



# 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*  
*Debra Thornburgh, Vice Chair- Term Expiration 12/07/2024*  
*Wendy Thomas, Board of Supervisors Representative - Term Expiration 01/01/2023*  
*Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner - Term Expiration 01/01/2023*  
*Kathryn Hamilton, Commissioner - Term Expiration 08/11/2024*  
*Lauryn Sumimoto, Commissioner - Term Expiration 04/12/2025*  
*Elizabeth DeBenedetto, Commissioner - Term Expiration 04/12/2025*  
*Antoinette Maita, Commissioner - Term Expiration 04/12/2025*  
*Vacant (7), Commissioner*

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Wednesday, September 21, 2022

5:00 PM

Meeting Locations (in person and connected via tele/video-conferencing):  
• 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA  
• Mental Health Office, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Suite 103, South Lake Tahoe, CA

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Board of Supervisors, 330 Fair Lane, Building A, Placerville and  
El Dorado County Behavioral Health, 1900 Lake Tahoe Blvd., South Lake Tahoe

#### 5:04 PM CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

**Staff Present:**

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Christianne Kernes, Meredith Zanardi, Don Duval,  
Moriah Weldy, Lucy Valencia

**Public Present:**

Chris Stedeford, Anna Gleason, John Taylor

**Present:** 7 - Stephen Clavere, Kathryn Hamilton, Debra Thornburgh, Richard Lynn, Norma Santiago, Wendy Thomas and Lauryn Sumimoto

**Absent:** 2 - Elizabeth DeBenedetto and Antoinette Maita

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND CONSENT CALENDAR

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Supervisor Thomas made a motion to adopt the agenda and approve the Consent Calendar with the correction to the July 20, 2022 minutes.  
Commissioner Lynn provided a second.

**Yes:** 7 - Stephen Clavere, Kathryn Hamilton, Debra Thornburgh, Richard Lynn, Norma Santiago, Wendy Thomas and Lauryn Sumimoto

**Absent:** 2 - Elizabeth DeBenedetto and Antoinette Maita

- 1. **22-1722** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the Minutes from the July 20, 2022 regular meeting of Behavioral Health Commission.

**APPROVED WITH CORRECTION ON CONSENT CALENDAR.**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commissioner Calvere asked that the July 20, 2022 minutes be corrected to reflect that during the discussion of Item 4. 22-1338 when he discussed WIC 5848, it was not his interpretation of the Code as stated in the Minutes, he read the Code directly and would like the minutes to reflect that it was read directly from the code.

- 2. **22-1723** Commmission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the hybrid meeting for members of the public for the regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission on October 19, 2022. This is recommended as a result of ongoing concerns related to COVID-19, approve the following finding pursuant to Government Code subsection 54953(e)(3) in order to allow for the continued use of virtual or hybrid Behavioral Health Commission meetings as authorized under Assembly Bill 361. Pursuant to Government Code subsections 54953(e)(3)(A) and (e)(3)(B)(ii), the Behavioral Health Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the Governor's proclaimed state of emergency resulting from COVID-19 and finds that the El Dorado County Public Health Officer continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing, as documented in the September 30, 2021 "Public Health Officer's Recommendations for Safe Board and Commission Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic."

**APPROVED ON CONSENT CALENDAR**

**END OF CONSENT CALENDAR**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT: None**

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- 3. **22-1724** Commission Chair to introduce amended By-Laws (15 minutes)

**Commissioner Santiago introduced and highlighted the prospective changes to the Bylaws proposed by the Ad Hoc Committee and asked that the Commission review the prospective changes and be prepared to discuss and approve at the next meeting.**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:** Commissioner Lynn requests that the word "Board" be amended throughout the document to be "Commission"

**PUBLIC COMMENT None**

**4. 22-1725**

Commission Chair to recommend the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to complete the 2022 Data Notebook (5 minutes)

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Coordinator provided a brief overview of the process, detailed that typically the Ad Hoc is made up of two Commissioners and that Staff will be working on Division specific questions on the Data Notebook. The Data Notebook is already past due and the Division would recommend that the Data Notebook be completed and approved at the regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission in October, 2022.

Commission Chair appoints herself and Supervisor Thomas to the Ad Hoc Committee.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**5. 22-1726**

Commission Chair to introduce John Taylor as prospective Commissioner (5 minutes)

Commission Chair introduced John Taylor to the Commission and asked that John introduce himself.

John Taylor introduced himself and provided information about his professional and personal background, and why he is interested in serving on the Behavioral Health Commission.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT: Introductions by each Commissioner.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**6. 22-1727**

Discussion and confirmation of meeting schedule for the Commission for October thru December 2022 (5 minutes)

Commission Chair confirmed that the schedule of regular scheduled meetings for the remainder of the calendar year will be as follows: October 19, 2022, and November 15, 2022. The Commission will not hold a regularly scheduled meeting in December 2022.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

**7. 22-1728**

MHSA Coordinator to provide a status update of the MHSA Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Annual Plan Update (10 minutes)

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Coordinator restated that on July 20, 2022, the Public Hearing of the 2022/23 Annual Plan Update and on August 30, 2022, the Plan was approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Meredith Zanardi explained to the Commission that following discussion at the July meeting regarding WIC 5848, the Division sought advisement from County Counsel and was advised that following the approval of the Plan by the Board of Supervisors, the plan does not go back to the Commission for additional comment.

