

**Sacramento County Mental Health Board
Children's System of Care (CSOC) Meeting**

MINUTES – IN PERSON MEETING, HYBRID PARTICIPATION

Monday, April 21, 2025

3:15 PM – 4:45 PM

Members Present: Corrine Sako, Kesha Harris, Theresa Riviera

BHS Staff Present: Desiree Andres, Melissa Herrera, Sheri Green

BHS Present Via Zoom: Rhapsody Flores

Sacramento LGBT Community Center: Jaime Gerigk

I. Welcome and Introductions

The Sacramento County Mental Health Board Children's System of Care (CSOC) meeting took place in person with hybrid participation on Monday, April 21, 2025, from 3:15 PM to 4:45 PM. Chair Corrine Sako opened the meeting at 3:17 PM, welcoming attendees and reviewed the [Acknowledgement of Conduct Agreement](#). Members present included Kesha Harris and Theresa Riviera, while BHS staff present in the room were Desiree Andres, Melissa Herrera, and Sheri Green, with Rhapsody Flores joining via Zoom. Jaime Gerigk, the Chief Program Officer at the Sacramento LGBT Community Center, was also present to provide a presentation.

II. Public Comments Relating to the Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services Children's System of Care – Items Not on Agenda

The first agenda item, focused on introductions and announcements by CSOC Committee members, was followed by a call for public comments. However, there were no public comments or attendees, either in the meeting room or on Zoom.

III. Presentation and Roundtable Discussion on Sacramento LGBT Community Center's Programs and Services for Sacramento County Youth

Jaime Gerigk presented the Sacramento LGBT Community Center's programs and services. Operating since 1978, the Center serves as a cornerstone for LGBTQ+ advocacy in Sacramento, providing a wide range of services that include sexual health care, harm reduction, counseling, housing support, youth programming, life skills development, and community engagement. Since 2019, the Center has expanded from 8 to 51 employees

and remains a vital support hub for LGBTQ+ youth facing homelessness, trauma, and systemic barriers.

Among its key housing programs, the STEP Emergency Shelter supports transitional-age youth (18–24) with 14 beds and a 90-day stay limit, offering trauma-informed, 24/7 wraparound care, including meals, housing advocacy, job counseling, and life skills coaching. Referrals are processed via 2-1-1. The Transitional Living Program (TLP), a two-year supportive housing initiative for youth impacted by crime, provides six confidential beds and requires participants to work or attend school at least 20 hours weekly while saving a portion of their income. The Center’s mental health services, delivered through CalHOPE-funded telehealth and in partnership with One Community Health and the Gender Health Center, were significantly impacted by the sudden loss of a major Sierra Health Foundation grant (federal) on April 1, 2025. This cut resulted in the layoff of two clinicians and two peer support specialists, leaving only one clinician to serve the growing client base. The Center is not currently able to bill Medi-Cal but remains open to building that infrastructure.

Sheri Green from BHS informed the speaker, attendees, and the board members that opportunities for Medi-Cal billable programs are posted on our procurement website: <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/Pages/Contractor-Bidding-Opportunities.aspx>

Despite funding challenges and growing anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment, the Center continues to grow its reach through programs such as the Q-Spot—a daily drop-in center for youth ages 13–24 that offers hygiene products, food, laundry access, life skills workshops, and peer-led support groups. More than 12 support groups meet regularly, serving specific populations such as Black Queer & Trans individuals, nonbinary youth, and parents, with some attracting up to 60 attendees. Community-building events include Queer Prom, family drag shows, youth nights, story times, and the Gender-Affirming Closet and Haircuts initiative. Recent highlights include a Gender-Affirming Fair with over 100 attendees and a career fair with 28 employers and over 200 participants.

The Center also engages in strong advocacy and public policy work, maintaining a visible presence at City Council and Board of Supervisors meetings and advancing legislative priorities such as a youth-led initiatives to place mental health hotline numbers on student ID cards. This proposal is currently under legislative review. In partnership with La Familia Counseling Center, youth interns are gaining advocacy experience and driving change. Outreach efforts extend into rural areas like Yolo, Placer, and El Dorado Counties, where discrimination fears limit in-person engagement; the Center is increasingly investing in virtual services and telehealth. In March 2025 alone, the Center provided sexual health testing to 259 clients, counseling to 87, and general support to 148 individuals.

IV. Presentation and Roundtable Discussion – Division Manager Update

Sheri Green, LMFT, Division Manager for Youth & Family Mental Health at Sacramento County BHS, shared an update on the County's evolving efforts to improve mental health care access, community partnerships, and system accountability. She underscored the value of integrated care and emphasized the County's reliance on real-time data from community forums and homeless encampment outreach to inform planning. Green addressed community concerns regarding past experiences where agencies promised change but failed to follow through, acknowledging the community's justified hesitance and emphasizing the importance of transparency, collaboration, and consistent follow-up. She invited attendees to contact her directly; she welcomes outreach and ideas.

Green highlighted a recent initiative focused on suicide prevention, where the County's epidemiologist identified a troubling spike in suicide rates among youth aged 17, with Native American youth particularly overrepresented. She emphasized the importance of sharing suicide data transparently and using it to guide interventions in disproportionately affected communities.

Additionally, Green spoke about the County's efforts to pilot a performance-based incentive model to ensure timely engagement with individuals following psychiatric hospitalization or incarceration—critical periods for suicide prevention. She also reported on challenges with procurement processes, particularly how complex and lengthy procedures limit participation by small or emerging organizations. To address this, BHS is working on streamlining contract requirements and developing alternatives to costly audits for smaller providers during the first year of innovation funding.

She also provided updates on the County's Welcome Home program, which continues to train direct service staff in motivational interviewing, even after original training funds were lost. BHS leadership stepped in to cover costs, enabling 20 programs to participate, especially those serving children in foster care.

Green further discussed the Innovation 7 project aimed at addressing homelessness and its intersections with mental health. The project targets populations with the highest need based on data—including areas with high rates of homelessness, child welfare involvement, and youth suicides, by ZIP code. Community forums and interviews have informed the project's design, and Green emphasized the County's commitment to making the process inclusive, culturally responsive, and community driven.

Corrine Sako expressed concern about the method used to collect community feedback, specifically questioning how the community response was procured. She noted that the population being targeted may not respond effectively to an online survey. In response, Chairperson Theresa Riviera proposed broadening the approach. Riviera further suggested expanding outreach efforts by distributing printed surveys and flyers at high-traffic community sites, including food banks, churches, local stores, and neighborhood hubs, to ensure a more inclusive and representative community response.

Finally, Green announced a new financial incentive for providers to implement new or enhanced practices into children's and adult outpatient services.

V. Adjournment – Next CSOC Meeting Scheduled for Monday, May 19, 2025, from 3:00 to 4:00 PM in Conference Room 1 at 7001 A East Parkway, Sacramento, CA 95823, Department of Health Services location.

Chair Sako reminded the group of the next meeting and adjourned the meeting at 3:56pm

Attachment – Sacramento LGBT Community Center Power Point Presentation



Center Services PP-
2025.pdf