

**Sacramento County  
Mental Health Board (MHB) General Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2025**

**Meeting Location**  
700 H Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

<b>Attendance</b>			
<b>MHB Members</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Corrine McIntosh Sako, <i>Chair</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Kesha Harris	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Evan Minton, <i>Vice Chair</i> (arrived at 6:26 p.m.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Bradley Lueth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Patricia Wentzel, <i>Secretary</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Theresa Riviera	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Laura Asay-Bemis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Supervisor Rosario Rodriguez	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Melinda Avey	<input type="checkbox"/> Present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent	Mallika Walsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Mykel Gayent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent		
<b>County Staff to MHB</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Jason Richards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent	Chris Costa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Absent

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<b>I. Welcome and Introductions</b>	<p>Chair McIntosh Sako called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was declared, introductions were made, and the Conduct Agreement was acknowledged.</p> <p><b>Mental Health Board Announcements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair McIntosh Sako reminded members about the 988 suicide crisis hotline, and provided handouts for community awareness and distribution.</li> <li>• Ms. Asay Bemis reminded members that the Journey of Hope mental health focused art exhibit will be from October 2nd – 31st at The Gallery by We Are Sacramento.</li> <li>• Ms. Wentzel announced that the NAMI Walks kickoff luncheon will be held on March 14th.</li> </ul>
<b>II. Public Comment</b>	<p>Public Comment 1: Community member discussed the upcoming open house for the Nueva Vista Sacramento Adult Residential Facility expansion on February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and provided a handout.</p> <p>Public Comment 2: Community member expressed opposition to a policy change regarding the Sheriff's Department not responding to certain mental health calls. Community member encouraged the MHB to examine this issue and encouraged the Board of Supervisors to hold a hearing.</p> <p>Public Comment 3: Community member advocated for additional resources for community members seeking behavioral health services in the community, specifically from the emergency rooms.</p>

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	<p>Public Comment 4: Community member discussed difficulties with psychiatric facilities choosing not to accept certain patients, and advocated for better behavioral health access from the emergency rooms.</p> <p>Public Comment 5: Community member expressed agreement with the commenters above regarding advocating for better behavioral health access for individuals in the emergency room.</p>
<b>III. Consent Matters: Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Ms. Harris moved to approve the December General Meeting minutes and Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. (All members voted Aye.) Motion carried.</p>
<b>IV. Division of Behavioral Health Services Director’s Report</b>	<p>Ms. Kelli Weaver, BHS Deputy Director, provided a written report on the status of Behavioral Health Services (BHS) (Handout #3). She also acknowledged the recent policy change by the Sheriff’s Department, with more discussion on this topic to come.</p>
<b>V. System Partner Updates</b>	<p>Ms. Lunardelli from Office of Patients Rights expressed concerns regarding psychiatric facilities declining to take patients from emergency departments and recent policy changes from the Sheriff’s Department regarding not responding to certain mental health calls. Office of Patients Rights continues to support and advocate on behalf of patients in these situations, with more conversations to come.</p> <p>Ms. Cazares from El Hogar discussed challenges with eligibility services and expressed concerns regarding the recent policy changes from the Sheriff’s Department regarding not responding to certain mental health calls.</p>
<b>VI. Mental Health Board Business</b>	<p><b>Liaison Reports</b> Written liaison reports were provided for the Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee and the Quality Improvement Committee.</p> <p><b>Committee Reports</b> Members were referred to the Mental Health Board Meetings webpage for MHB Committee Meeting minutes: <a href="https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Advisory-Boards-Committees/Mental-Health-Board/BC-Mental-Health-Board-Meetings-2024.aspx">https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/Advisory-Boards-Committees/Mental-Health-Board/BC-Mental-Health-Board-Meetings-2024.aspx</a></p>
<b>VII. Discussion/Action Item – Establish Member-at-Large for MHB Executive Committee</b>	<p>Chair McIntosh Sako outlined the schedule and duties for the vacant Member-at-Large seat on the MHB Executive Committee, which is vacant because there is not a Past Chair to occupy the seat at this time.</p> <p>No public comments were made.</p> <p>Mr. Minton moved to appoint Ms. Harris to this seat and Ms. Wentzel seconded the motion. (All members voted Aye.) Motion carried.</p>
<b>VIII. Discussion/Action Item: Review and Approve Recommended Bylaws for Sacramento</b>	<p>Chair McIntosh Sako reviewed the Bylaws for Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission (BHC), as detailed in Handout #9. The proposed bylaws were drafted by the MHB’s BHC Ad Hoc Committee. The Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board will be voting separately on their own proposed bylaws. Both sets of recommendations will then be sent</p>

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>
<p><b>County Behavioral Health Commission</b></p>	<p>to the Behavioral Health Director for consideration, and the Behavioral Health Director will make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.</p> <p>Public Comment #1: Community member expressed support for the bylaws, and acknowledged the desire of SUD consumers to remain anonymous based on years of history with anonymity in 12-step groups.</p> <p>Public Comment #2: Community member affirmed MHB members for their willingness to work with ADAB members on this new commission, and advocated for a spirit of cooperation and openmindedness.</p> <p>Public Comment #3: Community member expressed support for the bylaws, affirmed a 20-member commission as making the most sense in terms of functionality, and advocated for this integration on behalf of individuals with co-occurring disorders.</p> <p>Public Comment #4: Community member affirmed the good work of both the MHB and ADAB over the years, and advocated for integration and working together on one commission.</p> <p>MHB members expressed a desire for the minutes to reflect the following comments before the vote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Minton: Expressed support for one commission as the best way to serve the mental health and substance use disorder needs for members of the community. Concerned that more than one body would create inefficiencies in service.</li> <li>• Mr. Gayent: Expressed support for an integrated commission in helping individuals with co-occurring disorders and affirmed the importance of treating mental health and substance use disorders hand in hand.</li> <li>• Mr. Lueth: Concerned about a loss of parity based on the loss of representation by district, and affirmed the importance of representative government.</li> <li>• Ms. Riviera: Concerned about the loss of representation by district. Concerned about the lack of consideration for language and cultural representation for members on this commission.</li> <li>• Ms. Walsh: Reservations about integration of the two boards because of the entrenched positions of some members which would take away from time that this work is intended for.</li> <li>• Chair Sako: Giving up appointment by district type was a hard concession to make. Agreement with the concerns of MHB colleagues regarding the loss of appointment by district, and would be curious to know the districts of the ADAB members that would transferring to this body.</li> </ul> <p>Mr. Minton moved to approve the Bylaws for Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission and Dr. McIntosh Sako seconded the motion. (All members voted Aye.) Motion carried.</p>
<p><b>IX. Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Chair McIntosh Sako adjourned the meeting at 8:31.m.</p>