



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 9/24/2027
John Taylor, Vice Chair - Term Expiration 1/1/2026
Kathryn Hamilton, Secretary - Term Expiration 7/30/2027
Greg Ferrero, Board of Supervisors Representative - Term Expiration 01/01/2026
Debra Thornburgh, Commissioner - Term Expiration 12/03/2027
Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner - Term Expiration 1/01/2026
Amelia Leo-Fraze, Commissioner - Term Expiration 9/24/2027
Sophia Sumimoto, Commissioner - Term Expiration 9/24/2027
Vacant (2), Commissioner

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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

5:02 PM CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Thornburgh, Clavere, Abram, Sumimoto and Ferrero

Absent: 4 - Hamilton, Santiago, Taylor and Leo-Fraze

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Comment: (None)

A motion was made by Ferrero, seconded by Clavere, to Adopt the Agenda and Approve the Consent Calendar this matter.

Yes: 5 - Thornburgh, Clavere, Abram, Sumimoto and Ferrero

Absent: 4 - Hamilton, Santiago, Taylor and Leo-Fraze

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. 25-0347** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2025 regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Approved

- 2. **25-0348** 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.

No Formal Action

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

OPEN FORUM

Public Comment:

(None)

DEPARTMENT MATTERS

- 3. **25-0352** Commission Chair recommends the appointment of a Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY25/26 Plan Update Ad Hoc Review Committee. (5 minutes)

Committee to include Commissioner Chair Abram, Commissioner Taylor and Commissioner Clavere.

Public Comment:

Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services: Offers to gather children's providers together to speak as a group to discuss any of the MHSA plan updates that impact children's providers.

Note: Virtual participant "Deanna" was invited to submit a comment in writing via email to MHSA@edcgov.us to be included in the minutes if desired, due to inability to hear their comment during the meeting.

Further Commissioner Discussion:

(None)

No Formal Action

4. 25-0353

Commission Chair disbands the Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT), Behavioral Health Service Act (BHSA) Listening Session Ad Hoc Committee.
(5 minutes)

James Abram, Commission Chair: The listening sessions have ended, and so the Ad Hoc Committee has fulfilled it's duty and is hereby disbanded.

Public Comment:

(None)

Further Commissioner Discussion:

(None)

Direction Provided (See Minutes)

DRAFT

5. 25-0046 Review/Discussion/Questions of the MHSA Fiscal Year 2023/24 Outcomes Report.
(10 minutes)

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks how much of an impact the [FY 23/24 MHSA Plan] has in relationship to the [FY 25/26 MHSA Plan] we're looking at in March? Asks what will come of the Report with the BHSA rollout? Asks if there has been any indication of what the requirements of the Behavioral Health Commission may be as far as holding a Public Hearing prior to [BHSA] becoming the new Plan on July first. Compliments staff for thoroughly completing the outcome measures in concurrence with the thirty-day public comment period in a timely manner.

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator: Explains how the information from the Report is utilized, acknowledging it is not the only source of assessment. [Regarding BHSA rollout] we are awaiting final direction from the State on if our annual Outcomes Report for [FY 24/25 and FY 25/26] will exist as they do now, or if they will be converted to the Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability and Transparency Report. There may be a formal public hearing or a less formal presentation and discussion for the Behavioral Health Commission, as part of the Community Program Planning Process.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks within that matrix, how much weight is given to the prior? Notes the Outcome Report data is typically outdated, which is [insufficient] to be able to review and make sensible judgment about things. Asks who the ultimate decision maker is, and where questions about this process should be directed? Asks why there is missing information from multiple programs, and what we will do about it. Comments he is glad to see improvement of the County's indirect administrative costs.

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator: Answers ["weight"] is dependent on the project and any additional background information available, including data from quarterly reports. Acknowledges the challenge with the timeline for this publicly available data is recognized by other counties and even at the State level, and we continue to evaluate opportunities for [process improvement]. The analysis is a team effort, with ultimate approval from [HHS] Agency Director, Olivia Byron-Cooper. Questions can be directed to MHSA@edcgov.us or (530) 621-6340, and they will be directed to the appropriate person. With regard to missing program information in the Report, we will continue to attempt to retrieve the requested data from providers, only withholding expenditures as a last resort.

Public Comment:

Bob Landry, Representative of NAMI El Dorado County: Explained benefits and needs for NAMI operations in El Dorado County, summarizing various accomplishments to date. States that the data in the Outcomes Report does not accurately reflect contributions made or outcomes achieved by clubhouse El Dorado, as the contract did not begin until the fiscal year was half over.

