June 4, 2026
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON
William "Bill" Stewart – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Dr. Julie Hayden, Member at Large – District 2
Skylar Phillips – District 2
Robin Sales, Member at Large – District 3
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Brad Stone – District 4
Amanda Berry, Chair – District 4

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON
Dr. Gaurav Mishra, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Donald Romo – District 5
Aaron Byzak – District 5
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer - Seat 21

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Jessica Karamer – District 3, ADA Accommodation
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
John Byrom – District 5

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 2:37 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 May 7, 2026.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Total of two (2) in-person comments, five (5) via Zoom comments, and one (1) e-comments.
In-Person Comments:

DRAFT

- John Brady, Lived Experience Advisors, informed the board that there are evictions happening as a resulted from agency lapses. He shared a lived experience example with the board.
- Mary Jo O Brien, San Diego Peers, expressed concern that upcoming transitions to billable medical clubhouse models will create significant stress, requiring extensive training and support for staff. She is concerned that these changes could exacerbate mental health challenges for participants.

In-Person Comment via Zoom:

- Becky Rapp commented to the board to send a letter to the County Board of Supervisors emphasizing the need to provide balanced information about mental health impacts cannabis program,
- Jessica Kramer, BHAB member, raised concerns about evictions and urging the board to require formal Disabilities Act Accommodation (ADA) requirements across all providers.
- Madison, commented on keeping the continued support for evidence-based programs that reduce youth exposure to drugs.
- Kathleen Lippett commenting on clarifications on whether outcome data exists comparing recidivism rates and cost effectiveness across harm reduction services, long term treatment, and prevention programs. They emphasized the importance of evaluating policy impacts through measurable outcomes.
- Peggy Walker commented on that the County's Child and Teen Health and Well-Being Report omits data on youth cannabis use. They urged the board to ensure that future reports include cannabis related data for county youth.

E-Comment:

- Stuart Gaiber, BHAB member, requested clear action items in briefings, more frequent policy letters to County Supervisors, and renewed consideration of expanding BHAB's oversight authority.

IV. <u>DISCUSSION ITEM: IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY EDUCATION & NAVIGATION SUPPORT NEEDS FOR TRANSITIONAL RENT AND HOUSING SUPPORT PLANS</u>

Public comment: Total of two (2) In-person comments and one (1) via Zoom comments.

In-Person Comments:

- Mary Jo O Brien, San Diego Peers, expressed concern on rental subsidy pilot ends in December and emphasized that, without continued support through programs like Flex Housing or Transitional Rent, they may lose their housing. They urged the county to address this gap to prevent increased homelessness.
- John Brady, Lived Experience Advisors, commented on monitoring of contract for No Place Like Home, emphasizing it on monitoring of evictions.

In-Person Comments via Zoom:

- Jessica Krammer described repeated difficulties accessing housing navigation and sustaining services through managed care plans, with a lack of disability accommodations. They urged the county to strengthen oversight and hold contractors and health plans accountable for meeting service and accessibility requirements.

<u>DISCUSSION ITEM: IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY EDUCATION & NAVIGATION SUPPORT NEEDS FOR TRANSITIONAL RENT AND HOUSING SUPPORT PLANS</u>

Kat Briggs, Chief of Communication & Engagement, BHS, led a discussion on the following:

- The new Transitional Rent benefit and its purpose as short-term rental support delivered through Medi-Cal managed care plans beginning July 1, 2026.

V. PRESENTATION ITEM: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026-27 RECOMMENDED BHS OPERATIONAL PLAN

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

In-Person Comments:

- Jerry Hall noted that the budget didn't change despite extensive community input and urged the board to improve planning by integrating feedback earlier, potentially through a procedural committee.

PRESENTATION ITEM: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2026-27 RECOMMENDED BHS OPERATIONAL PLAN

Liberty Donnelly, Assistant Director & Chief Strategy and Finance Officer, BHS, presented on the following:

- The recommended BHS operational plan, outlining the department's transition to a standalone agency, a $1.4 billion proposed budget, and major investments across mental health, substance use, crisis services, housing, workforce development, and infrastructure. They highlighted recent accomplishments, upcoming initiatives, and key timelines for budget adoption and implementation.

VI. ACTION ITEM: DRAFT BHAB PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING BHSA INTEGRATED PLAN (IP) ON BEHALF OF BHAB

Public comment: Total of two (2) in-person comments.

In-Person Comment:

- Jerry Hall emphasized the importance of reviewing high-value contracts as part of BHAB's oversight responsibilities. They encouraged members to examine a small selection of major contracts each year to better understand planned services, community engagement, and the use of funds.

ACTION ITEM: DRAFT BHAB PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING BHSA INTEGRATED PLAN (IP) ON BEHALF OF BHAB

On a motion by Joel San Juan, seconded by Robin Sales, the action item 'Draft BHAB Public Comment to the Board of Supervisors Regarding BHSA IP,' with a friendly amendment by Stuart Gaiber and accepted by Joel San Juan and Robin Sales, to add a sentence acknowledging Nadia and staff, was approved.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 1 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- Amber Irvine, formerly overseeing the CARE program, has been promoted to Deputy Director for complex care and will now serve as the county's new Public Conservator, a significant leadership update for the department.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Amanda Berry, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. due to lack of quorum.