



## Stanislaus County Agenda

### Behavioral Health and Recovery Services

Type of Meeting:	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD	Date:	Thursday, October 23, 2025	
Place:	Stanislaus Veterans Center 3500 Coffee Rd., Ste. 15, Modesto	Starting Time:	5:00 P.M.	
Facilitator:	Kathy Rupe, Chair	Ending Time:	6:30 P.M.	
Mission Statement:	The Stanislaus County Behavioral Health Board shall ♦ advocate for the highest possible quality of life, ♦ advocate for the elimination of stigma through education, ♦advocate for the removal of barriers to service, and will ♦ provide oversight and work in partnership with the staff of the County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Department.			
Order of Agenda Items		Person(s) Responsible	Desired Outcome (Info/Discuss/Decision)	Time Allocated
<p><b>AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:</b> Members of the public may be heard on any item on the Board's agenda. The Board will only allow comments by members of the audience on an item on the agenda during consideration of the item. Matters not on the posted agenda may be addressed at the beginning of the regular agenda. However, California law prohibits the Board from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an emergency. A person addressing the Board will be limited to 5 minutes unless the Chairperson of the Board grants a longer period of time.</p> <p><b>MATERIALS RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS:</b> Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Administration at 800 Scenic Drive, Building C, Modesto, CA during normal business hours.</p> <p><b>NOTICE REGARDING NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS:</b> Board meetings are conducted in English and translation to other languages is not provided. Please make arrangements for an interpreter if necessary.</p> <p>Las juntas son dirigidas en Ingles y no hay traducción disponible a menos que sea notificada con 72 horas por avanzado. Si necesita traducción, por favor contacte (209) 525-6225.</p> <p><b>REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:</b> In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Executive Assistant at (209) 525-6225. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.</p>				
Call to Order/Member Roll Call		Chair	Meeting Begins	5 minutes
Pledge of Allegiance		Chair / All	Pledge of Allegiance	5 minutes
Correspondence		Cynthia Bocage	Information/Discussion/Decision	3 minutes

<b>Approval of Minutes of 8/28/25</b>	Board Members	<b>ACTION: Approval of Minutes of 8/28/25</b>	5 minutes
Board of Supervisors Report/Comments	Supervisor Withrow	Consideration of Report/Comments	10 minutes
BHB Committee Reports	Committee Chairs	Information/Discussion	5 minutes
Slate of Officers: Ad Hoc Nomination Committee Recommendations	Margie Johnson Loren Mannard	Discussion	5 minutes
Ad Hoc Committee Restructure	Kym Barber Daljit Grewal Loren Mannard Kathy Rupe	Discussion	10 minutes
Department Report  Presentation: CBHPC 2025 Data Notebook: Wellness and Recovery Centers	Ruben Imperial, Director  Pam Esparza, Chief of Supportive Services Division	Consideration of Department Report	25 minutes
Public Comment: • Consumer • Family	All	Information/Discussion	10 minutes
Announcements	All	Information/Discussion	5 minutes
Adjournment	Chair	End of Meeting	2 minutes
<b>Next Behavioral Health Board:</b> <b>Thursday, November 20, 2025, 5:00 p.m., Stanislaus Recovery Center, 1904 Richland Ave., Ceres (Dining Room)</b>			
<b><i>Mental Health Services Act Essential Elements: ♦ Community Collaboration ♦ Cultural Competence ♦ Client/family-driven mental health system for older adults, adults and transition age youth and family-driven system of care for children and youth ♦ Wellness focus, which includes the concepts of recovery and resilience ♦ Integrated service experiences for clients and their families throughout their interactions with the mental health system</i></b>			

**STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Buck Condit District 1 • Vito Chiesa District 2 • Terry Withrow District 3 • Mani Grewal District 4 • Chance Condit District 5



## **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD**

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### **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) August 28, 2025**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting convened at 5:00 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 Esquivex Gonzalez, Annie Henrich, Margie Johnson, Loren Mannard, Kathy Rupe, Jack Waldorf, Keryn Whitlow

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Cynthia Bocage, Keri Magee, Ruben Imperial, Jennifer Marsh, David Diaz, Paula McDowell, Juanita Espinoza, Olivia Jimenez

#### **GUESTS PRESENT**

Brian MacLaren, Daniel Wendall

#### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cynthia Bocage reported that on August 19, 2025, the Board of Supervisors accepted Larry Bolton's resignation from the Behavioral Health Board, creating a vacancy in District 4.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Action: Keryn Whitlow made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of July 24, 2025, and Olivia Esquivex Gonzalez seconded the motion.

#### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT**

None reported.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY**

None reported.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Executive Committee**

Kathy Rupe reported that the committee finalized the agenda for the August 28, 2025, board meeting. The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) stakeholder meetings will be held in various regions, including evenings. Cynthia Bocage will track and share meeting locations. Kym Barber reported that the Ad Hoc Committee will present its final recommendations on the committee restructure for board approval in September. Ruben provided an update on the CARE Act amendment, which may expand program criteria to include mood disorders and psychosis.

##### **Administrative Fiscal Management Committee**

None reported.

Inpatient Committee

Jack Waldorf reported that the committee received a presentation from Christin Montoya, Regional Director of Operations for Stanislaus Psychiatric Health Facility. Christin presented information regarding the services provided at the facility.

Mental Health Committee

None reported.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Committee

Margie Johnson reported that Charles Yarnell, BHRS SUD Manager, provided a presentation on the Substance Use Disorder System of Care (SOC), covering all programs within the SOC.

**PRESENTATION: Relationship Engagement and Community Health (REACH) Program**

Paula McDowell, SUD Clinical Manager, and David Diaz, Mental Health Coordinator, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the REACH (Relationships, Engagement, and Community Health) Program — a key initiative of Stanislaus County Behavioral Health. REACH engages individuals in diverse community settings to reduce barriers to accessing services, using outreach events and partnerships to promote engagement, education, and recovery. The program emphasizes community involvement and reducing stigma around Substance Use Disorders (SUD). A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was distributed to all board members.

**DEPARTMENT REPORT:**

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, reported the following highlights:

- BHRS is convening a monthly Behavioral Health Leadership Collaborative committee meeting, that will include Executives, Directors, and CEO-level from contract treatment programs. This meeting aims to ensure alignment with county and departmental priorities and promote a shared understanding of the department's vision.
- As part of the statewide CARE Court Work Group, which focuses on implementation, data, and evaluation, the CARE Court Initial Annual Update Report will be sent to board members and included on next month's agenda in case there are any questions.
- Ruben attended a meeting at the Sierra Vista Community Center in South Modesto, alongside Supervisor Chance Condit and other law enforcement officials. The discussion focused on Prop 1, BHSA, and the impacts of the Promotora Program. Community members were informed that future stakeholder group meetings will be held to provide additional information, gather their input, and discuss how these programs will be rolled out.
- Ruben will be meeting with the Law Enforcement Executive Committee (LEEC) to discuss BHSA and other issues. In addition, he will be meeting with family members and members we serve and various diverse cultural ethnic communities, as well as city mayors, to address behavioral health concerns, homelessness, and gather input on community needs and priorities.
- Ruben encouraged board members to join him at upcoming community events to ensure BHB representation. He emphasized the importance of having at least one board member present to show the community that BHB provides local oversight and accountability, beyond the Board of Supervisors. This helps the community know they have accessible representatives to address their concerns on behavioral health, mental health, and substance use disorder issues. Cynthia and Ruben will review the event calendar and send invites to board members.

- Proposition 36 was implemented in January 2025, enabling individuals charged with certain substance use-related offenses to be diverted to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration. However, some offenses previously classified as misdemeanors have since been reclassified as felonies. As of July 16, 2025, there have been 318 referrals under Proposition 36, with 49 individuals granted judicial diversion and 29 enrolled in treatment.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Olivia Esquivel-Gonzalez invited board members to attend the Newman Fall Festival, taking place August 29 to September 1, 2025, at Pioneer Park in Newman.

Jennifer Marsh reported that the Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health Summit will be held on September 2 and 3, 2025. Additionally, Stanislaus County 5k Run/Walk will take place on September 20, 2025, at MJC West Campus, located at 2201 Blue Gum Ave., Modesto.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The next meeting will be September 25, 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