

Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission General Meeting

May 2026 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
6:00 PM – 8:00 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, Jennifer Churchill, Ryan Raftery, Cassidy Paige, Corrine Sako, Melinda Avey, Michael Grabow, Judith Mummert, Bradley Lueth, Laura Bemis, Theresa Riviera, Javon Williams, Emily Halcon, John Durbin

Absent: Tyler Welter, Mykel Gayent, Rosario Rodriguez, Sydney Bice

BHC County Staff/Liaisons Attendance

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

Absent: None

Welcome and Introductions

Participants: BHC Chairperson

Meeting Logistics

Roll Call & Administration

- Chairperson Weber called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- Roll call was conducted; quorum declared.
- Remote participation: None
- April 2026 Meeting Minutes Approval: Minutes were generated and maintained by Behavioral Health Services staff as required by Article VI, Section 4, of the bylaws. A correction regarding BHC Liaison assignments was requested. With this revision, the 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. Director's Report

Presenter: Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director

Discussion Item

Summary of Discussion

Dr. Quist provided updates across Behavioral Health Services (see attachment: [Director's Report – May 2026](#)).

Commissioner Discussion

- Commissioner Churchill requested clarification on who determines staggered term assignments.

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- Commissioner Sako requested clarification on the State's feedback on the Integrated Plan, specifically asking whether the comments received were primarily administrative or technical rather than programmatic.

Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Committee Updates & Memberships

Participants: BHC Committee Chairs

Discussion Item

Executive Committee

- The committee is working to finalize agendas earlier to ensure Commissioners have adequate time to prepare and to improve the timeliness of agenda posting.

Adult Prevention and Treatment Committee

- The May meeting included a presentation from Commissioner Halcon on Sacramento County Homeless and Housing Services providing context on how programs connect and inform committee work.
- In June, the committee will receive a presentation from Sacramento County's Elder Death Review Team. This meeting location will be at 7001 East Parkway due to room availability.

Crisis and Justice Involved Continuum Committee

- The May meeting included a presentation from Christy Gonzalez of WellSpace Health. The presentation outlined the funding across their crisis continuum.
- The June meeting will include information on Drug Testing in Mental Health Diversion and anticipated challenges. The committee will also discuss adjusting the meeting start times.
- The July meeting will include updates on Cite-and-Release Procedures and new implementation details.

Youth Prevention and Treatment Committee

- The April meeting was canceled due to facility access issues.
- The May meeting included presentations from prevention providers on full-service partnership and wraparound programs and student-focused treatment centers.
- The committee is awaiting updates regarding current operations from the Youth Detention Facility.
- The June meeting will include information on suicide prevention with a presentation by Sheri Green, Division Manager.

Public Comment

No public comment.

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4. BHS Budget Overview

Presenter: John Dizon, Division Manager

Discussion/Action Item

Summary of Presentation

Division Manager John Dizon provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026-27 BHS budget. To align with Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) requirements, the budget decreased in funding from \$771.8 million in FY 2025-26 to \$740 million. BHS priorities include maintaining current services, avoiding layoffs, and absorbing mandated cost increases while complying with BHSA funding shifts.

Commissioner Discussion and Key Points

- **Crisis Response, 988, and System Impacts**
 - Commissioners raised questions about quantifying public-safety and system-wide savings from crisis-response programs such as 988 and CWRT, including whether any savings could be reinvested. They also expressed interest in exploring university partnerships to support this type of analysis.
 - Commissioners sought clarification on the Governor's May Revise proposal to make the Mobile Crisis Benefit optional and its potential impact on 988 and local crisis-line operations.
- **Program Changes and Budget Reductions**
 - Commissioners requested clarification on programs affected by sunseting contracts and expressed concern about the impact of the 2% realignment reduction on service capacity.
 - Commissioners noted that they learned of budget reductions after decisions were made and suggested forming a budget committee to allow earlier review and input.
- **Peer Workforce Training**
 - Commissioners expressed concern about the loss of the Annual Peer Empowerment Conference and the resulting challenges for peers in accessing training and continuing-education hours.

Public Comment

Members of the public provided public comment.

Motion/Vote

Motion: To consider forming an ad hoc committee to explore the creation of a standing budget committee.

Action: Moved/Seconded: Chairperson Weber / Commissioner Churchill.

