August 6, 2026
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON
Dr. Gaurav Mishra, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Dr. Julie Hayden, Member at Large – District 2
Skylar Phillips – District 2
Jessica Karamer – District 3
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Brad Stone – District 4
Amanda Berry, Chair – District 4

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON
William "Bill" Stewart – District 1
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Robin Sales, Member at Large – District 3
John Byrom – District 5
Donald Romo – District 5
Aaron Byzak – District 5
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer - Seat 21

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE
Joel San Juan – District 1 (Just Cause Applicable)
Stuart Gaiber – District 3 (Just Cause Applicable)

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 2:46 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Minola Clark Manson, seconded by Kathy Watkins, Consent Calendar items below were approved:
Consent Calendar item one (1) was approved:

1. Approval of the meeting minutes from June 4, 2026.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

Consent calendar item two (2) and three (3) were pulled from the Consent Calendar by member Amanda Berry:

2. Approval of the Mid-Year Retreat Meeting Minutes from July 24, 2026
3. BHS Traditions Behavioral Health Contract Extension Board Letter Draft

DRAFT

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Total of three (3) in-person comments, three (3) in-person via Zoom comments, and one (1) e-comment.

In-Person Comments:

- Sten Walker, Pacific Health Group, announced the launch of two new clubhouses in San Diego and encouraged interested community members to participate in shaping their operations, including naming, administrative processes, and outreach materials.
- Jerry Hall suggested that the Board reengage in reviewing County contracts and consider forming a procurement group to support community participation.
- Jessica Kramer commented that Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) procedures require notifying law enforcement for all responses, including calls initiated as non-law enforcement. The comment referenced a medical-model approach, including street-medicine teams with clinician options for mobile crisis response.

In-Person Comments via Zoom:

- John Brady, Lived Experience Advisors, discussed the need for a third-party client feedback system and described efforts to develop an enhanced case management and feedback model, noting staffing turnover and requesting future support for a related grant proposal.
- Mary Jo Obrien addressed peer involvement in the design of the behavioral health campus, particularly peer respite and engaging with peers early in the planning process.
- Kathleen Lippitt addressed state legislation related to hemp-derived products and broader County marijuana policies, noting the Board to reconsider past decisions and potential impacts.

E-Comments:

- KMarie wrote about discharge planning and requested clarification on oversight of Independent Living Facilities and Board and Care placements, seeking alternative options and follow-up from the County.

IV. PRESENTATION ITEM: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS (EDGA)

Matthew Parr, Director, EDGA, and Chrissy Hennrichs, Legislative Policy Advisor, EDGA, presented on the following:

- Overviewed the County's legislative program.
- Shared highlights from the 2026 legislative session related to behavioral health.
- Outlined ways BHAB can collaborate with County advocacy and participate in the 2027 legislative program input process.
- Provided timeline and opportunities for public input, including a community forum.
- Reviewed recent advocacy work on key bills, budget issues, and cross-department initiatives.

V. ACTION ITEM: BHAB QUARTERLY REPORT Q3 DRAFT

On a motion by Robert Alm, seconded by Dr. Devesh Vashishtha, BHAB Quarterly Report – Q3 was approved.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT OUTS

Access to the Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Mental Health and Substance Use Subcommittee

Dr. Julie Hayden, Member at Large, reported on the following:

- The subcommittee has had ongoing discussions across the mental health and addiction continuum, noting ongoing resource gaps, particularly in residential treatment. They also highlighted insights gained from invited experts and shared plans for an upcoming harm-reduction presentation.

Involuntary Treatment - Lanterman-Petris Short (LPS) Subcommittee
Robert Alm, BHAB Member, reported the following:

- The subcommittee reviewing Lanterman-Petris-Short practices is examining how the legal definition of "gravely disabled" under Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5150 is applied across the behavioral health and law enforcement systems, noting that the statutory definition—describing individuals unable to meet basic needs due to serious mental illness or substance use disorder—may apply to a large portion of the county's homeless population and aligns with the intent of Senate Bill 43 and Proposition 1 under the Behavioral Health Services Act.
- The subcommittee is assessing existing training materials and guidance used by Behavioral Health Services and law enforcement and has begun revising a key training source to ensure alignment with legal definitions and support consistent application across the continuum of care.
- The group is continuing to request access to training materials related to Lanterman-Petris-Short law, including Sections 5008 and 5150, and asked the Behavioral Health Advisory Board for guidance on how to proceed when system partners or contractors are not participating in subcommittee review efforts and for direction on next steps to obtain the necessary documents.

VII. ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF THE MID-YEAR RETREAT MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 24, 2026

On the motion of Dr. Rosolyn Harper, seconded by Amanda Berry, the Mid-Year Retreat Meeting Minutes from July 24, 2026.
Recommended action, were approved with the inclusion of the following amendment:
To establish a subcommittee with the focus goal of updating Article VI: Subcommittee and Workgroups of the current bylaws for BHAB recommended action within the period of three (3) months, effective August through October of 2026.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

VIII. ACTION ITEM: BHS TRADITIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTRACT EXTENSION BOARD LETTER DRAFT

On the motion of Amanda Berry, seconded by Dr. Gaurav Mishra, the BHS Traditions Behavioral Health Contract Extension Board Letter Draft, was approved.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

- BHS formally transitioned to a standalone County department on July 1, 2026, strengthening governance, operational authority, data modernization efforts, provider oversight, and care coordination in alignment with statewide behavioral health transformation.
- The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan was completed following extensive community engagement, shaping upcoming annual updates and establishing priorities across mental health, substance use treatment, and housing supports.

- Under BHSA Full-Service Partnership components, transitioning programs to shift from Strengths-Based Case Management to Intensive Case Management to meet BHSA requirements, along with expanded field-based substance use treatment efforts supported by targeted outreach and access to Medications for Addiction Treatment.
- Announced the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Children's Crisis Residential Care facility scheduled for August 25, 2026, marking progress toward expanding youth crisis stabilization services.
- Highlighted significant growth in community engagement activities, including increased outreach events, resource distribution, and opportunities for residents to connect directly with BHS staff.
- Noted recent National Association of Counties (NACo) awards recognizing innovation across several BHS programs, including acknowledgment for mobile crisis team expansion into schools and tribal communities.

X. CHAIR'S REPORT

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

- Announced formation of a subcommittee to review and update Article IV of the bylaws and noted upcoming meeting dates for volunteers.
- Thanked members for participating in the Mobile Crisis Response Team evaluation conducted by University of California San Diego and reminded the Board that written feedback is accepted through August 7, 2026.
- Highlighted the importance of transparency and education as the Board's goals, noting that the monthly packet includes updates on items the Board has voted on as well as the subsequent actions taken by the Board of Supervisors. Emphasized the value of a consistent feedback loop so members are informed when Behavioral Health Services responds to recommendations or related items progress and expressed appreciation to staff for providing these updates.
- Noted that comments and suggestions from the Board's Mid-Year Retreat action items were added to the quarterly report and appreciated the continued engagement in ongoing dialogue about where items are in the process. Highlighted that including these updates helps maintain transparency and supports shared understanding of what is working well and where improvements can be made.

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

Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair, BHAB, provided the following updates:

- Noted key items of interest from recent meetings and encouraged members to review full minutes online.
- Highlighted community reinvestment funds and potential opportunities for one-time allocations to behavioral health initiatives.
- Shared timing challenges related to EDGA processes and the creation of a special subcommittee to address countywide health service needs, including behavioral health.

XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Amanda Berry at 4:08 p.m. due to lack of quorum.