



Public comment
BOS Rcvd 6/8/26 26-0915
31

BOS Agenda item 31, Budget; Clubhouse El Dorado - Yes to Opting into BH-Connect

From Diane Rabinowitz <DianeR@namiel DoradoCounty.org>

Date Sun 6/7/2026 9:48 AM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Hello. I'm Diane Rabinowitz, President of the Board of NAMI El Dorado County. I am a mother of a son with serious mental illness, a retired high school science teacher, and a staunch advocate for improved mental health and housing services.

Although I've only lived in El Dorado County since 2020, NAMI's relationship with the County goes back 30 years. For 30 years we've been providing at no cost to the County support and education for families and individuals impacted by serious mental illness, education in schools and health events, and collaboration with all the County's organizations and agencies to reduce stigma and lift up mental health for all community members.

Upon learning of families' and individuals' plight facing challenges obtaining mental health services and housing, we formed a startup group which worked for two years to research and plan for a Clubhouse here to support individuals' recovery. We've successfully contracted with the County for our Clubhouse since 2024, and the Clubhouse has become an essential component of the County's behavioral health continuum of care. This letter is to urge you to support Clubhouse El Dorado by directing staff to opt in to BH Connect and add the Clubhouse evidence-based practice to the County's Integrated Plan.

Given the overwhelming evidence of Clubhouse El Dorado's success in helping individuals struggling with mental illness secure employment, pursue educational goals, and build meaningful connections within the community, we see the Clubhouse as an essential part of efforts to reduce and prevent hospitalization and re-hospitalization, reduce recidivism in the criminal justice system, and reduce homelessness in our county. The Clubhouse complements clinical services by helping people remain engaged in recovery and avoid the isolation that often leads to crisis, hospitalization, homelessness, or loss of housing. This translates into a financially prudent and an overall cost-reducing investment.

It would be a tragic loss for the county to lose this extensive investment in creating, launching and operating our successful program, especially with the planned closing of the Navigation Center. It would be a tragic loss to our partners, who rely on us as an essential safety net for clients who would otherwise be lost and unable to surmount the obstacles involved in engaging in treatment and life-building activities.

While we understand the Behavioral Health staff's hesitation to take on this administrative load, our view is that there is an administrative pathway forward that will sustain the Clubhouse and continue to provide the very necessary component of our County's mental health, law enforcement, and homelessness prevention goals, while saving the County millions of dollars in hospitalization and law enforcement expenses. We at NAMI are willing to do whatever it takes to partner with the Department of Behavioral Health to reduce that administrative load. We also know that the State has contracted with Clubhouse International, which stands ready to support the County and DBH to address any technical or other issues involved in implementing this very valuable evidence-based program through BH Connect.

So once again, we urge you to support Clubhouse El Dorado by directing staff to opt in to BH Connect and add the Clubhouse evidence-based practice to the County's Integrated Plan.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Best regards,

Diane Rabinowitz



Diane Rabinowitz

President, [NAMI El Dorado County](http://www.namiel Dorado County)

w: <http://www.namiel Dorado County>

p: 530-205-3803

a: 471 Pierroz Road, Placerville, CA 95667

#31 26-0915 public comment
BOS Revd
6/8/26

 Outlook

Funding for Clubhouse El Dorado Needed

From Maureen Dion Perry <dionperry@att.net>

Date Sun 6/7/2026 12:20 PM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Cc bosthree@edgov.us <bosthree@edgov.us>; BOS-District II <bostwo@edcgov.us>; BOS-District I <bosone@edcgov.us>; BOS-District IV <bosfour@edcgov.us>; BOS-District V <bosfive@edcgov.us>; Frank Porter <fporter@housingeldorado.org>; Peg Vanderkar <dpvanderkar@comcast.net>; Craig Styles <cncstyles@gmail.com>; Diane Rabinowitz <drabino1951@yahoo.com>

 1 attachment (337 KB)

BOS_6_9_26_Budget_Clubhouse (3).pdf;

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Please take action to sustain Clubhouse El Dorado. It is a wonderful program for our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maureen Dion-Perry
President
Housing El Dorado



To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
% Clerk of the Board, edc.cob@edcgov.us

Date: June 6, 2026

Re: Agenda item 31, 6/9/26, Budget; Clubhouse El Dorado - Opt into BH-Connect

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

We respectfully urge you to support Clubhouse El Dorado as an essential component of the County's behavioral health continuum of care. We urge the County Board of Supervisors to direct staff to opt into BH-CONNECT and add the Clubhouse evidence-based practice to the County's Integrated Plan.