Further Commissioner Discussion:

(None)

No Formal Action

6. 25-0355

Presentation by HHS Chief Assistant Director, Jim Diel, on Children's Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) payment reform and provider rate development methodology. Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate.

(20 minutes)

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks where clinician rates are represented in table? Asks if counties are [prohibited] from contributing to Behavioral Health [Departments] from their General Fund balance? Asks if behavioral health services provided for mild-to-moderate referrals to Managed Care Plans are reimbursed by designated entities from the State.

Jim Diel, Chief Assistant Director of Health and Human Services: Answers, clinicians fall under Licensed Practitioner of the Healing Arts. Answers funding is predominantly State and Federal for the State obligations, while [General Fund] decisions are made by the Board [of Supervisors] and we support elected leadership around that. Confirms [Managed Care Plans] contract directly with the Department of Health Care Services.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks if rate comparison to other counties contributes to hiring difficulties? Notes table on page-14 reflects providers listed received an NTE percentage increase when compared to pre-payment reform.

Jim Diel, Chief Assistant Director of Health and Human Services: Answers rates contribute to counties having to make difficult decisions with both hiring and contracting. Confirms percentage increased, adding this last round we shifted -now looking at pooled NTE amount across providers, giving greater flexibility with no additional risk to the County.

Greg Ferrero, Commission Board of Supervisors Representative: Seeks confirmation, that the discrepancy in allocations for different counties is [in reference to] the billing unit varying by county, not the total amount allocated.

Jim Diel, Chief Assistant Director of Health and Human Services: Confirms, the amount [counties] can bill for a unit of service is very different, adding the actual revenue amount they get is also different as it'll be scaled to population.

Public Comment:

Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services: Comments providers would like to see the last three-years of cost reports for transparency about what the administrative costs are.

Debra Reischel-Cree, Public Member: Asks if the usefulness of our [Psychiatry Health Facility] is impacted by our hospitals now providing psychological treatment along with medical treatment?

Matt Smith, Director of Mental Health and Wellness for EDCOE: Asks which counties are we looking at as most comparable to when making comparisons? Asks if the increases are matching up with COLA?

Further Commissioner Discussion:

(None)

7. 25-0349

Presentation by Behavioral Health Department staff: Justine Collinsworth and Shaun O'Malley, on Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS). Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate.

(10 minutes)

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks if percentages on page-15 will need to increase by the five-percent Justine mentioned.

Justine Collinsworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Yes, for measurement year-2024, we're going to be looking to see if we were able to improve by five-percent for ones we weren't meeting minimum performance levels on.

Debra Thornburgh, Commissioner: Asks for clarification about which column on page-15 indicates the minimum percentage expectations?

Justine Collinsworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Answers the far [right] column [colored] gray, [titled] "National 50th MPL", [MPL stands for:] Minimum Performance Level.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks what percentage of the people under treatment -including both mental health and substance use- in the Behavioral Health Department are medication? Inquires if measures are considered for those served who are not on medication or have not been hospitalized.

Justine Collinsworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Answers percentages not available on-hand, but can follow-up if needed.

Shaun O'Malley, Acting Alcohol/Drug Program Division Manager: Answers on DMC side, Engagement and Initiation applies to all substance use disorder treatment, not just those receiving medication services.

Public Comment:

(None)

Further Commissioner Discussion:

(None)

8. 25-0351

Presentation by Division Staff: Consumer testimonial or lived experience.
(5 minutes)

9. 25-0354 Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report.
(10 minutes)

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks for clarification if -regarding page-four, bottom table "Disposition of Request for Service"- [Cancelled Contact, No Show] numbers reflect people who have originally been seen first, and then they failed to come back?

Justine Collinworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Answers no, they have not been initially seen and generally is reflecting people who we have not been able to connect with or they did not call us back.

Public Comment:

(None)

Further Commissioner Discussion:

(None)

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks if staff would like to provide input [for Debra Reischel-Cree] regarding her question during earlier public comment opportunity. Noted a question was also asked by Matt Smith, who is no longer present.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Provided explanation of different necessary services provided by the acute care hospitals and the Psychiatric Health Facility.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Comments next month is the MHSA Public Hearing and the Behavioral Health Commission will have a meeting to follow the closing of the Public Hearing. Thanks Commissioners who are present tonight, reminds importance of making quorum.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Though no longer present, extends gratitude to NAMI representative [Bob Landry], President [Diane Rabinowitz] and their members who participated in today's meeting, and would look forward to perhaps seeing them again in the future.

NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: March 19, 2025.

7:01 PM ADJOURNED