



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) March 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:35 p.m. and was called to order by Kathy Rupe, Chair. Peter Dean led the board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kym Barber, Peter Dean, Olivia Esquivez Gonzalez, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Loren Mannard, Kathy Rupe, Jack Waldorf, Keryn Whitlow, Supervisor Terry Withrow

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Bocage, Keri Magee, Ruben Imperial, Juanita Espinoza, Olivia Jimenez

GUESTS PRESENT

Brian MacLaren, Codie Hernandez, Jessica Parman

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Olivia Esquivez Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of February 26, 2026, and Annie Henrich seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

Supervisor Terry Withrow reported that the Board of Supervisors approved the mid-year budget update, with the budget at approximately \$1.9 billion. Work has already begun on the 2026–2027 budget, and adjustments will be made once final numbers from the previous fiscal year are available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported that the committee finalized the agenda for the March 26, 2026, board meeting. The committee conducted interviews for prospective board members. Members discussed potential presentations for upcoming meetings, including Substance Use Treatment (SUT) planning, Doctors Behavioral Health Center (DBHC), and faith-based programs. Cynthia will reach out to Superintendent Scott Kuykendall's office to reschedule a presentation for the March meeting. The committee also discussed impromptu site visits.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

None reported.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, reported that BHRS applied for Promotora Project grants and secured funding for three projects planned for next year. The focus will be on rural remote communities, including Patterson, Newman (West County) and the Oakdale region.

PRESENTATION: Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Update

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, provided a high-level presentation on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), California's Proposition 1, passed in March 2024, represents a significant overhaul of the state's approach to mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services. This measure, officially titled the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), updates the 2004 Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and introduces the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act. A copy of the Power Point presentation was distributed to all board members.

Key changes:

- Inclusion of Substance Use Disorders
- State-Level Administration of Prevention Funds
- Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond

Under the reformed BHSA, county-level funding will be restructured to ensure a more targeted and outcomes-oriented distribution of resources.

Funds must be allocated into the following three categories:

- 30% - Housing Interventions
- 35% - Full-Service Partnership (FSPs)
- 35% - Behavioral Health Services and Supports

Statewide Behavioral Health Priority Goals:

- Access to Care
- Homelessness
- Institutionalization
- Justice Involvement
- Removal of Children from Home
- Untreated Behavioral Health Conditions

Public comment period: April 28, 2026 – May 28, 2026

Behavioral Health Board public hearing: May 28, 2026

Final submission to DHCS: June 30, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY

Peter Dean commented on the BHSA priority goal of removal of children from home, emphasizing the protection of parental rights. Ruben Imperial will request clarity on the legal framework for programs and provide an update as part of their next presentation.

Jack Waldorf raised the concern about access for undocumented children and their families, with confirmation that services are provided regardless of immigration status. Ruben confirmed that the Department will continue to provide treatment to all children in the community regardless of immigration status. Jack also made a request to expand Promotora programs in Ceres.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. The next meeting will be April 23, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., at 1130 12th St. Modesto.

Respectfully Submitted by O. Jimenez, Confidential Assistant III