Additional comments from the Commission will be included in the CPPP and upcoming Plan and Update.

Meredith Zanardi addressed that the Commissioner made no definitive substantive comment that needed to be addressed. At the October meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission, the discussion will be about the next Three-year planning cycle, including an opportunity for Commissioners to make additional comments about the adopted FY 2022/23 Plan and staff will bring forward an action plan that will detail the Community Plan Planning Process (CPPP).

Additionally, staff responded to Commissioner Clavere's inquiry about Contract 5484, IDEA Consulting and the 5% funded by MHSA; directing Commissioners to review the adopted plan under administrative acts of the components will be operated by County staff and contracted providers will be utilized to perform administrative activities, e.g. contracting and accounting, program analysis and quarterly assurance improvement activities related to the component. The Division recognizes that allows the opportunity to utilize consultants. The 5% MHSA funding is reported in the RER at the end of the year.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT:** Commissioner Clavere stated that he disagrees with the advisement of County Counsel.

Commissioner Santiago restated that Staff alone did not make the decision that the Plan that is adopted or approved by the Board of Supervisors is the Final Plan; that interpretation was made by County Counsel. Additional comments and questions from the Commission regarding the Plan will be discussed at the October meeting in preparation and consideration of the planning process for the next Three-Year plan.

Commissioner Lynn commented that he wants an opportunity to review the adopted plan before the October meeting.

Staff responded to advise that the final plan is on the Behavioral Health website and available to the Commission and public alike for review.

Commissioner Santiago requested that the link to the approved Plan Update be emailed to all Commissioners.

Staff acknowledged request to send the website link to the approved Final Plan.

Commissioner Clavere clarified that the IDEA funding is coming from the line item in titled "Administrative Costs" and stated that it is his recollection that this cost is typically between \$300,000 to \$330,000 annually and is used to pay the salary of MHSA staff.

Staff advised that the Administrative Costs is not the only area of the plan that funds staff salaries.

Supervisor Thomas commented that consultants are used to bridge the gap due to the lack of staff available to complete work.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ADDITIONAL COMMISSIONER COMMENT:** Commissioner Clavere expressed frustration that over \$15 million of MHSA funds are left unspent not including the Prudent Reserve, but close to \$1 million is awarded as part of a contract to a consultant.

Staff responded that MHSA would be open to bring a presentation to the Commission to have a broader discussion on the funding and expenditures and asked the Commission Chair to consider including this discussion on the agenda in the future.

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**8. 22-1729** Review/Discussion/Questions of the Behavioral Health Director's Report (10 minutes)

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Behavioral Health Director highlights that again the Division and HHSA-wide departments are supporting efforts to provide support to the community in light of the ongoing Mosquito Fire.

On August 16, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved for the Division to enter into contract for the purchase of a residence on Carlson Way to be used as supportive housing.

On September 13th and 14th, 2022, the Division participated in the DHCS Triennial Review of the Specialty Mental Health Services. Final findings and CAP will be brought to the Commission when received.

The Division has been able to fill many vacant positions within, and South Lake Tahoe is close to being fully staffed.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT:** Supervisor Thomas congratulated Division on filling some of the long-time vacancies.

Supervisor Thomas announced that the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a temporary navigation center with emergency shelter to be implemented and operated out of the old Juvenile Hall building, she thanked Behavioral Health for recognizing that although this same site would be ideal for the future site of the PHF, it is imperative for the Navigation Center and shelter be operating as soon as possible and that this plan is a comprehensive plan that will address several community needs through the phases of the project.

Commissioner Clavere brought up the continued low census at the PHF.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken responded that the Division is aware of the ongoing low census and is continuing to monitor the reasons for the census level.

Commissioner Clavere asked about the reported 18 assaults at the PHF during the month of August.

Staff responded that the number is correct but was the result of a few patients and assaults against staff.

Commissioner Clavere asked why only 9 of 16 beds at the West Slope T-Houses were occupied.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken advised that she will discuss this with the Program Coordinator and provide an update at the next meeting.

Commissioner Clavere asked why the staff vacancy chart is not included in the monthly Division report.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken responded that this data was prepared by Ren Strong, and it is being reviewed at the staff level to determine how to provide this information as an ongoing point in the report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

No further Commission comments.

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Commission Chair Santiago advised Commission that the CalBHB/C annual meeting is scheduled for October 21st and asked that staff forward this announcement to all commissioners. Staff acknowledged request.

Commissioner Clavere encourages Commissioners to attend CalBHC/C meetings and trainings.

**NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD:** October 19, 2022

**ADJOURNED:** 6:29 PM

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