



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, September 17, 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
-

5:01PM CALLED TO ORDER

Note: Commissioner Debra Thornburg was Present (error not allowing to record)

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

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

James Abram, Commission Chair: Provided recommendation to remove item number four [FILE ID 25-1599] from this Agenda, with the topic to be included on the October 15, 2025 meeting Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments made.

A motion was made by Commissioner Ferrero, seconded by Commissioner Clavere to Adopt the agenda (with item number four removed; topic to be moved to the next meeting) and Approve the Consent Calendar.

Note: Commissioner Thornburg voted Yes (error not allowing to record vote)

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

Absent: 1 - Santana

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **25-1628** Commission Chair recommends the Behavioral Health Commission to approve the minutes from the July 16, regular meeting of the Behavioral Health Commission.

Approved

2. **25-1629** 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

There were no Public Comments made.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

3. **25-1598** Commission Chair recommends the appointment of an Ad Hoc to be the Nominating Committee for the 2026 officers for the Commission.
(5 minutes)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Ad Hoc Committee volunteers are Commission Chair Abram and Commission Vice Chair Santiago.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments made.

Direction Provided (See Minutes)

4. **25-1599** Update provided by Justine Collinsworth, Behavioral Health Director, on the Behavioral Health System Improvement Plan (SIP). Commission to receive/review/discuss and take action as appropriate.
(10 minutes)

During the Agenda Approval discussion of this meeting's Agenda, the Commission decided to move this topic to the October 15, 2025 meeting Agenda.

5. 25-1601 Review/Discussion/Questions of Draft Behavioral Health Service Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP) Program list (summation of included programs).
(30 min)

Expanded Link for BHSA Training Video on County Website:
<https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/Health-Well-Being/Behavioral-Health/Behavioral-Health-Services-Act-BHSA>

Presentation by Meredith Zanardi, Program Manager -followed by Commissioner Discussion with questions and comments from Commission Chair Abram, Commission Secretary Clavere, Commission Vice Chair Santiago, and Commissioner Smith. Questions were answered by staff members Meredith Zanardi and Justine Collinsworth.

ACTIONABLE/FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:

Commissioners reported not receiving notifications of some related group meetings they would have liked to attend; staff believe it is possible disseminated distribution emails could have gone to junk mail, and would like any commissioner to report back which groups meeting(s) they did not receive notification for so that staff can look into the matter further. Staff will continue to look for opportunities to ensure broad communication efforts are made for these events.

Staff will connect with Commissioner Smith further to look into opportunity for group(s) on campus, possibly in conjunction with Youth Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Barry Harwell, Executive Director of Sierra Child & Family Services: Clarifying comment about purpose of contract and Wellness Centers. States presentation is a blueprint for Wellness Centers as they are now; question is will we work to continue what we have or work to end it?

Matt Smith, Director of Mental Health and Wellness for El Dorado County Office of Education: Suggests differentiating Wellness Centers during discussions by using the term "School-Based Wellness Centers". Invites Commissioner Santiago to reach out for further information about the Community HUBS project if desired. Plans to schedule [EDCOE] hosting a focus group. Says [EDCOE] can help with connecting/scheduling with Peer Advocacy. Offers to provide presentation regarding CYBHI upon request.

Jennifer Kalsbeek, Co-Founder and Director of Infant Parent Center: Outlines efforts for reaching out to local families to inform them of changes. Advocates for all entities involved to work together to find creative funding solutions to support the current services provided in our County.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were no further commissioner comments made.

Presented

6. 25-1625 Commission Chair recommends the appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee to engage in the Behavioral Health Services Act Community Planning Process and provide updates as requested.
(10-minutes)

James Abram, Commission Chair: Defines the charge of the Ad Hoc Committee; cites WIC 5963.03, where as the Commission is supposed to ensure stakeholder involvement in the planning process. It's also in 5604.2(a). 5963.03(a) says receiving reports from staff describing plans and execution. So part of the charge of this Ad Hoc Committee will be receiving reports from staff describing plans and execution of the BHSA plans. It also speaks about agendaizing presentations by BHSA staff to explain the major components of the BHSA plans, which has occurred tonight; and we are supposed to have a workgroup under the BHSA's BHC role to deal with this planning process. So the charge is to receive reports from staff describing plans and execution added on to the community planning process and provide updates as requested.

Commission Ad Hoc volunteers include: Commission Chair Abram, Commission Secretary Clavere, and Commission Vice Chair Santiago.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments made.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Further clarifying discussion between Commissioner Clavere and Meredith Zanardi regarding information and data intended to be disseminated to the Ad Hoc Committee from staff.

Direction Provided (See Minutes)

7. 25-1626 Review/Discussion/Questions of Behavioral Health Director's Report (revised).
(15 minutes)

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

Questions and comments from Commission Chair Abram, Commissioner Clavere, Commissioner Ferrero,

Answers/clarification provided by staff: Program Manager, Meredith Zanardi and Behavioral Health Director, Justine Collinsworth.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Debra Reischel-Cree, Public Member: Comments it was good seeing all these new hires, keep up the good work.

FURTHER COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION:

There was no further commissioner discussion.

Received and Filed

8. 25-1627 Pilot Template of the Behavioral Health Director's report. Commission to Discuss and Vote, including option to request adjustments.
(5 minutes)

James Abram, Commission Chair: Motions to Approve with the following changes: Add Wellness Center Group Information and move the mobile crisis data before the crisis assessments data.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

Approved

Note: Commissioner Thornburg voted Yes (error not allowing to record vote)

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

Absent: 1 - Santana

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

James Abram, Commission Chair: Recognizes Commissioner Thornburg for her many years of service, noting it is her last meeting as a Commissioner. Notes Commissioner Taylor has resigned from the Commission, recognizing his dedication of service as well.

Norma Santiago, Commission Vice Chair: Echoes Chair Abram, highlighting the need to fill vacancies on the Commission.

NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING DATE: October 15, 2025

6:30PM ADJOURNED