

**Sacramento County
Behavioral Health Commission (BHC)
General Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2025**

Meeting Time

Wednesday, November 19, 2025
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Meeting Location

2200 Front St,
Sacramento, CA 95818

Meeting Invitees

- Behavioral Health Commission
- General Public

Attendance			
Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Members			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
Donald Scherschligt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Judith Mummert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Sarah Weber	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Jennifer Churchill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Christian Jones	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Bradley Lueth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ryan Raftery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Laura Asay-Bemis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mykel Gayent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Theresa Riviera	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Patricia Wentzel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Javon Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Cassidy Paige	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Rosario Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Corrine McIntosh Sako	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Emily Halcon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Melinda Avey	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	John Durbin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
County Staff to Behavioral Health (BHC) Commission			
Name	Attendance	Name	Attendance
JaQuay Butler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Christopher Costa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent

Agenda Item	Discussion
I. Welcome and Introductions	<p>Chairperson Mummert called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Roll call was conducted, and a quorum was declared, with two members attending under <i>Just Cause</i> provisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Jennifer Churchill participated remotely for just cause under Government Code section 54953 due to recovery from a medical procedure. • Commissioner Patricia Wentzel participated remotely for just cause under Government Code section 54953 due to illness.
II. Behavioral Health Services Act Updates	<p>Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director, and Neeki Gilani, BHSa Program Planner, provided a presentation on Proposition 1 and the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSa). The presentation outlined key changes, funding reallocations, community partners consulted for feedback, and themes in the community feedback gathered thus far. See Attachment A - Behavioral Health Services Act Update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposition 1 takes effect July 1, 2026, replacing MHSA with BHSa.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BHSA does not add new funding but reallocates existing MHSA dollars into three categories: 35% Full Service Partnership, 35% Behavioral Health Services & Supports, and 30% Housing Interventions. • Approximately \$16.5 million in programs are proposed to sunset or see budget reductions, including school-based and general prevention programs, workforce education and training programs, crisis lines, and respite programs, due to new state rules and Medi-Cal alignment. • Medi-Cal-entitled services (urgent care, outpatient, residential, inpatient) will remain fully funded. • Community feedback highlighted “Glows” (trust, stigma reduction, prevention successes, peer services) and “Grows” (housing stability, system navigation, equity, workforce retention, coordination). • Housing investment and system accountability were emphasized as priorities moving forward. <p>BHC Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Patricia Wentzel asked if there had been conversation with the Board of Supervisors about redirecting funding from the Sheriff’s Office to support BHSA programs. • Commissioner Jennifer Churchill asked how the gap would be filled with the sunset of peer-operated programs and the need for community programs. Dr. Quist responded that voters mandated a shift to focus on serious needs and medical services, noting that some community wellness centers will continue but not all. • Commissioner Churchill further asked if the state had provided any funding guidance. Dr. Quist explained that counties are awaiting California Department of Public Health direction and that requests have been made for interim funding. • Commissioner Churchill expressed concern that these changes were not brought to the Commission for planning. Dr. Quist acknowledged that the timing had been unfortunate with the sunset of the Mental Health Board and the Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board. • Commissioner Bradley Lueth requested more information on housing cost details. Dr. Quist offered to provide a future presentation, noting relatively inflexible funding guidelines. • Commissioner Rosario Rodriguez asked whether housing funds would be managed by BHS or another county entity. Dr. Quist responded that this is still to be determined.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Rodriguez also asked about the impacts on respite programs. Dr. Quist explained respite was the County's first innovation program, designed to provide relief from stressors. • Commissioner Rodriguez noted the structural deficit and expressed concern about funding constraints. • Commissioner Avey asked which peer programs would be affected. Dr. Quist identified peer services at the Adult Psychiatric Support Services (APSS) and the Clinic, Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services (CAPS) Clinic and Community Support Team (CST) Peer Support.
III. Public Comment	<p>Public Comment 1: A community member asked how Turning Point operations will continue after the proposed cuts.</p> <p>Public Comment 2: A community member representing the Sacramento County Aging Commission highlighted the county's aging population (430,000 seniors) and requested support to meet their needs.</p> <p>Public Comment 3: A representative from Cal Voices expressed concern about the impact of proposed cuts. Cal Voices, founded in 1946 and a partner in creating the Family Advocate position, currently holds four county contracts, all of which are proposed to be cut. They emphasized the need to secure funding for peer-operated services under BHSA.</p> <p>Public Comment 4: A community member expressed sadness about the Stop Stigma program being cut, suggesting instead that all programs share the burden with proportional reductions (e.g., 30% across programs) rather than eliminating specific ones.</p> <p>Public Comment 5: A representative from Black Women United suggested the community remain united despite voter decisions, emphasizing the importance of prevention services and teamwork.</p> <p>Public Comment 6: A representative from the Office of Patients' Rights thanked staff for their work and asked whether housing funds allocated under the 30% requirement would be sufficient.</p> <p>Public Comment 7: A community member asked whether safeguards are in place to ensure the same quality of services once BHSA takes effect.</p> <p>Public Comment 8: A community member expressed hope that future meetings will discuss potential additional funding sources from the Department of Justice, such as Proposition 47 or other rehabilitation and education programs.</p>

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IV. Discussion/Action Item: Election of Officers	<p>Per the Bylaws, officer elections are required each November. To comply with this rule, elections were conducted again at this meeting. Chairperson Judith Mummert will continue serving through the 2025 term, with the newly elected Chairperson beginning their term in January 2026.</p> <p><u>BHC Election Results</u></p> <p>Chairperson Nominees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patricia Wentzel (6 votes) • Sarah Weber (Elected: 11 votes) • Corrine McIntosh Sako (declined nomination) <p>Vice-Chairperson Nominees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassidy Paige (Elected unanimously) <p>Public Information Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Asay-Bemis (Elected unanimously)
V. Committee Updates	<p>Committee updates were postponed to the December meeting due to time constraints.</p>
VI. Discussion Item: Committee Appointments	<p>BHC Committees</p> <p>Initial committee appointments were made at the first meeting of the BHC on September 24, 2025. New appointments are shown below:</p> <p>New Committee Appointments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Executive Committee Sarah Weber (starting in 2026) 2. Adult Prevention and Treatment Committee John Durbin 3. Youth Prevention and Treatment Committee No new appointments 4. Crisis and Justic Involved Committee Melinda Avey
VII. General Public Comment	<p>Public Comment 1: A community member shared that the Big Day of Giving is approaching. She encouraged community members to support grassroots organizations, emphasizing that many rely primarily on small donations and that collective giving can make a difference.</p>
VIII. Adjournment	<p>Chairperson Mummert adjourned the meeting at 8:05PM.</p>