BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS)
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)
August 27, 2026

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting convened at 5:30 p.m. and was called to order by Kathy Rupe, Chair. Kathy welcomed Katie Keo and Brian MacLaren as newly appointed board members. 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, Katie Keo, Brian MacLaren, Kathy Rupe, Jack Waldorf, Keryn Whitlow

STAFF PRESENT
Ruben Imperial, Cynthia Bocage, Sara Jacobo

GUESTS PRESENT
John Black, Paul Cunning, Erica Ayala, Jazmine Contreras, Mike Estrella, Cristina Martinez, Maria Quintana, Erika G., Albertina Reynoso, Yolanda Magana, Celia Rosa, Gaby Hernandez, Fernando Ulloa, Shivaughn Alves, Kat Ritchie, Raul Willete, Veronica Barron, Maria Rivera, Blanca Flores, Susana Montez, Raul Mendez, (Name illegible), member of the public.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
- Alicia Delgado shared her personal experience with the Promotoras program and described its positive impact on her health, wellbeing, and confidence.
- Erica Serrano expressed her gratitude for the Patterson Promotoras program.
- Veronica Barron shared her experience with the Promotoras program and its positive impact to her mental health.
- Erica commented on the Eighth Annual Mental Health Wellness is scheduled for September 12, 2026, at Hammon Senior Center in Patterson. Also shared information regarding Love Our Neighbors and its umbrella, Love Our City.
- Discussion included the need to expand services beyond monthly, including low to moderate level services.
- Shivaughn Alves noted the lack of homeless shelters and that Community Assessment Response & Engagement (CARE) Team services are provided at least monthly.
- Susan Morales shared that the Promotoras program has had significant positive impact on her family and personal growth.
- Yolanda stated that a nonprofit assists people experiencing homelessness, but additional support is needed due to the lack of shelters.
- Griselda Martinez shared that the Promotoras program helped her develop leadership and instructional skills, enabling her to facilitate services and give back to the community.
- A parent expressed concerns regarding difficulty accessing behavioral health services and medication for a child in Patterson.
- Sylvia Juarez expressed appreciation for the Promotoras program, highlighting its services, medical support, strong community network, and focus on mental health.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Keryn Whitlow made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of July 23, 2026, and Margie Johnson seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

Raul Mendez, Assistant Executive Officer, shared information about the Not My Child 5K Walk, which will be held on Saturday, August 29, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Modesto Junior College (MJC) West Campus.

Mr. Mendez also provided information regarding the Board of Supervisors' (BOS) consideration of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 County spending plan and adopted budget, scheduled for September 15, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. at 1010 10th Street in Modesto. The public is encouraged to attend in person, participate remotely, or watch the meeting online and provide input.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported that the committee finalized the agenda and the presentation for the August 27, 2026, board meeting and discussed logistics for the August board meeting in Patterson. Ruben Imperial provided updates for the Community Services Agency (CSA) deficit impacts and the BHRS reorganization, which includes new division for Contract Administration and Forensic System of Care. The committee also discussed the need for improved tracking of hospital placements, and greater integration of mental health and substance use services.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

None reported.

BHRS Program Site Visit - Turlock Behavioral Health Services Team (TBHST)

Kym Barber reported that she and Loren Mannard visited Turlock Behavioral Health Services (TBHST) to learn about its dual diagnosis program, which serves approximately 350 clients. The team was described as passionate and well-staffed, with a beautiful facility. Challenges included the need for specialized staff training, particularly in eating disorders and services for the LGBTQ+ community. The group also discussed satellite services for rural areas and assessment for the community. Ms. Barber expressed appreciation for the opportunity to visit TBHST and learn from its staff.

Ms. Barber also shared that the Suicide Prevention Coalition will participate with local community agencies in the October 31, 2026, Out of the Darkness Walk.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, provided an overview of BHRS and available behavioral health services and community resources.

Mental Health & Substance Use Treatment :

- BHRS serves as Stanislaus County's Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Plan and provider, ensuring eligible beneficiaries have access to medically necessary mental health and substance use disorder treatment.
- Serves adults, children, and youth with severe mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, and substance use disorders.
- Provides and coordinates services across the continuum of care, including medication,

clinical services, treatment, counseling, case management, care coordination, and family, peer, and community supports.

Housing & Supportive Services:

- Provides shelter, respite, supportive, transitional, and recovery housing services for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Crisis Services:

- Crisis services are available to all community members, regardless of Medi-Cal eligibility or ability to pay.

BHRS expanded its 911 mental health crisis response, allowing behavioral health staff to respond independently when appropriate and involving law enforcement when needed for safety.

BHRS has reorganized its structure and launched a Forensic System of Care to better coordinate services for individuals involved in the justice system.

- A Collaborative Behavioral Health Court was established to support individuals with behavioral health needs who qualify for diversion programs.
- BHRS is implementing the Sequential Intercept Model to ensure appropriate behavioral health services are available at each stage of the justice system.

BHRS reported increased behavioral health service utilization in Patterson and Newman, with approximately 341 individuals receiving treatment in FY 2025–26.

Paul Willet, Ambulance Director for the Patterson District Ambulance, part of Del Puerto HealthCare District, reported on the Community Mental HealthCare Project:

- BHRS is assessing opportunities to expand local services in Patterson, where no physical clinic currently exists.
- Del Puerto Healthcare District presented a planned healthcare campus that includes a 14,000 square foot behavioral health facility supported by a $27 million state grant.
- The project is expected to begin in 2028, with completion estimated for March 2030 and may include future crisis intervention services.

Following the presentation, the Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments. Members of the public were also invited to comment. Comments included support for the proposed services and facility in Patterson, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining prevention, wellness, peer, and youth mental health programs and ensuring continued access to services during the facility development period. Additional comments addressed transportation concerns, community partnerships, and the importance of social connection.

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The next meeting will be September 24, 2026, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., at 1130 12th St. Modesto.

Respectfully Submitted by O. Jimenez, Confidential Assistant III