Given the overwhelming evidence of Clubhouse El Dorado's success in helping individuals struggling with mental illness secure employment, pursue educational goals, and build meaningful connections within the community, HED considers the Clubhouse as an essential part of efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness in our county. The Clubhouse complements clinical services by helping people remain engaged in recovery and avoid the isolation that often leads to crisis, hospitalization, homelessness, or loss of housing.

Since the beginning of NAMI-El Dorado's extensive research and groundwork to bring the proven Clubhouse model to El Dorado County, Housing El Dorado has supported these efforts for the simple reason that the Clubhouse program successfully prevents homelessness, leads to better outcomes for EDC residents, and is a cost effective investment.

Clubhouse El Dorado is the result of two years of planning and research and has been up and successfully operating since August of 2024. It would be a tragic loss for the county to lose the extensive investment in creating, launching and operating this successful program.

While we understand the Behavioral Health staff's hesitation to take on this administrative load, our view is that there is an administrative pathway forward that will sustain the Clubhouse in these difficult times. We urge you to take action now to sustain Clubhouse El Dorado.

Respectfully,

Maureen Dion-Perry, President
Frank Porter, Vice-President

Peg Vanderkar, Secretary
Craig Styles, Treasurer

1390 Broadway, B-216 | Placerville, CA 95667

530-497-0242 | housingeldorado@gmail.com | housingeldorado.org

Housing El Dorado is a 501(c)3 organization | Tax ID: 46-0455966

Public comment
BOS Recd 6/8/26
#31 26-0915

BOS Agenda Item 31: Budget Clubhouse El Dorado - Yes to Opting into BH-CONNECT

From steveclavere@comcast.net <steveclavere@comcast.net>

Date Sun 6/7/2026 2:29 PM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I respectfully urge you to support Clubhouse El Dorado as an essential component of the County's Behavioral health continuum of care. I urge the County Board of Supervisors to direct staff to opt into BH-CONNECT (Behavioral Health Community Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment) and add the clubhouse evidence-based practice to our county's Integrated Plan.

Given the overwhelming evidence of Clubhouse El Dorado's success in helping individuals struggling with mental illness secure employment, pursue educational goals, and build meaningful connections with the community, I consider the Clubhouse as an essential part of efforts to reduce and prevent homelessness in our county. The Clubhouse complements clinical services by helping people remain engaged in recovery and avoid the isolation that often leads to crisis, hospitalization, homelessness, or loss of housing.

Since the beginning of NAMI-El Dorado's extensive research and groundwork to bring the proven Clubhouse model to El Dorado County, I have supported these efforts for the simple reason that the Clubhouse program successfully prevents homelessness, leads to better outcomes for EDC residents, and is a cost effective investment. Clubhouse International has accumulated data which demonstrates that Clubhouse programs reduce recidivism to acute care, saving countless dollars in inpatient treatment.

Clubhouse El Dorado is the result of two years of planning and research, and has been up and successfully operating since August of 2024.

Putting it mildly, it would be a tragic loss for the county to lose this extensive investment in creating, launching and operating this very successful program, and its immeasurable positive impact on some of the most needy members of our community.

While we understand the Behavioral Health staff's hesitation to take on this administrative load, my view is that there is an administrative pathway forward that will sustain the Clubhouse and continue to provide the very necessary component of our county's mental health and homelessness prevention goals, while saving the county millions of dollars in hospitalization and law enforcement expenses.

This represents my personal and professional opinion as a licensed Psychologist, not necessarily that of the body of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Stephen J. Clavere, Ph.D.
Commissioner, El Dorado County
Behavioral Health Commission

Public Comment
BOS read 6/8/26
#31 26-0915

 Outlook

Clubhouse El Dorado Agenda item 31, 6-9-26

From Robin Valicenti <robinvalic3nti@gmail.com>
Date Sun 6/7/2026 6:47 PM
To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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To the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please support Clubhouse El Dorado as an essential component of the County's behavioral health continuum of care.

