



# County of El Dorado

See meeting locations  
below

## Minutes

### Behavioral Health Commission

*Norma Santiago, Chair- Term Expiration 10/26/2024*  
*Dr. Richard Lynn, Vice Chair - Term Expiration 11/16/2024*  
*Wendy Thomas, Board of Supervisors Representative, Vice*  
*Chair - Term Expiration 01/01/2024*  
*Lauryn Sumimoto, Secretary - Term Expiration 04/12/2025*  
*Debra Thornburgh, Commissioner - Term Expiration 12/07/2024*  
*Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner - Term Expiration*  
*01/01/2026*  
*Kathryn Hamilton, Commissioner - Term Expiration 08/11/2024*  
*John Taylor, Commissioner - Term Expiration 1/1/2026*  
*Vacant (8), Commissioner*

---

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

5:00 PM

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

- Health and Human Service Agency, 330 Fair Lane,  
Placerville, CA
  - Mental Health Office, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Suite 103,  
South Lake Tahoe, CA
- 

#### 5:10 PM CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Division Staff Present: Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Christianne Kernes, Justine  
Collinsworth, Meredith Zanardi, Don Duval, Ayla Miller.

Public Present: Barry Harwell -Sierra Child & Family Services, Chris Stedeford  
-Summitview Child & Family Services, Debra Reischel-Cree, Karen Cook -New  
Morning Youth & Family Services, Kristen Patterson -New Morning Youth &  
Family Services, Michelle Harwell

Public Remote: Diane Rabinowitz -NAMI, Nancy Callahan -IDEA Consulting

No Public Comments

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

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 Commissioner 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.

Commission Chair Santiago: Proposes to pull items 1. 23-1401 and 2. 23-1402 from the consent calendar and move item 8. 23-1404 to after item 5. 23-1398.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

Commissioner Clavere provided the motion to adopt the agenda and approve the consent calendar, with the proposed changes.

Commissioner Hamilton provided the second.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

1. **23-1401** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2023, regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission

Attachments: [DRAFT MINUTES JUNE 21, 2023](#)

Item pulled from consent calendar to discuss needed corrections.

Commissioner Taylor: In reference to the requested correction to Page 18 of the June 21, 2023 minutes- correction was requested by Commissioner Taylor, not Commission Associate Abrams.

Commissioner Clavere: Typo on Page-4, Item-4, 4th Paragraph, "transition pans", should be "transition plans".

Commissioner Taylor provided the motion to approve the minutes with the above mentioned corrections.

Commissioner Clavere provided the second.

**2. 23-1402**

In accordance with AB 2449 (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.

**Commission Chair Santiago:** Per regulation, asking for support for Commissioner Lynn and Commissioner DeBenedetto to participate remotely for just cause.

**Note:** Commissioner DeBenedetto was ultimately unable to join the meeting.

**Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator:** Notes limitations to just cause; 2-occasions maximum. There are more flexibilities under the emergency circumstances when necessary.

**Commission Chair Santiago** provided the motion.

**Commissioner Hamilton** provided the second.

**3. 23-1403**

Commission Chair recommends that James (Jim) Abram be appointed as a full member of the El Dorado County Behavioral Health Commission.

A motion was made by Commissioner Clavere, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton, to move forward in appointing Commission Associate Abrams as a full member of the Commission.

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**4. 23-1396** MHSa Community Program Planning Process (CPPP) Action Plan (5 minutes)

**Attachments:** [FY 24-25 MHSa CPPP Action Plan \(commission\)](#)

Meredith Zanardi, MHSa Program Coordinator: Included in the agenda packet is the Community Program Planning Action Plan, that is presented annually to the Commission as a representation of what staff plan to do as part of the Mental Health Services Act Community Program Plan Process. For the MHSa funding, this is brought to the Commission to look for any recommendations for additional or alternative action.

Commission Associate Abrams: Who is involved in Innovation brainstorming?

Meredith Zanardi, MHSa Program Coordinator: Innovation concepts come through the entire Community Program Planning Process from staff, contracted and other community providers, as well as community members. Everyone is encouraged to participate in community meetings.

Commissioner Hamilton: Have you given thought to how you might increase the number of participants in the community meetings?

Meredith Zanardi, MHSa Program Coordinator: Yes, looking to capitalize on both virtual-hybrid or in-person meetings through this year. Also looking to expand the number of meetings provided. Open to more feedback right now. Each year there is a press release, which will be put out in the next few weeks. The Board of Supervisors also receives that, and may be able to use social media to promote the meetings.

Commissioner Hamilton: Can the press release language be changed to be more engaging?

Meredith Zanardi: Some restraints for the language used; must be approved by Public Information Officer. Though, nothing is to prevent anyone from sharing press release information in a more audience friendly format.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Debra Reischel-Cree: Was invited last year via e-mail, which was an excellent contact method. Enjoyed participating in the survey.

Diane Rabinowitz: Suggests including additional input sessions to hear from people involved in partnerships such as Community Corrections, Courts and Sheriff's departments.

Meredith Zanardi, MHSa Program Coordinator: Suggestion noted for adjustments to this year's plan, will continue moving that forward in the next year.

