



November 7, 2024  
Behavioral Health Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes

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**MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON**

Bill Stewart, Member-at-Large – District 1  
Gaurav Mishra – District 1  
Joel San Juan – District 1  
Julie Hayden – District 2  
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2  
Holly Herring – District 3  
Stuart Gaiber – District 3  
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4  
Amanda Berry – District 4  
Donald Romo – District 5

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON**

Janice Luna Reynoso, Member-at-Large – District 1  
Aaron Byzak – District 5

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Robin Sales, Chair – District 3  
Jessica Kramer – District 3  
Andrea Rodriguez on behalf of Chairwoman Nora Vargas

**STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

Luke Bergmann, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)  
Dania Barroso-Conde, Program Coordinator, BHS  
Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator, BHS

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Serita Polinaire at 2:33 p.m. in-person and via Zoom.

**II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

ON MOTION of Judith Yates, seconded by Bill Stewart, BHAB approved Meeting Minutes from October 3, 2024, and Acceptance of Proposition 47 and Incompetence to Stand Trial (IST) Grant Funds Board letter on consent.

AYES: 11 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT**

One in-person public comment, and two e-comments received.

**In-Person Comment:**

- Sandy Robinson emphasized the importance of expanding board and care facilities to support individuals experiencing homelessness and mental health challenges. She highlighted the potential for these facilities to provide housing, comprehensive care, and proposed reallocating funds currently designated for jail construction to expand board and care services.

**E- Comments:**

- Rob Gordon expressed concerns regarding the Acceptance of Proposition 47 and Incompetence to Stand Trial (IST) Grant Funds Board Letter on the Consent Calendar. He emphasized the need for transparency and public input, noting insufficient time for the community to review how the funds will be utilized.
- Faye expressed the challenges with the transition to a fee-for-service model, noting that it prioritized billable hours over quality of care. She raised concerns about the strain of healthcare workers with this new transition.

**IV. PRESENTATION: UPDATE ON YOUTH INSIGHT ON ADVISORY BORAD PARTICIPATION**

Skylar Weatherford, Administrative Analyst I, BHS, presented on the Update on Youth Insight on Advisory Board Participation. The following was presented:

- Effective January 1, 2025, changes to local behavioral health board membership under Proposition 1 (CA WIC 5604) will reflect the addition of a youth membership category on BHAB. Youth membership requirements are:
  - 25 years of age or younger
  - Must be a consumer, or the parents, spouses, siblings, or adult children of consumers who are receiving or have received behavioral health services.
- During phase 1, BHS staff will gather youth input on potential challenges to BHAB membership through presentations, input sessions, and informational interviews, focusing on interest, availability, and barriers to participation.
- Findings from phase 1 will be presented to the BHAB Executive Committee to inform youth recruitment and retention strategies. BHS staff will collaborate with local youth organizations and BHAB to finalize outreach materials and next steps.

**V. ACTION ITEM: VOTE ON THE SLATE OF 2025 BHAB OFFICERS**

The Nominating Committee presented the following recommended Slate of 2025 Executive Officers. Serita Polinaire, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, called for any nominations on the floor. None were made.

The following BHAB members are nominated to serve as Executive Officers for 2025 with no contestation:

- Robin Sales – Chair
- Serita Polinaire – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair
- Judith Yates – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair
- Amanda Berry – Member-at-Large (*representing the mental health community*)

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Stuart Gaiber, BHAB approved the Vote on the Slate of 2025 BHAB Officers for the non-contested seats.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

For the contested seat, Member-at-Large, BHAB members approved to vote with a live ballot that will be detailed in BHAB minutes.

ON MOTION of Bill Stewart, seconded by Guarav Mishra, BHAB approved to vote for the contested seat via live ballot.

The following BHAB members nominated to serve as the Member-at-Large, representing the alcohol and substance use community:

- Stuart Gaiber – Member-at-Large (*representing the alcohol and substance use community*)
- Julie Hayden – Member-at-Large (*representing the alcohol and substance use community*)

Voting records as follows:

<b>BHAB Members</b>	<b>Vote for Stuart Gaiber</b>	<b>Vote for Julie Hayden</b>
Bill Stewart, Member-at-Large – District 1		X
Gaurav Mishra – District 1		X
Joel San Juan – District 1		X
Julie Hayden – District 2		X
Serita Polinaire, 1st Vice Chair – District 2		X
Holly Herring – District 3		X
Stuart Gaiber – District 3	X	
Jessica Kramer – District 3	X	
Robin Sales, Chair – District 3		X
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4		X
Amanda Berry – District 4		X
Donald Romo – District 5	X	
<b>TOTAL VOTES:</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>

With a total vote of 9, Julie Hayden has been approved to serve as a BHAB Executive Officer Member-at-Large, representing the alcohol and substance use community for 2025 year.

