

# **Behavioral Health Commission**

## **2024 Annual Report**

Presented to the Board of Supervisors on June 17, 2025

Prepared by Jim Abram, Commission Chair

## **Purpose and Role of the Behavioral Health Commission**

The Behavioral Health Commission is established under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5604.

WIC 5604.2 states the Commission's duties to "Review and evaluate the community's mental health needs, services, facilities, and special problems."

The Commission serves in an advisory role to the Board of Supervisors.

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Bylaws were updated and approved by the Board of Supervisors on February 11, 2025. (Resolution 019-2025.)

BHC Bylaws Article IV.

The Behavioral Health Commission shall "Review and evaluate behavioral health need, services, facilities and special problems in any facility within the county or jurisdiction where mental health or substance use disorder evaluations services are being provided.

## **Objectives**

Review and advise any county agreements entered into pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5650 (Performance Contract.)

Advise the Board of Supervisors and the El Dorado County Behavioral Health Director as to any aspect of the local behavioral health program.

Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process as specified in California Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5651.

Review each qualified applicant for the position of Behavioral Health Director, and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. The Commission shall be included in the selection process prior to the vote of the Board of Supervisors.

Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Mental Health Planning Council.

**Membership**

James Abram—Chair

Norma Santiago—Vice Chair (South Lake Tahoe)

John Taylor—Vice Chair (West Slope)

Kathryn Hamilton—Secretary

Wendy Thomas—Board of Supervisors

Richard Lynn—Commissioner

Debra Thornburgh—Commissioner

Dr. Stephen Clavere—Commissioner

Lauryn Sumimoto—Commissioner 1/24 to 6/24

Amelia Leo-Frazee—Commissioner 9/24 to 12/24

Sophia Sumimoto—Commissioner 9/24 to 12/24

## What We Do

In 2024, the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) held 11 (eleven) monthly Commission meetings, all open to community members. Each month the Commission heard and reviewed program services, presentations, and updates. Each month the Commission reviewed and discussed the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Monthly Update Report. All meeting agenda items allowed for public comment.

The presentations and updates were:

- January: El Dorado County Sheriff Psychiatric Emergency Response Team (PERT)
- February: Public Hearing Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY 24/25 Annual Update.
- March: Behavioral Health System Improvement Plan
- April: Crisis Response Process including 5150 assessment holds and placements.
- May: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) presentation.

In-patient placements at El Dorado County Psychiatric Facility (PHF)

- June: Presentation by Telecare Corporation on administration and operations of the El Dorado County Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)
- Jul: Review/discussion/feedback on Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY 24/25 Plan adopted by Board of Supervisors (BOS) June 18, 2024.
- August: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Planning Process (CPPP)
- September: Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Evaluation Committee Report on On-Site Reviews of CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children), El Dorado County and Stanford Youth and Family Services (SSYAF)

System Improvement Plan Process Update

- October: Commission Approval of the 2024 Data Notebook.

Presentation on California Advancing and Innovative Medi-Cal (CalAim) Providing Access and Transforming Health (PATH) Justice Involved Initiative.

CARE Act

- November: Presentation Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP)

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) By-laws review and update.

BHC Ad hoc nomination committee presentation of 2025 Slate of Officers

- December: No Meeting

### **Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Ad hoc Committees**

- February: Ad hoc Membership Committee to administer Commission membership process and on-boarding of new members.
- March: Ad hoc Evaluation Committee to review behavioral health needs, services, and facilities.
- June: Ad hoc Committee to participate in Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT) Proposition 1, Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) educational listening sessions.
- July: Ad hoc Committee to complete the 2024 Data Notebook.
- September: Ad hoc BHC Commission 2025 officers nominating committee.

### **2024 Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Accomplishments**

- February: Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 24/25 Annual Update Public Hearing  
3 BHC Substantive Comments
- June: Presentation of the 2023 Behavioral Health Commission Annual Report to Board of Supervisors.
- September: BHC Ad hoc Evaluation Committee  
Committee Report by Jim Abram: On site of CASA El Dorado (Court Appointed Special Advocates) Children's Full Service Partnership Project (FFP) and Mental Health Services Act Wrap-around Services: Juvenile Services Project by Stanford Youth and Family Services.
- November: Behavioral Health Commission review and approval of updated and amended Bylaws forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

## **Review of Governing Documents**

In November, the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) reviewed and updated the Bylaws to meet new January 1, 2025 verbiage requirements for WIC 5604. The Commission forwarded the recommended revisions to the appropriate County agencies for approval and the revised BHC Bylaws were approved by the Board of Supervisors. February 11, 2025 (Resolution 019-2025.)

## **Annual Work Plan**

Behavioral Health Commission's Ongoing Concerns:

- Behavioral Health Division (BHD) Vacant clinician and clinical support position vacancies (as of March 2025)  
Manager of Mental Health (50%), Mental Health Clinician (66%), continue to review the need for lower client to clinician ratios.
- Impacts of Proposition 1, Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) on deliverable mental health and substance use disorder services.
- Need for transitional housing.
- Acquiring new commission members.
- Commission membership meeting Welfare Institutions Code 5604 requirements.

BHC Goals 2025:

- Hold monthly public Behavioral Health Commission meetings.
- Continue to review and evaluate mental health and substance abuse disorder services in El Dorado County.
- Hold educational presentations of behavioral health services provided to consumers by the Behavioral Health Division.
- Hold informative Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) plan updates.
- Work collaboratively on providing necessary deliverable services and programs to consumers of El Dorado County mental health and substance use disorder services.

