Peer Support Symposium
  - Public comment participation and community feedback processes
- Reported on subcommittee activities, including youth continuum of care gaps, Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) implementation considerations, patient rights under SB-43, and countywide community planning efforts for the FY 2026–2029 BHSA Integrated Plan across all Supervisorial Districts.
- Identified key forward-looking priorities including:
  - Enhancing transparency
  - Supporting stability amid funding uncertainties
  - Protecting core behavioral health infrastructure
  - Strengthening crisis services
  - Advancing prevention and youth supports
  - Promoting meaningful community input as state and federal policy changes progress.

IV. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CASE SCENARIO DISCUSSION: NAVIGATING PATHWAYS

Four (4) scenarios were introduced to BHAB members and debriefed on BHAB recommendations to keep supporting Behavioral Health initiatives.

V. REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE SECTION OF THE BYLAWS

On motion by Robert Alm, seconded by Aaron Byzak, the motion to establish a subcommittee with the focus goal of updating Article VI: Subcommittee and Workgroups of the current bylaws for BHAB recommended action ~~and goals to update subcommittee/workgroup section of the current bylaws~~ within the period of three (3) months, effective August through October of 2026, was approved.

AYES: 14 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

BHAB members assigned to the subcommittee: Robert Alm, Amanda Berry, Aaron Byzak, Jessica Kramer, and Dr. Rosolyn Harper.

VI. BREAK

VII. Q&A SESSION WITH BHS DIRECTOR

BHAB members were provided an opportunity to engage directly with the BHS Director to inquire about departmental priorities, operational transitions, and upcoming strategic initiatives.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Amanda Berry, seconded by Robin Sales, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.