

# Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission Retreat

## Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Time

Wednesday, April 15, 2026  
5:30 PM – 9:00 PM

### Meeting Location

WellSpace Health  
1500 Expo Ave  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
Margie Meza Conference Room

### Meeting Invitees

- Behavioral Health Commission
- General Public

### Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Members Attendance

Present: Donald Scherschligt, Sarah Weber, Tyler Welter, Ryan Rafferty, Mykel Gayent, Cassidy Paige, Corrine Sako, Melinda Avey, Michael Grabow, Judith Mummert, Bradley Lueth, Laura Bemis, Theresa Riviera, Javon Williams, Emily Halcon, John Durbin, Sydney Bice

Absent: Jennifer Churchill, Rosario Rodriguez

### BHC County Staff/Liaisons Attendance

Present: JaQuay Butler, Jane Ann Zakhary, Dr. Ryan Quist

Absent: Chris Costa

Facilitator: Dr. Addie Ellis

## Welcome and Introductions

*Participants: BHC Chairperson, Dr. Addie Ellis*

*Meeting Logistics*

### Roll Call & Administration

- Chairperson Weber called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM.
- Roll call was conducted; quorum declared.
- Remote participation: None
- March 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval: Minutes were generated and maintained by Behavioral Health Services staff as required by Article VI, Section 4, of the bylaws. No corrections were requested; minutes were deemed accurate and approved.

## 1. Public Comment on Matters Not on the Posted Agenda

*Participants: Members of the Public*

*Public Comment*

Members of the public provided public comment.

## 2. Overview of Commissioner Orientation

*Presenter: JaQuay Butler, Program Planner*

*Discussion Item*

### Summary of Discussion

Behavioral Health Services Program Planner JaQuay Butler provided a comprehensive overview of the orientation presentation all incoming Commissioners will receive. The presentation covered the Commission's purpose, statutory responsibilities, and advisory role within Sacramento County's behavioral health system.

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Key points included:

- Commissioner expectations and participation requirements
- Brown Act open-meeting requirements
- Conflict-of-interest rules
- The process for requesting agenda items and advancing recommendations
- Available BHS staff support and resources

## **Commissioner Discussion and Key Points**

- Clarification on speaking as individual's vs representing the Commission
- Guidance on elevating community concerns without intervening in individual cases
- Request to add representation categories (lived experience, veteran status, area of expertise) to table tents
- Interest in establishing a clear process for raising and tracking community concerns expressed during meetings

## **Public Comment**

No public comment

### **3. Operational Procedures and Structure**

*Participants: BHC Commissioners, Dr. Ellis*

*Discussion Item*

#### **Summary of Presentation**

Dr. Ellis facilitated a Think-Pair-Share activity focused on identifying operational priorities for improving Commission processes.

#### **Commission Discussion**

- Commissioners identified priorities including strengthening internal and external communication and collaboration, establishing an annual plan with focused monthly topics, applying consistent time limits for agenda items and speakers, and improving accessibility.
- Commissioners requested streamlined email workflows and easier access to meeting materials.
- Commissioners emphasized the need for a clear, consistent County process for responding to public comment questions raised during meetings.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment

### **4. BHC Priority Setting**

*Participants: BHC Commissioners, Dr. Ellis*

*Discussion/Action Item*

#### **Summary of Discussion**

Commissioners identified eight priority areas for the remainder of the year:

1. Geographic equity
2. Housing shifts and opportunities
3. Provider responsibilities and compliance

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4. Streamlined access to services
5. Mentorship and commissioner support
6. Budgeting and funding clarity
7. Prioritizing marginalized and underserved communities
8. Additional community-identified needs related to equity and access

Commissioners requested that all submitted ideas be compiled for review at the next meeting, that overlapping topics be consolidated, and that regular committee updates be incorporated into future meetings.

## **Public Comment**

Members of the public provided public comment.

## **5. Committee Nominations**

*Participants: BHC Commissioners*

*Discussion/Action Item*

### **Summary of Discussion**

To ensure appointments are made transparently and in compliance with Brown Act requirements Committee nominations are a standing item on the agenda. Current vacancies include:

1. One (1) Executive Committee seat
2. Two (2) Crisis & Justice Involved Continuum Committee seats
3. Four (4) Youth Prevention & Treatment Committee seats
4. One (1) Adult Prevention & Treatment Committee seats

### **Member at Large Nomination Results**

- Tyler Welter (6 votes)
- Melinda Avey (Elected: 11 votes)

### **New Committee Appointments**

1. Executive Committee
  - a. Melinda Avey
2. Adult Prevention and Treatment Committee
  - a. Sydney Bice
3. Youth Prevention and Treatment Committee
  - a. Mykel Gyant
4. Crisis & Justice Involved Continuum Committee
  - a. Teresa Riviera
  - b. Michael Grabow

### **Remaining Vacancies:**

1. One (1) Crisis & Justice Involved Continuum Committee seat
2. Three (3) Youth Prevention & Treatment Committee seats

## **Public Comment**

No public comment.

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## 6. BHS Liaison Roles

*Participants: BHC Commissioners*

*Discussion/Action Item*

### **Summary of Discussion**

Commission reviewed expectations for liaison participation and discussed potential partner boards. Assignments will be finalized as commissioners continue to express interest. Commissioners volunteered for several roles, including:

1. Human Services Coordinating Council
  - a. Melinda Avey
2. HIV Health Services Planning Council
  - a. Donald Scherschligt
3. First 5 Advisory Committee
  - a. Cassidy Paige
4. Behavioral Health Youth Advisory Board
  - a. Javon Williams
5. Continuum of Care Board
  - a. Emily Halcon
6. BHS Cultural Competence Committee
  - a. Mykel Gayent

## **Meeting Conclusion**

*Presenter: BHC Commission*

*Meeting Logistics*

- Commissioner Announcements: None
- Chairperson Weber adjourned the meeting at 9:03PM.

Recurring Meeting Schedule: Third Wednesday of the month, 6:00PM – 8:00PM (unless specified otherwise).

For more information regarding the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission, please visit our website at [Behavioral Health Commission](#). If you plan to attend a meeting and need to arrange for an interpreter or a reasonable accommodation, please contact Gail Brosnan prior to the scheduled meeting at (916) 709-1653 or at [BrosnanG@saccounty.gov](mailto:BrosnanG@saccounty.gov).