**VI. ACTION ITEM: 2024 DATA NOTEBOOK**

ON MOTION of Amanda Berry, seconded by Holly Herring, BHAB approved the 2024 Data Notebook.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VII. ACTION ITEM: BHAB BEST PRACTICES | DISTRIBUTION OF CONTENT MATERIAL**

ON MOTION of Robin Sales, seconded by Joel San Juan, BHAB approved the Best Practices, Distribution of Content Material.

AYES: 12 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

**VIII. DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Luke Bergmann, Director, BHS, provided the following updates:

- With the continuity of the Board of Supervisors following the recent election, an important initiative brought forward by Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remember (District 3) is the Children, Youth, and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) Behavioral Health Continuum Framework. This initiative is an important opportunity for BHAB to be involved and engaged with the planning process.
- County of San Diego’s Health & Human Services Agency (HHS) recently underwent the following organizational changes:
  - Kimberly Giardina is now the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for HHS.

- The Medical Care Services Department will merge with the Public Health Services Department, bringing together two departments that have long shared the mission of enhancing the well-being of our community.
- The department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC) will undergo restructuring, with its functions integrated into various HHSA departments. The Office of Homeless Solutions will become part of Housing and Community Development Services, which holds statutory authority as the housing authority for unincorporated areas. This realignment aims to enhance housing services while maintaining a countywide focus on addressing homelessness and housing needs.
- The Office of Equitable Communities will join with the Office of Strategy and Innovation to align efforts around community and organizational engagement.
- The Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) waiver is expected to receive federal approval by January. The BH-CONNECT waiver seeks to address the significant shift in the Institute for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion, which excludes Medi-Cal reimbursement to psychiatric facilities with 17 beds or more. The waiver would enable Medi-Cal reimbursement for larger psychiatric facilities under specific conditions, such as stays that are 2 months or less. It was suggested that BHAB start familiarizing themselves with the BH-CONNECT materials due to its significant upcoming changes.
- Interests in Proposition 1 bond Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) round 1 funding has been increasing among community-based organizations. BHCIP round 1 funding will be dedicated to treatment services. With the new changes to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), BHS is required to provide a report to the state on allocation of fundings and any changes and impact the county is making.
- Patient advocate, Mike Philips, from Jewish Family Service of San Diego has been hosting Senate Bill (SB) 43 workgroups and providing trainings in various settings to help clinicians and law enforcement prepare for the implementation of SB 43, set to take effect in January 2025.
- The Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act Program in San Diego County has seen significant successes. San Diego County currently has twice as many CARE agreements compared to other counties, highlighting strong progress in the program's implementation.

#### **IX. CONCLUDING QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

The following questions and or comments were raised by the following BHAB members:

- Amanda Berry: Regarding the Optum data dashboards, it was noted that they were missing from the BHAB packets due to a system transition period. Dashboards will be provided in next month's packet.
- Serita Polinaire: Provided clarification regarding the BHAB Best Practices, Distribution of Content Material document is for the sharing of content submitted to the BHAB coordinator and BHAB Chair and requested to be distribute via email to BHAB members. If any members have any questions on content distribution, please refer to the document.

#### **X. CHAIR'S REPORT**

BHAB 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Serita Polinaire, thanked the BHAB members and BHS staff that attended the BHAB Fall Retreat. It was a successful and productive event with a focus on BHAB member engagement and the development of 2025 priorities. Maria Molina-Melendez, BHAB Coordinator, shared there will be a virtual 2025 BHAB Priorities Committee meeting on Friday, November 8, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. to develop a draft of the 2025 priorities for BHAB.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

BHAB Member, Julie Hayden, invited everyone to attend a special event at the East County Transitional Living Center (TLC) on Thursday, December 5, 2024, from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. The East County Transitional Living Center will host an open house and offer a guided tour of the facility.

**XII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

ON MOTION of Gaurav Mishra, seconded by Amanda Berry, the meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.