



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
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, January 15, 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

Norma Santiago arrived at 5:04 PM

Debra Thornburgh exited at 5:23 PM

Present: 8 - Thornburgh, Santiago, Taylor, Clavere, Abram, Leo-Fraze, Sumimoto and Ferrero

Absent: 1 - Hamilton

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

James Abram, Commission Chair: States for record, Item number five [File ID 25-0049] is postponed to a future date due to staff absence.

Commissioner Comments: (None)

Public Comments: (None)

Adopt the Agenda and Approve the Consent Calendar

Yes: 8 - Thornburgh, Santiago, Taylor, Clavere, Abram, Leo-Fraze, Sumimoto and Ferrero

Absent: 1 - Hamilton

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. [25-0043](#) Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2024 regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Approved

2. [25-0044](#) 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

3. [24-2067](#) Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the Commission Bylaws as revised by County Counsel.

Approved

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

OPEN FORUM

Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI El Dorado County: Stated concerns regarding coordination between the [El Dorado County Psychiatric Health Care Facility] and [El Dorado County Behavioral Health Department staff]: If an ROI is signed at Behavioral Health it should apply at the PHF, and the PHF should accept information about a person if someone calls to provide it. If someone is disqualified from a [Transitional House] because of previous drug use at the house, more work should be done to find an alternative housing situation before discharge from the PHF. Would like to know what can be done about drug use at the T-Houses.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4. [25-0048](#) Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Transformation (BHT) / Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Progress Report. (10 minutes)

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks for a brief summary of the draft documents and what directions things seem to be heading in.

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator: Working with advocacy groups on reviewing draft policies, and still looking for more clarification. Utilizing drafts to start preliminary assessment review; starting to collect all programming and funding sources in Behavioral Health. Plans to date have just been MHSA -now looking at Realignment funding, Medi-Cal offsets, grant funding as well as Substance Use Disorder [programs] funding. Draft policy states unused MHSA funding will be able to be used at the discretion of the counties. Three main components are Full Service Partnership -FSP, Housing and Behavioral Health Services and Support -BHSS. BHSS is everything that to this point has been General System Development, or GSD. Access services, crisis and other Medi-Cal benefits the division has covered to this point will likely fall into that category. Will also be required to follow evidence based practices for an early intervention component of BHSS. Main focus between now and March is to look at how we can accommodate requirements with the funding we have.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks if [Prevention and Early Intervention] will fall under the [Behavioral Health Services and Support component].

Meredith Zanardi, MHSA Program Coordinator: In the BHSS component there is an early intervention requirement, but there is no carve out for prevention.

Public Comment: (None)

No Formal Action

- 5. [25-0049](#) Presentation by Jim Diel on Children's Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) payment reform and provider rate development methodology. (20 minutes)

Appeal Approved

- 6. [25-0050](#) Presentation by Division Staff: Consumer testimonial or lived experience. (5 minutes)

No Formal Action

7. [25-0051](#) Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report.
(10 minutes)

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Asks if vacancies on report will reflect positions filled by [temporary staffing contract].

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Yes, will address specific data in next month's report.

James Abram, Commission Chair: In relation to public comment made, asks if [Transitional House] data could be added back into the report more often again, rather than quarterly.

Nicole Ebrahimi-Nuyken, Director of Behavioral Health: Will take back for consideration, and asks if there would be interest for the Commission to receive a short presentation from staff in the future about our rules and expectations around T-Houses.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Agrees a presentation would be great.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commissioner: Questions large number of people who are not connected to services, as seen on page four. Comments that the grievance outcomes data has gotten a lot better, with clear explanations and everything filled out.

Justine Collinworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Provided breakdown of data and explanation of process for connecting individuals to services. Appreciates comment about grievance outcomes data, [praise] is owed to Patients Rights Advocate, Debra McCartney.

Public Comment:

Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI El Dorado County: Echoes recognition of Patients Rights Advocate, Debra McCartney, she's been so helpful for many families. Responds to Commissioner Clavere's question, stating some people need help to stay connected to services and to get to those services, but they do not have family or anyone who can help them. Wonders if we could continue thinking about that issue and come up with a way to address that lack of capacity.

No Formal Action

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

James Abram, Commission Chair: Thanks everyone for showing up. States it is great to have almost the whole Commission present. It's really important to show up. We've got a lot of things ahead of us coming up this year and I think we're going to have a good year.

NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: February 19, 2025

ADJOURNED AT 5:55 PM