



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) April 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:04 p.m. and was called to order by Kathy Rupe, Chair. Christopher Costin led the board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kym Barber, Christopher Costin, Olivia Esquivex Gonzalez, Daljit Grewal, Jack Griffith, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Kathy Rupe, Jack Waldorf, Keryn Whitlow, Terry Withrow

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Bocage, Keri Magee, Sam Groves, Juanita Espinoza, Olivia Jimenez

GUESTS PRESENT

Brian MacLaren, Jelaine Esguerra, Paul Cumming, Craig Gundlach, Stephanie Navarette, Roman Scanlon

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Margie Johnson made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of March 27, 2025, Keryn Whitlow seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

Supervisor Terry Withrow reported the following highlights:

- On April 15, 2025, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) Approved the Health Services Agency 2024 Public Health Annual Report. [See Board Agenda Item 7.1.](#)
- The county continues to work on the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY

Olivia Esquivex Gonzalez expressed her concerns surrounding immigration, emphasizing the importance of individuals advocating for their community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported the committee finalized the agenda for the April 24, 2025, board meeting. Additionally, it was mentioned that the Ad Hoc Committee continues to work on the potential reorganization of the existing sub-committees.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

Christopher Costin reported the committee discussed the following highlights:

- Focus is on the end-of-year budget.
- An audit of the 2025 CA Mental Health Plan & Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System Plan is scheduled for May 2, 2025.
- Human Resources has hired three new managers. In response to recent staff retirements, BHRS has brought on new personnel.

Inpatient Committee

None reported.

Mental Health Committee

None reported.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Committee

Annie Henrich reported that CEO Nick Gulino, gave a presentation on Recovery Medical Group, which offers telehealth services—including treatment for substance use disorders, medical, and psychiatric care—for adolescents and at-risk adults across 34 California counties. The Ventura office also provides residential services.

PRESENTATION: Stanislaus County Aging Services

Craig Gundlach, Interim Director of Stanislaus County Aging Services and Stephanie Navarette gave a presentation on the various programs offered through aging services. Pamphlets were distributed to board members.

- **Project Hope** offers a range programs designed to support older adults through difficult times. Services include social visits through the Friendly Visitor program, peer support with volunteer Senior Peer Counseling, or professional support from trained counselors for seniors aged 60 or older, who reside in Stanislaus County.
- **Pearls** (Program to Encourage Active, Rewarding Lives) engages older adults to support them by becoming more proactive in their lives, utilizing programs and resources in the community. Pearls is a free, short-term program (between four to five months) with the option to return should a need arise. It is open to participants aged 60 or older in Stanislaus County.
- **Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP)** is a team of Social Workers and Public Health Nurses who provide case management services to seniors on Medi-Cal in order to keep them at home as safely and independently as possible.
- Aging With Movement event will be held on May 3, 2025, at La Loma park in Modesto.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Keri Magee, Assistant Director, reported the following highlights:

- Dignity Village housing project held its grand opening on March 27, 2025. Nineteen individuals have moved into the 42-housing unit. BHRS provides on-site services seven days a week, and the site is staffed with 24/7 security.
- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Advisory Committee meeting will be held on April 30, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at 1325 H St., Modesto. The Annual Plan has been posted for public comment.

- Suicide Prevention Coalition meets monthly, the second Friday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Meetings are hybrid-via Zoom or in-person at Self-Help Federal Credit Union, 900 Crows Landing Rd., Modesto. The coalition includes participants from multiple agencies and community members and reviews data to make an impact on suicide prevention.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Annie Henrich shared that on May 17, 2025, the Stanislaus Asian American Community Resource (SAACR) will host a Scholarship Award Night, where 15 scholarships will be awarded to Asian high school seniors. Board members are invited to attend the event.

The Opioid Coalition will host an Empty Chair event in recognition of National Fentanyl Awareness Day on April 29, 2025, at the Vintage Faire Mall in Modesto from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Kym Barber distributed a flyer announcing the upcoming Mental Health & Wellness Resource Fair, which will be held on May 16, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at 800 Scenic Dr., Modesto.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next meeting will be May 22, 2025, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., at the Stanislaus Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd. Ste.15, Modesto.

Respectfully Submitted by O. Jimenez, Confidential Assistant III