



County of El Dorado

See meeting locations
below

Minutes - Draft 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
Dr. Stephen Clavere, Secretary - Term Expiration 1/01/2026
Greg Ferrero, Board of Supervisors Representative - Term Expiration 01/01/2026
Debra Thornburgh, Commissioner - Term Expiration 12/03/2027
Deanna Santana, Commissioner - Term Expiration 5/13/2028
Kieran Smith, Commissioner - Term Expiration 08/26/2028
Vacant (3), Commissioners

Wednesday, July 16, 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

5:00 PM CALLED TO ORDER

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: Comments minutes are [regularly] lacking detail and very brief, noting [for the June Minutes] under the presentation made by Jim Diel, there are comments missing from both himself and Commissioner Taylor.

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: Notes staff are following Robert's Rules of Order,

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: Provided quote from Robert's Rules of Order, regarding minutes. Does not believe they are being done in accordance.

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: [Staff] can confer with the Clerk of the Board if the Commission does not choose to Approve Today's Minutes.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Comments this [topic] has been addressed with the Clerk of the Board and protocol is being followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(None)

A motion was made by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Santiago, to Adopt the Agenda and Approve the Consent Calendar.

Yes: 7 - Thornburgh, Santiago, Taylor, Clavere, Abram, Ferrero and Santana

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **25-1280** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the June 18, regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Approved

2. **25-1281** 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 COMMENTS (ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA):

(None)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **25-1282** Commission Chair recommends the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to complete the 2026 Data Notebook.
(5 minutes)

The following Commissioners volunteer to participate on the Ad Hoc Committee: Commissioner Santiago, Commissioner Santana and Commission Chair Abram.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(None)

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

(None)

Direction Provided (See Minutes)

4. 25-1283

Commission Chair recommends the appointment of Kieran Smith as a full member of the El Dorado County Behavioral Health Commission.
(5 minutes)

An introduction was made to the Commission, from Commission Applicant, Kieran Smith.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

James Abram, Commission Chair: Thanked Kieran Smith for applying to the Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(None)

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

(None)

A motion was made by Commission Chair Abram, seconded by Commissioner Santiago, to Approve the Appointment of Kieran Smith as a full time member of the Behavioral Health Commission and that the said Approval be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for placement on their meeting Agenda for formal Approval.

Yes: 7 - Thornburgh, Santiago, Taylor, Clavere, Abram, Ferrero and Santana

5. 25-1284

Review/Discussion/Feedback of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Plan Annual Update process for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025/26 -adopted by the Board of Supervisors on June 17, 2025; with regard to the upcoming process planning for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) FY 2026/27-28/29 Integrated Plan, in accordance with California Welfare and Institution Code Section 5651.

(10 minutes)

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

James Abram, Commission Chair: Asks how upcoming process planning for the Behavioral Health Service Act Fiscal Year 2026-29 Plan is going?

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: Answers we are just starting; provider open forum sessions will soon be scheduled, which will lead into dedicated focus groups. Asks Commissioners to look at previous MHSA Plan and ideas to provide feedback, and we will come back with a strategy for how we are continuing with the required Community Planning Process.

James Abram, Commission Chair: When you say open forums, is that going to be with the Public?

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: Answers yes.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: Requests the schedule of events.

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: Explains the events are still being planned as they are being scheduled for providers to host and any other group which would like [staff] to present and discuss; we want any and all opportunities we can.

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Asks when the [open forums] and information gathering process will start?

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: Answers email communication this week prompting [open forum] scheduling; as many as possible within the next six-to-eight weeks. Information gathering starts tonight.

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Asks if the September-to-October time-frame is the focus group plan.

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: Answers correct.

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Asks for clarification of what information or feedback is being requested tonight?

Meredith Zanardi, Program Coordinator: Answers big-picture items to consider, demographics maybe we haven't been meeting the mark with MHSA, [etcetera].

James Abram, Commission Chair: States the Commission could consider forming a group in order to look at things and how the breakdown is for BHSA funding to certain programs and services.

Deanna Santana, Commissioner: Suggests the Commission for Youth and Families and

the Child Abuse Prevention Council to be reached out to for the zero to 18 perspective as well as their caregivers.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services: Comments he appreciates the sentiment behind the comment Meredith made about Behavioral Health doing less talking and more listening. We always want to hear what the Public has to say in this process. But, with previously low numbers of input, we need to look at how we are going to be trying to solicit information from people in this new process. We need Behavioral Health to do a lot of talking in the coming months, educating Public about what BHSA is and what MHSA was. We need it quickly because March 31 comes quick, and this Commission won't meet again until September.