**FURTHER COMMISSIONER COMMENT:**

Commission Chair Santiago: Would entertain a motion to adopt the MHSa Community Program Planning Process Action Plan with the addition of reaching out to the Community Corrections group.

Commissioner Hamilton provided the motion.

Commissioner Thornburgh provided the second.

5. **23-1398** Presentation by Behavioral Health staff on Penetration Rates and analysis of Behavioral Health provided services. (30 minutes)

Attachments: [Penetration Rates & Other EDC BH Services](#)

Presentation provided by Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator.

Commissioner Clavere: Accepting the definition and limitations of the data, would like to see the penetration rates monthly as opposed to annually as provided by the State from the External Quality Review. This data was requested in July of 2021, and numbers were only provided for September and October that year.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Advises real-time penetration rate reports would not be accurate due to claims potentially denied or in the rears. Will need to research how data outside the annual report was obtained from our department previously, and assess if staff time and resources can feasibly be dedicated to this task.

Nancy Callahan, IDEA Consulting: Adds to take into consideration- the data provided annually from the State is unduplicated, whereas monthly data would not be.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Debra Reischel-Cree: What is the differentiating factor for the black and grey bars shown on slide titled "FY 2021-22 Number of Hours, Clients, and Average Hours per Client, by Service Type and Age".

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator: Youth clients are in grey and adult clients are in black.

Barry Harwell, Sierra Child and Family Services: Notes the penetration rate for foster care Medi-Cal beneficiaries will go up in 2022, due to CalAIM expanding eligibility for foster youth to receive Specialty Mental Health Services.

6. **23-1399** Presentation by Division Staff of consumer testimonial or lived experience. (5 minutes)
- Any discussion related to agenda item 23-1399 is deferred to next month.

7. **23-1400** Review/Discussion/Questions of the Behavioral Health Director's Report (10 minutes)

Attachments: [Behavioral Health Division Update - 06-2023 Data](#)

Any discussion related to agenda item 23-1400 is deferred to next month.

**8. 23-1404**

Discussion of proposed contract rates for Children's Specialty Mental Health Services contracts

**COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**

Commission Chair Santiago: How are the rates -given the new CalAIM guidelines- determined?

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: The State developed individual rates for counties, of which the County will be reimbursed at 50%, for services provided that are covered Medi-Cal. Conversations with contracted providers began in late April, most heavily in May, and then early June to negotiate rates. Budget templates were offered to the providers to use. CalMHSA helped counties develop the process and protocol. Consideration included analysis of information providers submitted, historical data for provider utilization, and risk factor of ensuring the Behavioral Health division -beyond Specialty Mental Health Services contracts- will cover other costs in our system of care. There is a meeting scheduled with providers this Monday to continue the rate discussions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Kristen Patterson, Executive Director, New Morning Youth & Family Services: Outlined areas of the process for rate negotiation which have been dissatisfying and states there should have been more transparency.

Note: Karen Cook, Clinical Director for New Morning Youth & Family Services, and Chris Stedeford, Senior Director of Mental Health Programs for Summitview Child & Family Services, yielded their speaking time to Barry Harwell -allowed by Commission Chair Santiago.

Barry Harwell, Executive Director, Sierra Child & Family Services: Provided overview of concerns for children's providers to continue to operate in El Dorado County given the rates the County presented to providers. Ideal rates would allow a small profit margin to reinvest into the system; rates currently offered would not be enough to break even. Rates currently being offered will result in layoffs, office closures and inability to provide services.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Commission Chair Santiago: Defers any discussion with regards to monthly Behavioral Health report as well as the testimonial to next month. Proposes to include on the next agenda -what the results of the Monday provider rates discussion are.

Commissioner Taylor: Suggests BHC create a fact sheet handout, with phone numbers and other County services information. For quick reference when on the phone, as the County website is not user friendly. Something that could be given to media or anyone else. Commissioners are invited to send information to Commissioner Taylor, who will continue to develop this.

Commission Chair Santiago: If Commissioner Elizabeth DeBenedetto had been able to tonight, she would have announced this would be her last meeting. She has accepted a job in Placer County.

Commission Chair Santiago: Acknowledges the magnitude of MHSA reform, and urges Commissioners to share information with each other to become knowledgeable about the impact of this, not only to the counties but also to the services they are able to provide.

Commission Associate Abrams: Requests future discussion regarding crisis assessments, people in the PHF, and PERT encounters, which are interrelated in terms of PHF occupancy and the need for hospitalizations. Would like to see presentations from Crisis and PERT, detailing what their hold criteria is, and how they determine what services are needed or what avenue to take.

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator: Notes that a PERT presentation is tentatively scheduled in November.

Commissioner Hamilton: Curious about the criteria for children as well as adults.

Commission Chair Santiago: Will make sure when close to posting the November agenda, that the points brought up here are included in that discussion.

Commissioner Clavere: For the same topic, requests to see the curriculum -not a presentation- for CIT training provided to PERT sheriffs.

**NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: August 16, 2023**

**ADJOURNMENT**

End Time: 7:57 PM