



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
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, April 15, 2026

4:00 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
-

4:00PM CALLED TO ORDER

Commissioner Santana arrived at 4:31PM

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Santiago, seconded by Ferrero, to Adopt the Agenda.

Yes: 5 - Santiago, Abram, Smith, Clavere and Ferrero

Absent: 1 - Santana

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. **26-0640** Public Hearing of the El Dorado County Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP) Fiscal Year 2026/27-2028/29 Three Year Program Update.
(Est. 30 minutes)

2026 Public Hearing Presentation presented by Meredith Zanardi, Program Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sheryl Trainor, Board Member and Volunteer for NAMI El Dorado, spoke as an Organization Representative. She asked the county to include the Clubhouse El Dorado program in its behavioral health plan, noting its strong outcomes, cost effectiveness, and rapid growth. She encouraged using BH Connect funding, which is flexible and provides matching funds, and thanked the Commission for considering the request.

Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI El Dorado County, spoke on behalf of community members and service providers who report that the Clubhouse has made a significant positive impact on people with serious mental illness and substance use challenges. She highlighted strong partnerships, consistent data showing member progress, and statewide recognition of the Clubhouse model as an evidence based practice supported through BH Connect. She urged the county to continue supporting the Clubhouse as an essential part of the behavioral health continuum.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:
(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT:
(None)

A motion was made by Ferrero, seconded by Clavere, to Approve the Consent Calendar.

Yes: 5 - Santiago, Abram, Smith, Clavere and Ferrero

Absent: 1 - Santana

CONSENT CALENDAR

- 2. **26-0641** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2026 regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Approved

- 3. **26-0642** In accordance with Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) any commissioner may 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. Per 54953.8.3(b) "The minutes for the meeting shall identify the specific provision in subdivision (c) that each member relied upon to participate remotely. This subdivision shall not be construed to require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is otherwise exempt under existing law, including, but not limited to, the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code)."

No Formal Action

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

OPEN FORUM

PUBLIC COMMENT:
(None)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 4. **26-0643** Commission Chair recommends the appointment of Avanti Ramamoorthy as a full member of the El Dorado County Behavioral Health Commission. (5 minutes)

A motion was made by Abram, seconded by Clavere, to Approve this matter and move forward with the recommendation for Avanti Ramamoorthy's Appointment as a Behavioral Health Commissioner, to the Board of Supervisors.

Yes: 5 - Santiago, Abram, Smith, Clavere and Ferrero

Absent: 1 - Santana

5. 26-0674

Report out by the Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP) Ad Hoc Committee. Discussion on the El Dorado County Draft BHSA Fiscal Year 26-29 IP and vote on Substantive Recommendations to be made to the Board of Supervisors.
(10 minutes)

General clarifying discussion regarding BH Connect, with questions and comments from Commissioner Santiago, Commissioner Clavere, Commissioner Ferrero, Justine Collinsworth, Commissioner Abram, and Meredith Zanardi.

FOLLOW-UP:

Meredith will circle back regarding timeline of the Commission reviewing the DHCS response and the adopted IP.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sheryl Trainor, Board Member and Volunteer for NAMI El Dorado: Spoke to her personal experience with supporting people with substance use disorders, successful outcomes of individuals receiving services from the Clubhouse, and the value of building community support. Clarifies the Clubhouse has applied for Medi-Cal certification, and is interested in further discussion regarding funding utilization opportunities through BH Connect.

Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services: Invites anyone who would like to know more about Children's Services to reach out to him at barryh@sierrachild.org.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Clavere: Asked for clarification about the Outcomes Report.

Meredith Zanardi: Answered the FY24/25 Outcomes Report is currently available online.

Substantive Comment: Approved the BHSA IP as-presented to move forward to the Board of Supervisors for Review and Approval.

Yes: 5 - Santiago, Abram, Santana, Smith and Ferrero

Noes: 1 - Clavere

6. 26-0644

Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report.
(10 minutes)

Meredith Zanardi: Stated an amended version of the Director's Report has been provided, which includes data points on pages 8 and 9 which were not available for posting on Friday. Both versions will be made available in the minutes.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT:

(None)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

(None)

Received and Filed

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Abram: Thanked Meredith, Justine and other staff who worked on putting the BHSA IP together. Notes Avanti's appointment, thanks her and everyone else for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Santiago: Thanked Meredith and Justine for the presentation and clarifying questions. Gave a shout out to Sheryl and Diane for providing information about the Clubhouse, and would like to see they get further clarification in regard to the requirement for Medi-Cal certification.

Commissioner Clavere: Suggests having an agenda item of reviewing the Plan with the substantive comments included before it goes to the Board of Supervisors. Also suggests reviewing the posted Outcomes Report, and receiving information about funding allocations for programs not included in the Plan.

Commissioner Ferrero: Suggested presentation about youth services.

Commissioner Abram: Once contract negotiations are done, it would be nice to hear about what programs providers will be doing with adjustments from the new Plan.

Commissioner Santana: Offers to request a presentation for First 5 El Dorado.

Commissioner Santiago: Asks for any presentations about services provided include information about all service areas and how people in South Lake Tahoe can access services.

NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: Wednesday, May 20, 2026

ADJOURNED 5:55PM