Deborah Reischel-Cree, Public Member: States it appears from your discussion that mental health services will be slowly replaced. Worries about the PHF and the major mental health problems people have. Hopes they are still going to be addressed.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

(None)

No Formal Action

6. 25-1286

Presentation by Jim Diel on initiatives/requirements relative to and affecting the Behavioral Health Department in the past 2-3 years. Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate. (25 minutes)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

A presentation from Jim Diel was received and filed. Jim Diel answered clarifying questions from Commissioner Santiago, Commissioner Ferrero, Commissioner Clavere, Commissioner Taylor and Chair Abram.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debra Reischel-Cree, Public Member: Comments assuming one of our County lawyers is walking hand-in-hand with Jim.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

(None)

7. 25-1290

Proposal of revisions to the Behavioral Health Director's report for future meetings. Commission to receive/review/discuss and vote, including option to request adjustments.
(30 minutes)

Jim Diel, Chief Assistant Director of Health and Human Services: Changes to service delivery and how we are reporting subsequent to the last changes to the report, that I would like to update so it more accurately represents things like staffing vacancies, what our Mobile Crisis service looks like and so forth. This agenda item is intended to solicit input, and [identify] action desired by the commission related to this.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Agrees with keeping the numbers telling us how many people our service providers are serving, as well as the suggested presentations from different service providers [in place of the removed narrative]. Asks if PERT is still going to exist?

Jim Diel, Chief Assistant Director of Health and Human Services: Answers yes, PERT is one of the units that comprise Mobile Crisis now.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Would like to see continued reporting of the pie chart data from PERT; showing the number of encounters, and how many voluntary/involuntary holds were written. Would also like to see the same sort of information reported for mobile crisis; how many calls and what the disposition was -if they entered a 5150 or referred to behavioral health services [etcetera].

Jim Diel, Chief Assistant Director of Health and Human Services: Doesn't see any problem with that. Data collected may not reflect operational shifts; asks that any concern or question around that be discussed.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: Asks if the QIC format has the same data points?

Justine Collinsworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Answers it will be the same data points with slightly different formatting we use for the QIC report.

Greg Ferrero, Commission Board of Supervisors Representative: Concur with Chair Abram about having both PERT and Mobile Crisis numbers.

Justine Collinsworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Would like to drill down on the specific data, since they are kind of blended together, pulling out the data will be challenging. Outlines Mobile Crisis is the State mandated service, within that exists PERT. Staff will be partnered permanently; sometimes the PERT Clinician will respond with just a Mental Health Worker and not with Law Enforcement, sometimes our Mobile Crisis Team will be out in the field and a different EDSO officer or a different PD officer is going to be attending. Suggest allowing staff to brainstorm internally on what that robust amount of data can be sliced down to and presented as. Also notes "STACS" is still showing on the report, which was the Mobile Crisis response with SLTPD and El Dorado County Behavioral Health. [STACS] is no longer happening in the same capacity, it has rolled into Mobile Crisis. Suggests removing that, and that will become a part of our data set. We can also stratify that [data] by slope, if you find that valuable in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services: Concur with removing provider comments from that report. States his comments were not being accurately reported, so he would give his comments across the podium. In favor of [provider] annual presentations; [Sierra Child & Family Services] has multiple contracts with Behavioral Health and other contracts that aren't with Behavioral Health that still relate with the mental health functioning of children in the community that is of interest to this Commission. Adds there has to be opportunity for [more substantial] dialogue between [Children's Services] and the Commission.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: Requests to comment.

James Abram, Commission Chair: Reminds Commission doesn't engage in a discussion during Public Comment.

Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services: Yeah see what mean. I think I have a few more seconds. I believe in your bylaws it says that [is at] the Chairs discretion.

James Abram, Commission Chair: My discretion is, tonight: no.

COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

James Abram, Commission Chair: Suggests the Commission request to see the actual product of the proposed changes, and then vote for approval at the next meeting.

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Supports receiving a tentative report utilizing these recommendations in September.

John Taylor, Commission Vice Chair: Would also love to hear recommendations on how to best present from our providers, what they feel they need to get.

James Abram, Commission Chair: That can be discussed at an agenda planning meeting.

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Moves that the Commission adopts this template, and that in September the Director's Report will reflect the template for final decision on adoption.

Greg Ferrero, Commission Board of Supervisors Representative: Second.

Yes: 7 - Thornburgh, Santiago, Taylor, Clavere, Abram, Ferrero and Santana

8. 25-1291**Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report.
(10 minutes)**

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: Comments the PHF numbers are great. Compliments the significant decrease in numbers regarding mental health requests for service and the disposition of services. Asks for clarification regarding the term "Elopements".

Jim Diel, Chief Assistant Director of Health and Human Services: Answers that ["Elopements"] means leaving without completing discharge.

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: Asks for clarification on "Term of Service", on page-six under "Notice of Adverse Benefit Determination".

Justine Collinsworth, Manager of Mental Health Programs: Answers that means services have ended; so generally that's mutual termination -we still have to issue a notice of that.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(None)

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

(None)

COMMISSIONER COMMENT**GENERAL CLOSING COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Dr. Stephen Clavere, Commission Secretary: I have a final comment regarding an issue brought up about time for public presentations; I think the simple solution would be to have them put on the agenda, and if they are agendaized, then we can allot them a certain period of time that's kind of a guidance and they would have more than three-minutes to present.

NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: September 17, 2025 (No meeting planned for August)

6:53PM ADJOURNED