



County of El Dorado

See meeting locations
below

Minutes - Final

Behavioral Health Commission

James Abram, Chair - Term Expiration 8/15/2026

Norma Santiago, Vice Chair - Term Expiration 9/24/2027

Deanna Santana, Vice Chair - Term Expiration 5/13/2028

Kieran Smith, Secretary - Term Expiration 08/26/2028

*Greg Ferrero, Board of Supervisors Representative - Term
Expiration 01/01/2029*

*Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner - Term Expiration
01/01/2029*

Vacant (5), Commissioners

Wednesday, November 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

5:03 PM CALLED TO ORDER

*Note: Meeting start delayed by 5-minutes due to technical difficulties with
teleconferencing equipment at the onsite Placerville location.*

Note: Commissioner Smith departed the meeting at 6:05PM.

Present: 6 - Santiago, Clavere, Abram, Ferrero, Santana and Smith

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

PUBLIC COMMENT:

*Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI El Dorado County: Requested clarification for
procedure of public comments accepted during this portion of the meeting.*

Approved

Yes: 6 - Santiago, Clavere, Abram, Ferrero, Santana and Smith

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. 25-1909** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2025 regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Approved

2. [25-1910](#) 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:

Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI El Dorado County: Provides statement regarding circumstances from a person who died after relapsing with alcohol addiction; asks the Behavioral Health Department for review of this case and criteria for [involuntary detention of an individual for up to 72 hours for psychiatric evaluation], as well as increased focus from [Mobile Crisis] dispatchers on call request content.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. [25-1911](#) Nominating Committee to present the nominations for the 2026 slate of officers of the Behavioral Health Commission. Election of Chair, West Slope Vice Chair, South Lake Tahoe Vice Chair and Secretary, for 2026. Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate.
(10 minutes)

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair, presented the nominees to serve as Officers for the Behavioral Health Commission for 2026.

Nominees:

Chair: Jim Abrams

West Slope Vice Chair: Deanna Santana and Dr. Steve Clavere

South Lake Tahoe Vice Chair: Norma Santiago

Secretary: Kieran Smith

Anonymous votes were cast for the position of West Slope Vice Chair, resulting in the election of Deanna Santana. Commissioners nominated and running unopposed were unanimously voted into their respective officer positions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments made.

2026 Officers were Elected for the El Dorado County Behavioral Health Commission: Chair: Jim Abram, West Slope Vice Chair: Deanna Santana, South Lake Tahoe Vice Chair: Norma Santiago, Secretary: Kieran Smith.

Yes: 6 - Santiago, Clavere, Abram, Ferrero, Santana and Smith

4. [25-1912](#) Ad Hoc Committee for engagement with the Behavioral Health Service Act [BHSA] 2025 Community Planning Process (CPP) to provide an update on activities to date.
(10 minutes)

On behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee for engagement with the Behavioral Health Services Act Community Program Planning (CPP) Process, Commission Chair Abram provided a general overview of CPP activities to date; noting information available for upcoming meetings.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Would like a timeline of related public meetings, and information about how everything is integrated with upcoming activities in January and February.

Meredith Zanardi, Program Manager: Staff provided a printed copy of an announcement of focus groups meeting information, which will also be available online and through our distribution list. Encourages anyone who has not signed up to go sign up for GovDelivery announcements [on the County Website] or by emailing BHAdmin@edcgov.us. Further information will be provided as it becomes available, such as the draft plan aimed for release at the end of January or early February. The 30-day public comment period will then occur prior to the intended March Public Hearing before this Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments made.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were no further commissioner comments made.

No Formal Action

5. [25-1913](#) Presentations by El Dorado County Behavioral Health Department Staff and Contracted Providers on Children's Specialty Mental Health Services in El Dorado County. Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate.
(60 minutes)

Justine Collinsworth, Director of Behavioral Health, presented a brief overview from the perspective of El Dorado County Behavioral Health regarding how requirements for Children's Specialty Mental Health Services are implemented. Carrie Thomas, Director of Administration for New Morning Youth and Family Services, presented a brief overview of contracted SMHS services provided in El Dorado County. Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services, presented a brief overview of contracted SMHS services provided in El Dorado County. Anna Gleason, Chief Executive Officer, and Jess Schnetz-O'Brien, Chief Program Officer, at Summitview Child & Family Services, presented a brief overview of contracted SMHS services provided in El Dorado County. Sara DeCoursey, Executive Director of Programs for Stanford Sierra Youth and Families, presented a brief overview of contracted SMHS services provided in El Dorado County.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Questions were asked throughout presentations by Commission Chair Abram, Commissioner Santiago, Commissioner Smith, and Commissioner Clavere, regarding vendor services on school campuses, out-of-county STRTP placements, outpatient and inpatient services, peer support certification, continuation of evidence based practices, and residential programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments made.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were no further commissioner comments made.

Presented

6. [25-1914](#) Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report.
(15 minutes)

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Asked a question regarding out-of-county hospitalizations data.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI El Dorado County: Asks for clarification about the reasoning for data showing low numbers of Mobile Crisis responding in comparison to the higher number of calls coming in.

ANY FURTHER COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were no further commissioner comments made.

Received and Filed

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

ADJOURNED 6:25PM