



# 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, January 21, 2026

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
- 

5:02PM CALLED TO ORDER

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

#### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

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

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

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. 26-0147** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

**Approved**

- 2. **26-0148** 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**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- 3. **26-0149** Update from El Dorado County Behavioral Health Department Staff regarding recent revisions made to the Ralph M. Brown Act, applicable to the Behavioral Health Commission. Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate. (10 minutes)

*Presentation by department staff Ryan Taylor, followed by general discussion regarding new Brown Act revisions. Questions and comments from Chair Abram, Commissioner Clavere, Commissioner Santiago, and department staff: Meredith Zanardi and Ryan Taylor.*

**ACTION/FOLLOW-UP ITEM(S):**  
*Staff will clarify if a meeting of the executive committee under emergency circumstances would be a violation of the Brown Act with the current number of members, as the executive committee includes four commissioners, and there are currently six members, indicating constitution of a quorum.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
*(None)*

**FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**  
*(None)*

**Presented**

- 4. **26-0150** Ad Hoc Committee for engagement with the Behavioral Health Service Act [BHSA] 2025 Community Planning Process (CPP) to provide and update on activities to date.  
(5 minutes)

*Activity updates from the Ad Hoc Committee were provided by Commissioner Clavere and Commissioner Santana.*

*PUBLIC COMMENT:*

*Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI: Provided review of her experience with meetings which were hosted by NAMI.*

*FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:  
(None)*

**No Formal Action**

- 5. **26-0151** Progress report by El Dorado County Behavioral Health Department Staff regarding the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) changes. Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate.  
(30 minutes)

*Presentation by Behavioral Health Director, Justine Collinsworth, followed by general discussion regarding BHSA progress to-date. Questions and comments from Commissioner Santiago, Commissioner Clavere, Commission Chair Abram, Commissioner Santana, and Commissioner Ferrero, were answered to by department staff: Justine Collinsworth and Meredith Zanardi.*

*PUBLIC COMMENT:*

*Diane Rabinowitz, President of NAMI: Asks about timeline of BHSA Plan, and anticipated usage of funding towards housing.*

*FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:  
(None)*

**Presented**

- 6. **26-0152** Commission Chair recommends the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Draft Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP) document.  
(5 minutes)

*Ad Hoc Committee volunteers include: Commissioner Santana and Commissioner Santiago.*

*PUBLIC COMMENTS:  
(None)*

*FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:  
(None)*

**Direction Provided (See Minutes)**

- 7. **26-0153** Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report and the Quarterly Contract Report.  
(15 minutes)

*General discussion of report included questions and comments from Commissioner Clavere, Commission Chair Abram, and Commissioner Smith, answered by department staff: Justine Collinsworth and Meredith Zanardi.*

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**  
(None)

**FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:**  
(None)

**No Formal Action**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

*Commissioner Santiago introduced and welcomed a former Commission member, Denise Burke, who is interested in rejoining the Commission.*

*Commissioner Clavere suggests a future agenda item to discuss strategies for the unspent and accumulating fund balance.*

*Commission Chair Abram comments at last week's Board of Supervisors meeting, the SOAR project passed, for a renovation of the old juvenile hall building to become a new psychiatric health care facility.*

**NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: February 18, 2026**

**ADJOURNED AT 6:45PM**