I have been a licensed professional counselor and clinical therapist for over 35 years and find significant value and benefit in the Clubhouse model.

Clubhouse El Dorado fills a critical gap and offers coordinated, community-based services that promote wellness and recovery while in a community based supportive environment. People need and draw benefit from others with similar experiences to thrive and grow especially when they have faced challenges such as isolation, mental health concerns, and a lack of belonging.

Members build skills, social connection, and employment readiness reducing reliance on the county's most expensive interventions.

Clubhouse is a locally rooted, already-operating program requiring modest investment to sustain and grow.

Please formally recognize Clubhouse El Dorado as an essential component of the continuum of care and direct its inclusion in the County's BHSA Integrated Plan.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Valicenti, MA, LPC
ElmDorado Hills, CA

Public comment BOS Revd
6/8/26
#31 26-0915

 Outlook

BOS Agenda Item 31: Budget Review

From Sheryl Trainor <sherylt@namiel Dorado county.org>

Date Sun 6/7/2026 9:25 PM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

 1 attachment (16 KB)

BOS BH-Connect Ltr..docx;

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To the Clerk of the Board-

Please share the attached written letter with my comments with all the supervisors before this Tuesday's meeting.

Thank-you for your assistance,

Sheryl Trainor
NAMI Board Member/Clubhouse Volunteer
sherylt@namiel Dorado county.org

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

c/o Clerk of the Board

Date: June 7, 2026

Re: BOS Agenda Item 31, Budget: Clubhouse El Dorado – Yes to Opting into BH-Connect

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing as a community member from District 3, NAMI Board member, Clubhouse volunteer, family member of someone with a severe mental illness, and licensed Occupational Therapist, who has resided and worked in this county for over 35 years. I respectfully urge you to direct county staff to opt into BH-Connect and add the Clubhouse evidenced-based practice to the county Behavioral Health Integrated Plan and its' budget.

I have accompanied members of the Clubhouse as a volunteer advocate to many community services. My experiences provide examples of how the clubhouse is a necessary step on the journey to engagement with the county whether it be HHS, BH, or the Social Security office. First, given the non-clinical peer model of the Clubhouse, it provides a welcoming environment where peers, staff and volunteers build rapport and trust with each other. From this place of trust, members begin to willingly challenge each other, share referrals, and step out of their comfort zone. In addition, the clubhouse walks alongside members to access and fill out forms, clarify resources, provide transportation to services, and provide next steps on the path to recovery and purposeful lives.

Personally, I have accompanied one member who has learning disabilities, a traumatic brain injury, mental health needs and lack of stable housing. Initially, she did not show up at the county clinic because she did not trust psychiatrists and transportation was an issue. In addition, she was unable to read and fill out the forms. Overtime at the clubhouse she began to trust staff and volunteers there and step out of her comfort zone. Over the last 6 months, with the help of the Clubhouse, she has found temporary stable housing, engages with local psychotherapy and began mental health care with a psychiatrist and case worker at county Behavioral Health. Another member became stuck between HHS and Social Security trying to update a name and address change due to marriage – he had been trying for 5 years! After coming to the clubhouse, he was connected with an advocate to accompany him and his wife to HHS and the problem was clarified and solved. Similar stories were shared with you when members visited during public comment a few weeks ago.

Given its' non-profit status, the Clubhouse through NAMI El Dorado County has been able to access grants to extend services beyond the work-day model Monday -Friday. The

availability of a supportive community at the Clubhouse on evenings and weekends further decreases isolation, provides alternative coping skills and helps members build a sober, social community.

On my travels across the United States, I had the opportunity to visit two other clubhouses- one in Pennsylvania and one in Utah. Both have been in existence for 30 years! The state of Pennsylvania recognizes the clubhouse model as its' main model of psychiatric recovery for adults living with mental illness.

I recognize that the county has administrative concerns and my hope is that the county, the Clubhouse, and NAMI can work together collaboratively to address these concerns to be able to sustain this cost-effective evidenced-based program for many years to come.

