

Sacramento County Behavioral Health Commission Adult Prevention & Treatment Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Time

Monday, June 8, 2026
6:00 PM – 07:30 PM

Meeting Location

7001-A East Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823
Conference Room #1

Meeting Invitees

- BHC APTC Members
- BHC APTC System Partners
- General Public

Meeting Invitees

- Behavioral Health Commission Executive Committee Members
- General Public

Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) Adult Prevention & Treatment Committee (APTC) Members Attendance

Present: Melinda Avey, Laura Bemis, Sydney Bice, Emily Halcon, Bradley Lueth, Donald Scherschlight

Absent: John Durbin and Tyler Welter

BHC County Staff/Liaisons Attendance

Present: Erica Cambern, Pamela Hawkins, Lori Miller, Arys Scott, Allison Williams

Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: Melinda Avey, Chair

Meeting Logistics

Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum

- Chair Melinda Avey called the meeting to order at 6:00PM.
- Roll call was conducted; quorum was declared.
- Remote attendance: None
- May 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

- No public comment.

2. Chair Report/Announcements

Presenter: Melinda Avey, Chair

Discussion Item

Summary of Discussion

- No announcements.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

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3. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) Updates

Presenters:

Discussion Item

Pamela Hawkins, Health Program Manager

Allison Williams, Health Program Manager

Summary of Discussion

- Substance Use Prevention and Treatment (SUPT) Updates:
 - Welcome new staff member, Terry Nojima, Mental Health Program Coordinator.
 - The Letters of Interest No. SUPT/073 Peer-Led Integrated Recovery and Housing Pilot Program has concluded. The recommendation to contract with Monarch Clean and Supportive Living Homes LLC is pending Board of Supervisor approval.
 - Traditional Health for Drug Medi-Cal Benefit will be provided by two organizations, Shingle Springs Health and Wellness and Sacramento Native American Health Center.
 - In preparation for the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 4th Edition updates, BHS is awaiting further State guidance and will begin internal planning.
 - Thank you to all who have attended the SUPT Lower Barrier Training this fiscal year.
 - In May 2026, a total of 41 Brief Questionnaire for Initial Placement (BQIIPs) were completed by SUPT Senior Mental Health Counselors (SMHCs) at Community Outreach Recovery Empowerment sites. SMHCs supported 166 encounters with potential members and staff to help people with getting into treatment.
 - Upon further internal discussion, BHS leadership has determined that the guidance within the Dear Colleague Letter from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) regarding the purchase or distribution of Fentanyl, Xylazine, or Medetomidine test strips does not appear to apply across the board and focuses on SAMHSA funded programs.
 - SUPT is distributing Smoking Cessation Starter Kits to all SUPT Providers and teaching them how to order additional kits for members in the future.
 - On July 30, 2026, Bridges will host their ribbon cutting ceremony for their new perinatal program.

- Mental Health Updates:
 - On May 11, 2026, the newest Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) development, Madison Square Studios, began lease-ups for 118 affordable housing units including 15 units dedicated for BHS. Telecare Sacramento Outreach Adult Recovery is serving as the Full Service Partnership (FSP) provider, ensuring integrated behavioral health and housing supports. Our operational PSH portfolio is currently 529 units across 21 developments.
 - On May 19, 2026, the Board of Supervisors approved the new Adult FSP program pool. Through community input, the name RENEW, which stands for “Recovery, Engagement, Navigation, Empowerment and Wellness” was selected.
 - BHS is continuing to implement new state requirements put forth by the Department of Health Care Services, such as the reporting of Individual Service Level items that are non-Medi-Cal billable. FSP’s are also being trained on the BQIIP to directly screen and connect members to appropriate level of care with our SUPT providers.

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Commissioner Comment:

- Commissioner inquired if updating the ASAM is comparable to updating the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- Commissioner requested a high level overview of the ASAM changes.
- Commissioner asked what items are included within the Smoking Cessation Starter Kits.
- Commissioner expressed interest in learning what SUPT Lower Barrier Care implementation looks like for SUPT Providers, particularly for Residential Treatment.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

4. Sacramento's Elder Death Review Team

Presenter: Chris Ore, Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney, Sacramento County District Attorney's Office

Presentation/Discussion Item

Summary of Presentation

Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney, Chris Ore provided a comprehensive overview of the Elder Death Review Team's role in reviewing the deaths of Sacramento County older adults (aged 60 and older) who were receiving services (e.g., Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, or behavioral health services) and whose death was not due to natural causes.

Key points included:

- The Elder Death Review Team is comprised of law enforcement, city or county staff, and community organization staff. In conducting reviews, the team focuses on prevention efforts, prosecution of individuals who harm older adults, and helps to identify the needs of Sacramento County.
- In looking at factors such as whether an individual was housed or unhoused, a large percentage of those individuals who were unhoused had died from an overdose.
- A large number of accidental deaths were due to overdose of Fentanyl or other drugs.
- Elder abuse is common - one in ten older adults who live at home experience some form of abuse, including neglect or exploitation. Those interested in learning more are invited to attend the Sacramento Elder Financial Abuse Summit hosted by McGeorge School of Law on June 16, 2026. The flyer for this event is available on the BHC APTC meetings webpage.

Commissioner Discussion and Key Points:

- Commissioner inquired whether the accidental deaths due to overdose were of individuals who had chosen to use substances.
- Commissioner recommended considering intersectionality when looking at services like those provided by the homeless system of care as this could further help with identifying the needs of Sacramento County.
- Commissioners asked about the number of active review teams in California and how these teams are funded.

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- Commissioner asked how many of the individuals had received behavioral health services.

Public Comment:

- Public Comment 1: Lori Miller, BHS Division Manager, shared that BHS is participating on the Elder Death Review Team. BHS staff research whether the individuals were receiving behavioral health services and also help to identify any preventative measures that can be considered for the future.

5. Department of Homeless Services and Housing

(DHS) Updates

Discussion Item

Presenter: Emily Halcon, Director, DHS

Summary of Discussion

- The Point in Time (PIT) count indicates approximately 7,500 individuals experiencing homelessness, which is a 13% increase from the previous count. There was also a 70% increase in sheltered individuals demonstrating a commitment to reducing barriers to shelter access. Sacramento Steps Forward has a PIT data dashboard available on their website.
- On May 13, 2026, six officials from various counties met as a Continuum of Care Board.
- Florin Safe Stay will be transitioning operations management from City Net to Five Keys.
- Next Move will be discontinuing operations as of July 1, 2026. As a result, the operations management of Mather Community Campus will transition to Volunteers of America.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

6. System Partner Updates

Presenters: BHC APTC System Partners

Discussion Item

Summary of Discussion

- River City Recovery Center expressed gratitude to the County for the partnership on lower barrier care efforts. The Provider also invited all to attend their annual Recovery Happens BBQ in September 2026 noting that additional event details will be forthcoming.
- Saint Martin Foundation shared two success stories of supporting members through the use of Behavioral Health Bridge Housing flexible funds.

Commissioner Comment

- Commissioner asked about the SUPT Lower Barrier of Care Training incentives offered to SUPT Providers.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

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7. Future Agenda Items

Presenter: Melinda Avey, Chair

Discussion Item

Summary of Discussion

- Co-chairs are considering the possibility of establishing a new committee meeting date/time/location. This will be further discussed during the next meeting on July 13, 2026.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Adjournment

Presenter: Melinda Avey, Chair

Meeting Logistics

- Chair Melinda Avey adjourned the meeting at 7:27PM.

Recurring Meeting Schedule: Second Monday of each month, 06:00PM – 07:30PM (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.