



County of El Dorado

See meeting locations
below

Minutes - Draft

Behavioral Health Commission

James Abram, Chair - Term Expiration 8/15/2026
Norma Santiago, Vice Chair- Term Expiration 10/26/2024
John Taylor, Vice Chair - Term Expiration 1/1/2026
Kathryn Hamilton, Secretary - Term Expiration 08/11/2024
Wendy Thomas, Board of Supervisors Representative - Term Expiration 01/01/2025
Dr. Richard Lynn, Commissioner - Term Expiration 11/16/2024
Debra Thornburgh, Commissioner - Term Expiration 12/07/2024
Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner - Term Expiration 01/01/2026
Vacant (3), Commissioner

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

5:00 PM

Meeting Locations (in person and connected via tele/video-conferencing):

- 330 Fair Lane, Bldg. A, Placerville, CA
 - Mental Health Office, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Suite 103, South Lake Tahoe, CA
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1. 5:00 PM CALLED TO ORDER

Present: 6 - Thornburgh, Lynn, Taylor, Thomas, Clavere and Abram

Absent: 2 - Hamilton and Santiago

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

A motion was made by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to Adopt the Agenda and Approve the Consent Calendar.

Yes: 6 - Thornburgh, Lynn, Taylor, Thomas, Clavere and Abram

Absent: 3 - Hamilton, Santiago and Sumimoto

The Commission may make any necessary additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda including moving items to or from the Consent Calendar and adopt the agenda and the Consent Calendar with one single vote. A Commission member may request an item be removed from the Consent Calendar for discussion and separate Commission action. At the appropriate time as called by the Commission Chair, members of the public may make a comment on matters on the Consent Calendar prior to Commission action.

Public Comment:

(None)

CONSENT CALENDAR

3. [24-1092](#) Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2024 regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Provided name and title correction to item number 3, File ID 24-0930.

Approved

4. [24-1093](#) In accordance with AB 2249 (2022) Commission Chair accepts any commissioner request to participate remotely according to Just Cause or Emergency Circumstances allowances pursuant to Title 5 Government Code, Division 2, Part 1, Chapter 9, 54953(f)(2) and take action on any requests made.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

OPEN FORUM

Open Forum is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on subject matter that is not on their meeting agenda and within their jurisdiction. Public comments during Open Forum are limited to three minutes per person. The Commission Chair may limit public comment during Open Forum.

Public Comment:

Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI: Shared story of a family member who is prevailing after a recent distress call to NAMI; they will continue working in conjunction with El Dorado County Sheriff's Office and Patient Rights Advocate-Deborah McCartney. Diane also shared she is awaiting response to a letter she wrote to the Sheriff regarding an individual with mental illness being given reasonable accommodation related to Penal Code 290 compliance.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. [24-1094](#) Commission Chair recommends the appointment of Kathryn Hamilton as a full member of the El Dorado County Behavioral Health Commission (5 minutes)

Commissioner Comment:

Commissioner Clavere and Commissioner Thomas both agree with Commission Chair Abram's assessment of Kathryn Hamilton being an asset, as stated upon his recommendation of her reappointment to the Behavioral Health Commission.

Public Comment:

Debra Reischel-Cree: Commissioner Hamilton is an asset to this Commission.

Approved - Item will proceed to BOS for approval.

Yes: 6 - Thornburgh, Lynn, Taylor, Thomas, Clavere and Abram

Absent: 3 - Hamilton, Santiago and Sumimoto

6. [24-1095](#)

Presentation by Telecare Corporation staff on administration and operation of the El Dorado County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) (20 minutes)

Presentation provided by Jared Nyagol, Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) Administrator.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks why occupancy is generally low, at around two-thirds.

Jared Nyagol, PHF Administrator: Case-by-case basis can affect occupancy; such as sexual trauma victims who cannot room with someone else.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks what inequities the PHF is committed to removing, as mentioned in the presentation.

Jared Nyagol, PHF Administrator: Some examples are barriers associated with non-traditional genders and languages; overall from a technical perspective, looking at inclusivity.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks if there are electrical outlets in the rooms.

Jared Nyagol, PHF Administrator: There are not; which can be a challenge with referrals for individuals who use equipment such as a CPAP machine.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks why someone was recently not admitted due to incontinence.

Jared Nyagol, PHF Administrator: People have been admitted with incontinence, but a physician may determine from evaluation that the PHF cannot safely serve that individual.

Dr. Laura Kenkel, Psychiatrist: We look at every referral on an individual basis; when I look at a individual, just the word incontinent does not mean I automatically decline a referral. You have to take the whole picture of the person situation and their care needs into consideration.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks how dual diagnoses are dealt with -In the past if there was indication of alcohol or any other substance in a hospital blood test, that was basically an automatic refusal.

Dr. Laura Kenkel, Psychiatrist: That is certainly not the case now. A patient using substances cannot come to our facility if they are at risk of medically dangerous withdrawal. Anecdotally, I would say the majority of the patients that I treat at the PHF have co-morbid substance use issues and psychiatric issues.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Comments on the eighty-percent occupancy rate as shown on the Behavioral Health Report this month -very happy to see that and encourages to keep it up.

Wendy Thomas, Commission Board of Supervisors Representative: Asks how the PHF interfaces with Marshall Hospital.

