Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: **Friday, September 25, 2026**
Time: **9:00 – 10:30 a.m.**
Place: **Behavioral Health Services, 3255 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108**
Virtual Option: Zoom meeting number 878 5845 9144, password 996220

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Minola Clark Manson at 9:00 a.m. Executive Committee members present: Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair; Dr. Janice Luna-Reynoso, 2nd Vice Chair, Dr. Julie Hayden, Member-at-Large; and Robin Sales, Member-at-Large. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) staff present: Jennifer Bransford-Koons, Interim Director; Katherine Briggs, Operations Chief-Community Engagement & Outreach.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 20, 2026

ON MOTION of Minola Clark Manson, seconded by Janice Luna-Reynoso, the Executive Committee approved the minutes from August 20, 2026, as written.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair, yielded time to Dr. Julie Hayden, Member-at-Large, who highlighted ongoing concerns about communication practices within BHAB. They proposed publicly sharing and modeling an ideal BHAB communication model that affirms differing viewpoints, ensuring all voices are valued and heard, and supports effective group operations despite disagreement. They requested a clear mechanism for members to report when communication is inadequate and sought clarification on whether conflictual matters should be addressed by BHS or handled within BHAB.

III. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Total of three (3) in-person comments.

In-Person Comments:

- Kristian Berger, community member, recommended establishing a permanent contract-oversight committee, citing concerns raised in recent county audit findings and past contracting issues. They also noted unresolved questions about contract award transparency and expressed disappointment that a Narcan-related item had not been placed on the agenda.
- Robert Alm, BHAB member, expressed concern about gaps in care related to “gravely disabled” determinations. They noted that state law defines criteria to guide law enforcement and MCRT contractors. They stated that inadequate training leads to under-identification, resulting in individuals not receiving needed evaluations and facing increased risk of arrest or harm.

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- Janice Luna Reynoso, BHAB member, referenced 2024 flood impacts in Southeast communities and reported ongoing waterway blockages and community prevention efforts. They asked whether BHS is preparing for behavioral health, housing, food, and medical needs if flooding recurs. They invited leaders, residents, and community-based organizations to join weekly planning and Saturday cleanups and flag problem sites.

IV. Discussion Item: BHAB's Role in the Selection of the BHS Director

Total of two (2) in-person comment, one (1) in-person comment via Zoom, and two (2) e-comments.

In-Person Comment:

- Kathleen Derby, San Diego Peers, recognized BHAB's inclusion of community members and peers, indicated that peers are available to support County efforts, and requested defined peer roles in selecting new leadership. They referenced stigma associated with seeking services, stated that lived experience is relevant expertise, and requested that the future BHS leader prioritize peer inclusion in the system of care.
- Robert Alm, BHAB member, requested BHAB involvement in selecting the new BHS Director, noting the prior selection occurred without BHAB consultation. They asked to place the item on the October agenda, proposed a three-member meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to seek BHAB representation on the selection committee and formation of a subcommittee to monitor the process.

In-Person Comment via Zoom:

- Ellen Stone, San Diego Peers, noted that while County leadership has historically supported peer recovery, visible engagement has declined in recent years. They requested meaningful peer and youth participation in the selection of the next BHS Director, including opportunities for in-person input, emphasizing that such engagement could strengthen outreach beyond social-media-based participation.

E-Comments:

- Brad Stone, BHAB member, recommended that BHAB partner with BHS Community Engagement and Outreach to collect and synthesize community input for the next BHS Director selection. They proposed holding at least one in-person listening session, one virtual session, and a time-limited online survey, and requested that BHAB vote at the next meeting to initiate this process.
- Aaron Byzak, BHAB member, recommended that the Executive Committee propose to the CAO that BHAB have a formal role in the selection process by appointing three to five BHAB members to serve as an interview panel. They suggested that the panel submit a written recommendation using the County's rubric, or alternatively identify its top two candidates with rationale, and requested that the Executive Committee advance this proposal to the full BHAB.

Discussion Item: BHAB's Role in the Selection of the BHS Director

Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair, led a discussion on the following:

- Following the last BHAB meeting, emails were sent to the CAO with a response indicating the interim HR manager will coordinate with BHAB on the director's selection process. Due to timing, BHAB involvement in selecting the interim director is unlikely. An introductory meeting with the interim HR manager is targeted for next week.
- A workgroup was established to engage in the director's selection process.. Membership includes Robin Sales, Bill Stewart, Dr. Julie Hayden, Brad Stone, and John Byrom.
- This item is to be on the agenda for October's BHAB general meeting. Consideration noted to invite a Board of Supervisors representative to attend a future meeting. Noting that BHAB members act as liaisons with their supervisor and provide regular updates at BHAB meetings.

