



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:05 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, Christopher Costin, Peter Dean, Olivia Esquiviz Gonzalez, Daljit Grewal, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Loren Mannard, Kathy Rupe, Keryn Whitlow, Terry Withrow.

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Bocage, Keri Magee, Pam Esparza, Ruben Imperial, Olivia Jimenez, Jennifer Selby, Lucy Escobar

GUESTS PRESENT

Brian MacLaren, Jelaine Esguerra

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Keryn Whitlow made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of June 26, 2025, and Daljit Grewal seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

Supervisor Terry Withrow reported that since the CARE Act was implemented in October 2023, there have been 2 plans and 60 agreements. A meeting will be held on July 25, 2025, including stakeholders, law enforcement, and Behavioral Health to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY

None reported.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported that the committee finalized the agenda for the July 24, 2025, board meeting. The committee summarized the BHB training conducted on June 28, 2025. Ruben Imperial explained Senate Bill 27 would expand CARE Court to include all mood disorders with psychotic features.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

Christopher Costin reported the following highlights:

- Funding Development-contract renewals for current fiscal year are nearly completed.
- Outcomes and Evaluations- recruitment is in progress for a new manager.
- Workforce Development-outreach for Veterans services to ensure their voice is heard.
- Dignity Village is at full capacity, currently housing 42 residents.
- End of FY 2025 budget and current budget is under review.
- Purchasing Card audit FY21-22 resulted in no finding for BHRS.

Inpatient Committee

None reported.

Mental Health Committee

None reported.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Committee

Margie Johnson reported Charles Yarnell, BHRS SUD Manager, provided a presentation on Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) and CalAIM.

Ad-Hoc Committee

None reported.

PRESENTATION: Dignity Village Housing Project

Ruben Imperial expressed his gratitude and commended the City of Modesto for their support of the Dignity Village housing project.

Pam Esparza, Chief of the Supportive Services Division, and Jennifer Selby, Housing Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Dignity Village Housing Project. Dignity Village is a 42-unit development funded by Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) as part of Care Court funding. The project was developed through a partnership between BHRS and DignityMoves. BHRS played a lead role in funding the construction and covering operational costs through the BHBH planning process. In addition, BHRS serves as the lead services provider, offering direct supportive services to residents living at Dignity Village. UP Holdings and RH Developers have formed a partnership known as Modesto BHBH, LP. This partnership has been contracted to manage property, maintenance, and security services at the site. The City of Modesto leased city-owned land to Modesto BHBH for the site and funded \$325,000 towards the wet cost of construction. The BHBH Program is designed to address both the immediate and long-term housing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness with serious mental health and/or substance use disorder. Priority is given to individuals enrolled in Care Court. Dignity Village opened on March 31, 2025, and is currently operating at full capacity. Three residents successfully transitioned out of Dignity Village. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed to the members.

Cynthia Bocage will coordinate with Pam Esparza and Jennifer Selby to arrange site visits to Dignity Village for members interested.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, reported the following highlights:

- Proposed updates to the CARE Court Act aim to expand eligibility criteria to include individuals with mood disorders with psychotic features. If passed, this change would significantly increase the number of people who qualify for CARE Court.
- Providing treatment access for incarcerated individuals remains a key challenge. To address this, the courts have agreed to launch a Behavioral Health Court. This new court will centralize efforts currently spread across multiple judges and public defenders, establishing a dedicated team—including a judge, district attorney, public defender, and treatment providers—to streamline diversion and connect individuals to care more effectively.
- As new programs like Behavioral Health Court are implemented, board members play a key role in asking how these programs are being applied. It's important to ensure there is collaboration and accountability among justice partners and treatment providers, with checks and balances in place to protect client rights and maintain program integrity. Ongoing dialogue is encouraged to ensure clients are represented.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Kym Barber distributed a flyer promoting the 2nd Annual 988 Day, taking place on Monday, September 8, 2025. This event aims to raise awareness about mental health resources and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. A flyer was also distributed for the Open Doors Training on Friday, October 10th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Stanislaus County Veterans Center, 3500 Coffee Rd., Modesto, with a focus on learning to authentically engage and support youth.

Annie Henrich shared information about a low-income outreach event offering free medical services—including dental cleanings, fillings, extractions, blood glucose and blood pressure checks, and acupuncture. This event will take place on Sunday, July 27, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center on Bodem St. in Modesto and is supported by an international group from Taiwan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m. The next meeting will be August 28, 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