



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) June 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:04 p.m. and was called to order by Keryn Whitlow, Vice Chair. Jack Griffith led the board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kym Barber, Peter Dean, Olivia Esquiviz Gonzalez, Daljit Grewal, Jack Griffith, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Jack Waldorf, Keryn Whitlow, Terry Withrow.

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Bocage, Keri Magee, Chandra Campbell, Sandy Martinez, Olivia Jimenez

GUESTS PRESENT

Brian MacLaren, Darlene Thomas, Jelaine Esguerra, Roman Scanlon, Paul Cumming, John Black

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Olivia Esquiviz Gonzalez made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of May 22, 2025, Margie Johnson seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

Supervisor Terry Withrow reported on June 10, 2025, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) passed the Proposed Budget for Budget Year 2026. [See Board Agenda Item 6.1.](#)

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY

John Black expressed his appreciation and gratitude for Stanislaus County Behavioral Health Center.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Keryn Whitlow reported the committee finalized the agenda for the June 26, 2025, board meeting. The committee reviewed the status of annual reports. Training for board members has been confirmed for Saturday, June 28, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Peter Dean announced he is stepping down as Chair of the Mental Health subcommittee. Ruben discussed Prop 36 and addressed the \$4 million penalty for Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST). Additionally, Ruben shared, Suicide Prevention efforts are underway in Oakdale.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

None reported.

Inpatient Committee

None reported.

Mental Health Committee

None reported.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Committee

Margie Johnson reported that Jennifer Marsh, Coordinator for BHRS Prevention Services, presented statistics related to fentanyl use, including data from coroner's reports and hospital reports. She also extended an invitation to attend an upcoming meeting of the Stanislaus County Opioid Safety Coalition meeting.

Ad Hoc Committee

Kym Barber reported the committee decided to postpone its next meeting until after the board members' training on June 28, 2025, to gain insights that could help with restructuring the committees.

PRESENTATION: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Darlene Thomas, Program Coordinator for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), provided a PowerPoint presentation. NAMI is a mental health organization that provides education, advocacy, and support to individuals living with a mental health condition and to their loved ones. NAMI Stanislaus offers a variety of free resources, including presentations, classes, support groups and community outreach events. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed to all board members.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Keri Magee, BHRS Associate Director, provided a PowerPoint presentation on California's Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) process, specifically as it applies to felony cases. IST process evaluates whether a defendant has the mental capacity to understand the charges against them and assist in their defense. Criminal proceedings are typically suspended if the defendant is found incompetent and efforts are made to restore the defendant's competency through treatment. Other key points from the presentation included the following:

- Senate Bill 184 imposes financial penalties on counties that exceed their IST referral cap. Reimbursement is possible upon Department of State Hospitals (DSH) approval of an expenditure plan.
- FY2022 Baseline of 89 IST referrals. FY2023 exceeded baseline by 12 referrals and assessed a \$450,000 penalty (reimbursed in May). FY2024 exceeded baseline by 59 referrals and assessed \$3,975,000 penalty. Penalty funds are directed to the State's Mental Health Diversion (MHD) Fund, aimed to incentivize counties to implement diversion programs for individuals with serious mental illness, at risk for IST designation.
- Diversion Program allows felony IST defendants diverted from the criminal justice system to a county-run treatment program funded by DSH. Successful completion (typically over 18 months) results in dismissal of current charges. County proposes to use \$1,987,500 in Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) funds and \$1,987,500 from BHRS fund balance to pay the FY2024 penalty.
- CCP funds will be reallocated to support the Reintegration Team and Collaborative Courts Programs

- BHRS is currently developing recommendations for how its portion of the returned funds will be allocated and will submit an expenditure plan to DSH to enable reimbursement through the MHD Fund and reinvest the funds into local diversion efforts.
- County applied for two major grants through DSH to strengthen the County's ability to divert individuals with serious mental illness from the criminal justice system and provide appropriate community-based care. Stanislaus County submitted applications for non-competitive funds on October 16, 2024, and received a Notice of Award on October 24, 2024.

Chandra Campbell, Chief, Office of the Public Guardian and Forensic Services provided an overview of the following programs:

- Reintegration Support Team (RST) is a CCP funded program focused on early screening assessment and linkage to behavioral health services for individuals in jail or involved with diversion efforts.
- Collaborative Court Behavioral Health Services Team (CCBHST) is a CCP funded program that provides Full-Service Partnership level treatment. Stanislaus County pursued additional resources to build a sustainable infrastructure and expand diversion programming aimed at reducing future IST commitments.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Kym Barber reported that the Suicide Prevention Committee meets monthly and follows a structured format. Data is presented quarterly, including information from the coroner's office, public health, and statistics on 988 and 911 calls. The committee's focus is on strategies to reduce the number of suicides in Stanislaus County.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m. The next meeting will be July 24, 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