V. Information Item: BHSA Stakeholder Engagement

Total of one (1) in-person comment and two (2) in-person comment via Zoom.

In-Person Comment:

- Robert Alm, BHAB member, referenced BHAB bylaws, the Brown Act, County Policy 74, and Robert's Rules, and stated that proposed bylaw revisions related to subcommittees and work groups are under County Counsel review. They stated that under the current bylaws, subcommittees consist solely of BHAB members, require BHAB approval, and the chair appoints members and the subcommittee chair. They stated that such subcommittees may fall under the Brown Act exemption.

In-Person Comment via Zoom:

- Ellen Stone, San Diego Peers, emphasized the importance of culturally competent, in-person engagement and noted that creating welcoming environments—with elements such as food and adequate seating—improves participation. They suggested exploring philanthropic partnerships to support these efforts, consistent with practices used in Los Angeles behavioral health programs.
- Jerry Hall, community member, commented that last year's community engagement committee was operated by BHS, not BHAB, and expressed no concern about its discontinuation. He urged BHAB to prioritize the community planning process, requested clarity on county funding plans, and stressed BHAB's responsibility to ensure meaningful, year-round stakeholder involvement and to convey community perspectives to the Board of Supervisors without bias.

Information Item: BHSA Stakeholder Engagement

Katherine Briggs, Operations Chief, BHS, provided an informational update on BHSA Stakeholder Engagement and noted the ad hoc group last met in May ahead of the June presentation to the Board of Supervisors and subsequent submittal to the state. They shared that input gathered earlier this year from input sessions about the prior System of Care Council meetings highlighted the need for more interactive, real-time dialogue, clearer feedback loops, and both age-specific and cross-cutting engagement opportunities. A tentative in-person kickoff event for new engagement approaches is planned for early November at the San Diego State University Alumni Center.

ON MOTION of Robin Sales, seconded by Minola Clark Manson, the Executive Committee approved extending the time of the September BHAB Executive Committee Meeting to 10:30 a.m.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

VI. Information Item: 2026 Data Notebook Draft

Total of one (1) in-person comment.

In-Person Comment:

- Robert Alm, BHAB member, asked what data the state's upcoming notebook or data tool will include, particularly regarding outcomes for individuals who decline services. They noted persistent misconceptions about the experiences of people with serious mental health needs who remain unsheltered and emphasized the need for transparent, comprehensive data to guide policy. They reiterated support for expanding the data elements included in future state tools.

Information Item: 2026 Data Notebook Draft

Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair, clarified that the 2026 Data Notebook update was informational and invited members to follow up with any concerns.

VII. 1st Vice Chair's Update

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

- The nominating committee presented a full slate of candidates for 2027 BHAB Executive Officers.

- Planning for the fall BHAB Retreat is underway. A group has been identified to design the retreat and is scheduled to meet next week.
- The process for requesting information from BHS has been updated, with a new form to clearly document meeting requests and expectations, ensuring transparent communication, tracking, and follow-up. BHS staff confirmed the draft form was completed and sent to the Chair and Vice Chair and it was approved for use moving forward.

VIII. Review of BHAB Planning Calendar

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the BHAB planning calendar for October 2026 through November 2026. The following items were discussed:

<u>October</u>

- Action Item: BHS Procurements and Contract Extensions Board Letter
- Action Item: 2026 Data Notebook
- Informational Item: Slate of 2027 BHAB Executive Officers

<u>November</u>

- Tentative Presentation Item: ELEVATE Behavioral Health Workforce Fund
- Tentative Action Item: Updated Article VI of the BHAB Bylaws
- Action Item: BHAB Annual Report
- Action Item: Vote on the Slate of 2027 BHAB Officers
- Tentative Action Item: Re-establishment of Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Community Planning Process (CPP) Subcommittee
- Tentative Information Item: Budget Cycle Update Handout
- Information Item: Update on Safety Net Bridge and County Medical Services (CMS) Document
- Healthy San Diego, Health Services Advisory Board, and Other State and Local Boards Updates
- Subcommittee Report Outs
- Tentative Item: 2026 BHAB Fall Retreat

IX. Announcements

No announcements were provided.

X. Meeting Adjournment

ON MOTION of Minola Clark Manson, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.