Jared Nyagol, PHF Administrator: We have monthly meetings with Marshall Hospital and El Dorado County Behavioral Health; looking for opportunities to improve time frames between admission to the Emergency Department and then referral and admission to the PHF, as well as looking at qualitative pieces of process improvement.

Additionally we provide twenty-four-hour on-call support from the PATH administrator, psychiatrist and physician.

John Taylor, Commission Vice Chair: Asks for the term 'secure facility' to be defined as it relates to the PHF.

Jared Nyagol, PHF Administrator: The PHF is a locked facility, requiring a fob for access throughout the facility.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks how the PHF envisions changes as related to SB42 and the changing definition of gravely disabled.

Jared Nyagol, PHF Administrator: Trying to be proactive in meetings; met with Patient Rights. Talking and looking at preliminary pieces; how an interagency approach can be taken.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Dilemma remains for stand alone severe substance use disorder diagnoses -which SB43 has been adding to the 5150 regulations, and the LPS gravely disabled law- locked psychiatric health facilities are currently not licensed to provide services to somebody with a severe substance use disorder on stand alone. There is a Senate Bill going through legislature to change the regulations and the certification requirements for different facility types, including the psychiatric health facility.

Public Comment:

(None)

Wendy Thomas, Commission Board of Supervisors Representative: Apologizes for needing to exit the meeting at this time. Compliments Chair Abram for doing a wonderful job representing the Commission at the last Board of Supervisors meeting; appreciated the report as well as Commissioner Taylor and Dr. Clavere, for coming in support.

Presented

7. [24-1098](#)

Commission Chair recommends the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to participate in monthly Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT) listening sessions(10 minutes)

Ad Hoc Committee to include Chair Abram, Vice Chair Taylor and Commissioner Clavere.

Public Comment:

(None)

Approved

8. [24-1099](#) Presentation by Division Staff: Consumer testimonial or lived experience (5 minutes)

Commissioner Comments:

John Taylor, Commission Vice Chair: Comments hearing that validates a lot of the hard work that you do, and we try to do here. The real flesh and blood experiences -appreciate hearing those.

Presented

9. [24-1101](#) Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report (10 minutes)

Dr. Richard Lynn, Commissioner: Notes the continued misspelling of Mental Health "Aide" in the position category for filled and vacant. Asks why there isn't an active recruitment for a Psychiatric Technician.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: We may be right in the middle of the recruitment having failed and needing to repost it -sometimes there's a lack in between seeing it on the website. Appreciates the misspelling being highlighted.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks if clinicians or managers are being sent to continuing education trainings, where they could set up a table or booth for outreach.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: We have gone to university job fairs, but haven't had staff set up at continuing education opportunities.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks about page nineteen -payment delays and developing a more efficient invoice approval and payment process. Has heard from service providers, wanting to be paid in a more timely manner.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: HSA is invested absolutely to work as closely with and to support our providers. Providers are encouraged to reach out with concerns at monthly meetings or to Nicole directly with any issues.

Dr. Richard Lynn, Commissioner: Referring to page nine, asks for explanation of "Enhanced" Board and Care -does it mean licensed staff?

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: "Enhanced" means that besides the Board and Care, there are some support services that are available on site and it varies. I don't know that it's always exactly the same, but support in terms of rehabilitative skills, training and education. Typically not licensed staff; could even be peer support specialists.

Dr. Richard Lynn, Commissioner: What are currently the barriers to establishing at least one Board and Care in El Dorado County?

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: We are hoping to have one in our County in the near future; currently there is a provider with a facility in the process of getting licensing and a contract in place.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks if Nicole will share the PowerPoint presentation she presented to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Absolutely, will share with Commissioners.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Referring to page three, asks what numbers reflect most accurate picture of services.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Explains potential variations of what it means to be open to services.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Compliments and encourages continuation of efforts towards PHF occupancy and in-house County service rates.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks if PERT officer is still missing based on report data.

Chris Kernes, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health: Assigned PERT deputy is on leave through December. Sheriff assigns a CIT trained deputy daily as available, co-response occurs based on availability.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Comments PERT operation does not appear to be a priority to EDSO and feels if a deputy is assigned to PERT that should be their only commitment.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Agrees and asks if it would be possible to suggest EDSO have a designated PERT deputy and back-up deputy.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Can make suggestions in conversations with EDSO; EDSO is likely prioritizing their staffing. We are also continuing to build the 24/7 mobile crisis system, which will allow for a much broader ability between our co responder model with the Sheriff and our standalone Behavioral Health model of mobile crisis.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Comments you've got to do what you've got to do, and sometimes your support system isn't there for you all the time.

Public Comment:

(None)

Presented

10. [24-1138](#)

Discuss and approve Behavioral Health staff recommended updates to Behavioral Health Director's Report template. (15 minutes)

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Suggests removal of daily PHF census data, in addition to suggested changes.

Meredith Zanardi, MHSa Program Coordinator: Confirms this change suggestion will be voted on along with other changes.

Public Comment:

(None)

A motion was made by Clavere, seconded by Taylor, to Approve this matter.

Yes: 5 - Thornburgh, Lynn, Taylor, Clavere and Abram

Absent: 4 - Hamilton, Santiago, Sumimoto and Thomas

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: JULY 17, 2024

ADJOURNED AT 6:33 PM