Yes: Donald Scherschligt, Sarah Weber, Ryan Raftery, Cassidy Paige, Corrine Sako, Melinda Avey, Michael Grabow, Judith Mummert, Bradley Lueth, Laura Bemis, Theresa Riviera, Javon Williams, Emily Halcon, John Durbin

No: None

Abstention: None

Motion: Passed

Motion/Vote

Motion: To appoint Chairperson Weber, and Commissioner Avey to the ad hoc committee.

Action: Moved/Seconded: Commissioner Avey / Commissioner Mummert.

Yes: Donald Scherschligt, Sarah Weber, Ryan Raftery, Cassidy Paige, Corrine Sako, Melinda Avey, Michael Grabow, Judith Mummert, Bradley Lueth, Laura Bemis, Theresa Riviera, Javon

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Williams, Emily Halcon, John Durbin

No: None

Abstention: None

Motion: Passed

5. Crisis & Justice Involved Continuum Committee Letter

Participants: BHC Commissioners

Discussion/Action Item

Summary of Discussion

The Crisis and Justice Involved Continuum Committee presented their letter focused on recommendations regarding Sacramento County's Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Crisis Care.

Motion/Vote

- **Motion:** To approve the committee's letter of recommendation regarding the Behavioral Health Coordinated System of Crisis Care.
- **Action:** Moved/Seconded: Commissioner Avey / Commissioner Churchill.
- **Yes:** Donald Scherschligt, Sarah Weber, Cassidy Paige, Corrine Sako, Melinda Avey, Michael Grabow, Bradley Lueth, Laura Bemis, Theresa Riviera, Javon Williams,
- **No:** None
- **Abstention:** Ryan Raftery, Judith Mummert, Emily Halcon, John Durbin
- **Motion:** Passed

6. Proposal to Form Administrative Ad Hoc Committee

Participants: BHC Commissioners

Discussion/Action Item

Summary of Discussion

- Commissioners considered forming an ad hoc committee to improve collaboration with Behavioral Health Services, strengthen internal processes, and create a structured way to transfer institutional knowledge from former chairs of previous advisory boards to current BHC leadership.
- County Counsel noted that administrative duties are assigned to BHS staff under Article IV, Section 4, and questioned whether an ad hoc committee was necessary. Counsel added that commissioners may discuss process improvements during regular meetings so long as open-meeting requirements are followed.
- Some commissioners expressed uncertainty about how the proposed committee would function given that administrative responsibilities rest with BHS staff and asked how the committee would address identified challenges or keep commissioners informed if only a subset of members participated.

Public Comment

- Members of the public provided public comment.

Motion/Vote

- **Motion:** To form an administrative ad hoc committee.

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- **Action:** Moved/Seconded: Commissioner Avey / Commissioner Churchill.
- **Yes:** Donald Scherschligt, Sarah Weber, Corrine Sako, Melinda Avey, Judith Mummert, Theresa Riviera, Javon Williams, John Durbin
- **No:** Bradley Lueth, Laura Bemis, Emily Halcon
- **Abstention:** Ryan Raftery, Cassidy Paige, Michael Grabow
- **Motion:** Passed

Motion/Vote

- **Motion:** To nominate Chairperson Weber, and Commissioners Sako and Avey to serve on the administrative ad hoc committee.
- **Action:** Moved/Seconded: Chairperson Weber / Commissioner Scherschligt
- **Yes:** Donald Scherschligt, Sarah Weber, Ryan Raftery, Cassidy Paige, Corrine Sako, Melinda Avey, Michael Grabow, Judith Mummert, Bradley Lueth, Laura Bemis, Theresa Riviera, Javon Williams, Emily Halcon, John Durbin
- **No:** None
- **Abstention:** None
- **Motion:** Passed

Meeting Conclusion

Presenter: BHC Commission

Meeting Logistics

- **Commissioner Announcements:**
 - Commissioners shared that when members of the public make comments, they would like acknowledgment or some form of response.
 - County Counsel: Noted that there is no legal requirement for the Board or Commission to respond to public comments; the public has the right to address the Board, but the Board is not obligated to provide answers during the meeting.
 - A commissioner reported visiting the Heartland facility on Stockton Boulevard and noted that staff were welcoming, attentive, and respectful. They also highlighted the availability of multilingual materials commonly spoken in Sacramento County.
 - Chairperson Weber provided follow-up from the previous meeting regarding consumer and family-member representation. Staff confirmed that recruitment efforts will continue and the Commission is currently meeting the required percentages.
- Chairperson Weber adjourned the meeting at 8:10PM.

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.