



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) July 23, 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, Margie Johnson, Kathy Rupe, Jack Waldorf, Keryn Whitlow

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Bocage, Keri Magee, Katrina Cosner, Olivia Jimenez

GUESTS PRESENT

Rebecca Kaplow, Lawrence Johnson, Ana Davila, Megan Weidman, Ka Sadler, Roman Scanlon, Codie Hernandez, Brian MacLaren, Jo Haro

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Black, from Recovery Art Project, shared that they are pleased to be here and grateful for the opportunity to provide peer and recovery services in Stanislaus County. With 16 years of experience, they recognize the growing need for recovery support and look forward to building strong partnerships to better serve the community.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Margie Johnson made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of June 25, 2026, and Jack Waldorf seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

None reported.

Presentation: Supporting the Queer Community's Behavioral Health

Megan Weidman, Education and Youth Coordinator and Ana Davila, Community Health Worker at CalPride Stanislaus presented an overview of behavioral health supporting for the Queer community. CalPride Stanislaus is a public health, mental wellness, educational, and social justice organization that provides free, comprehensive resources and support to the community. The presentation highlighted the organization's mission and vision, as well as key protective factors and treatment principles for supporting the LGBTQ+ community:

- **Mission:** Empowering the LGBTQ+ community through intersectional advocacy, transparent education, and trauma-informed care.
- **Vision:** Liberating people, empowering the community, and honoring lived experiences.
- **Protective Factors:** Factors that may reduce the risk of depression and suicidal behavior among LGBTQ+ individuals include family acceptance, supportive social networks and chosen family, and access to LGBTQ+-inclusive medical and mental health services.
- **Minority Stress Treatment Principles:** Behavioral health providers can help minimize the

impact of stigma and discrimination by normalizing the effects of minority stress, supporting emotional awareness and regulation, encouraging assertive communication, addressing stress-related thought patterns, validating LGBTQ+ strengths, and affirming healthy expressions of sexuality and gender.

A copy of the Power Point presentation was distributed to all Board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported that the committee finalized the agenda for the July 23, 2026, board meeting. The committee also discussed the Jail Services presentation, emphasizing the need for expanded mental health and interpreter services in jails. Members also stressed strengthening community engagement, particularly with the LGBTQ+ and Southeast Asian communities. Ruben Imperial reported the Promotora project will be amended to retain six core Promotoras, continuing clinical services and community outreach across Turlock, Hughson, Modesto, Riverbank, Patterson, Newman, Oakdale, and potentially Ceres.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

Jack Waldorf reported the following highlights:

- Sutter grant will fund select Promotora programs for the next two years.
- Twenty interns will begin in the fall, 75% from California State University Stanislaus.
- BHRS vacancies have decreased from 22% to 11%.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Keri Magee, BHRS Chief Operations Officer, reported the following highlights:

- The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan has been approved, and implementation planning is now underway.
- BHRS is working with the CEO's Office on the upcoming budget cycle, with the adopted budget scheduled for Board consideration in September. The department is in growth mode and anticipates expanding programs under the BHSA plan.
- BHRS will seek Board approval next month to use Incompetent Stand Trial (IST) penalty funding to expand the Reintegration Support Team and Collaborative Court Behavioral Health Services Team, supporting efforts to reduce the IST population.
- BHRS is currently recruiting an Assistant Director for the Behavioral Health Plan Division to oversee managed care, quality, utilization and risk management, contract monitoring, housing and employment services, and access programs.

CORRESPONDENCE

Cynthia Bocage reported that the Board received correspondence from the Clerk of the Board advising that two of the three recommended Behavioral Health Board membership applications were scheduled for consideration by the Board of Supervisors on August 4, 2026. One application remains pending.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting will be August 27, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., at Hammon Senior Center, 1033 W. Las Palmas Ave., Patterson Ca.