



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) May 28, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:30 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, Daljit Grewal, Jack Griffith, Annie Henrich, Loren Mannard, Kathy Rupe, Keryn Whitlow, Supervisor Terry Withrow

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Bocage, Keri Magee, Ruben Imperial, Sandy Martinez, Juanita Espinoza, Erika Doronio, Olivia Jimenez

GUESTS PRESENT

Brian MacLaren, Codie Hernandez, Ana Davila, John Black, Andy Newman, Duke Cooper, Eden Chen

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Black, from Peer Recovery Art Project, advocated for individuals to reenter the community after incarceration. He discussed using remaining contract funds to expand services, create community engagement opportunities, and support people in recovery who are at risk of reoffending. He emphasized his team's commitment to helping participants maintain recovery and avoid returning to prison.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Jack Griffith made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of April 23, 2026, and Daljit Grewal seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

Supervisor Terry Withrow shared an update on the groundbreaking ceremony for infrastructure improvements in the Riverdale Park community, funded through county COVID-19 relief allocations. The project will provide curbs, gutters, sidewalks, city water, and sewer services to a long-underserved neighborhood, improving residents' quality of life and property values. Supervisor Withrow noted the strong community support for the project and highlighted the significance of reaching this milestone after several years of planning and collaboration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported that the committee finalized the agenda for the May 28, 2026, board meeting. The committee discussed planning for June–September presentations related to Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) implementation, including updates on the Hope Forward Residential Treatment

Campus, expansion of the Crisis Response Team, the START Program, fentanyl awareness, suicide prevention initiatives, and CalPride presentation opportunities. The committee also requested a presentation from Wellpath regarding behavioral health services provided within the jail system, with Cynthia Bocage coordinating efforts to schedule the presentation for June.

Additionally, members discussed the possibility of holding future meetings in rural communities to improve accessibility and increase community engagement. The committee also reviewed potential federal and state policy changes that could impact Medi-Cal eligibility, CARE Court, conservatorship proceedings, mental health diversion programs, and funding for mobile crisis response services.

Efforts are underway to embed Community Health Worker/Promotoras into treatment teams to address disparities in behavioral health access among Spanish-speaking Latino, African American, and Southeast Asian communities.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

None Reported.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, reported the following highlights:

- The Governor released the May revised budget, noting improved projections regarding the number of individuals who could potentially be disenrolled from Medi-Cal due to federal changes under HR1.
- The Governor's May Revision budget proposed a reduction in reimbursement rates and the removal of mandated status for mobile crisis response services. The county currently operates a Mobile Crisis Response Team that has expanded significantly and responds to 911 mental health related calls, supported in part by State reimbursement. BHRS will continue advocating to maintain current rate structures. Despite potential budget changes, BHRS intends to recommend continued expansion of the program due to its demonstrated positive impact on the community.
- Sheriff's Department and the County have issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new jail base services provider. The Sheriff's Department will be invited to a future meeting to discuss jail-based services and share its vision.
- Recommendations for filling current vacancies on the Behavioral Health Board are currently being prepared for Board of Supervisors' consideration.

Presentation: Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) 3-Year Draft Integrated Plan (FY 2026 – 2029)

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation, focusing on Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) 3-Year Draft Integrated Plan FY 2026-2029 for Public Hearing.

The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) was approved by California voters through Proposition 63 in 2004, it was established to transform California's public mental health system through a dedicated funding source for behavioral health services. The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) established through Proposition 1 and Senate Bill 326, became effective January 1, 2025, and replaces the former MHSA. The BHSA restructures behavioral health funding and expands allowable uses to include both mental health and substance use disorder treatment services while establishing new statewide requirements related to housing interventions, accountability, treatment capacity, and performance monitoring. A copy of the Power Point presentation was distributed to all board members.

The Integrated Plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on June 16, 2026. The final BHSA Integrated Plan must be submitted to DHCS by June 30, 2026.

PUBLIC HEARING

Kathy Rupe called the public hearing to order for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) 3-Year Draft Integrated Plan (FY 2026 – 2029). Kathy opened the floor to those present who wished to comment. All comments have been taken, the hearing on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) 3-Year Draft Integrated Plan FY 2026 – 2029 closed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. The next meeting will be June 25, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., at 1130 12th St. Modesto.

Respectfully Submitted by O. Jimenez, Confidential Assistant III