Thank-you for considering this request,

Sheryl Trainor, NAMI Board Member

sherylt@namiel Dorado county.org

Public Comment BOS Rev'd
#31 26-D915 6/8/26

 Outlook

NAMI -BOS Agenda item 31, Budget; Clubhouse El Dorado - Yes to Opting into BH-Connect

From us@drummondfamily.org <us@drummondfamily.org>

Date Mon 6/8/2026 2:11 PM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

Cc Yan Bennis <yanb@namiel Dorado County.org>

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I respectfully urge you to support Clubhouse El Dorado as an essential component of the County's behavioral health continuum of care.

I urge the County Board of Supervisors to direct staff to opt into BH-CONNECT and add the Clubhouse evidence-based practice to the County's Integrated Plan.

When I heard about the potential of the NAMI Clubhouse I had many concerns.

My concerns have been answered beyond what I would have hoped for.

Yan Bennis is the key. He brought skills, experience and thoughtful growth to the clubhouse through immense community collaboration. His calm demeanor gives comfort and direction to the clubhouse members. I occasionally go unannounced to donate clothes or auction prizes for events. Every time without exception I enter a place that is organized, with multiple activities going at the same time and an environment of kindness and hope and a positive direction. One would think the environment would be fragile with people working to move forward with their lives. Instead, I feel like I have entered a respected business working toward their goals daily.

This IS the place that was missing. A place to help one get ready to go back into the community. A place to help with employment, learn skills related to future work, learn needed computer skills, get clothing, learn to prepare nutritious meals, experience the value of exercise, giving back to the community, and the list goes on and on.

If you have not been to the NAMI Clubhouse PLEASE drop by and you will be as welcomed as I have been. When you see it, you will know that this is an organization that is desperately needed, has proven their success and needs to remain in the community.

Sincerely, Liz Drummond, El Dorado County resident, concerned citizen and registered voter.

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6/8/26
#31 - 26-0915

Outlook

Letter of Support for Agenda item 31, Budget; Clubhouse El Dorado - Yes to Opting into BH-Connect

From Entwistle, Martin <mentwistle@marshallmedical.org>
Date Mon 6/8/2026 2:23 PM
To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

1 attachment (117 KB)
MMC LoS NAMI Clubhouse 260608.pdf;

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Dear Supervisors of El Dorado County,

I am submitting a letter of support for your Agenda item 31 for 6/9/26, discussing budget matters for Clubhouse El Dorado and opting into BH-Connect.

Many thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Martin

Martin Entwistle M.B., Ch.B., FRCSEd
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[cell] 858.717.0465
www.marshallmedical.org



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June 8, 2026

The Supervisors
El Dorado County
California
USA

Dear El Dorado County Supervisors,

Letter of Support for Agenda item 31, Budget; Clubhouse El Dorado - Yes to Opting into BH-Connect

I write in support of the matter under your consideration with respect to funding for the Clubhouse El Dorado.

In the various Community Health Needs Assessments conducted by providers within El Dorado County, Behavioral Health continually ranks within the top four priorities to be addressed. We are all aware of the impact that the limited resources available to us within the County has on our ability to manage behavioral health conditions, which puts even more pressure on us to support services that can assist in limiting the escalations of conditions as well as providing support for those who have received treatment to reduce the risk of relapse.

The Clubhouse El Dorado, successfully operating since August of 2024, is one such organization with strong evidence of success in helping individuals struggling with mental illness secure employment, pursue educational goals, and build meaningful connections within the community. As a result, we consider The Clubhouse to be a key part of efforts to reduce the impacts of behavioral health conditions including prevention of homelessness in our county. The Clubhouse complements clinical services by helping people remain engaged in recovery and avoid the isolation that often leads to crisis, hospitalization, homelessness, or loss of housing.

We urge you to give consideration to support for Clubhouse El Dorado as a highly important component of the County's behavioral health continuum of care, that if not supported would leave a significant gap in services, and for inclusion of the Clubhouse practice to the County's Integrated Plan. It would be a tragic loss for the County to lose the extensive investment in creating, launching and operating this successful program.

While we understand the Behavioral Health staff's hesitation to take on this administrative load, we hope there is a creative pathway forward that will sustain the Clubhouse and continue to provide this very important component of our County's mental health and homelessness prevention goals, while saving the County millions of dollars in hospitalization and law enforcement expenses.

Sincerely,

Martin Entwistle, MB, ChB, FRCSEd
Chief of Medical Affairs
Marshall Medical Center