



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND RECOVERY SERVICES (BHRS) BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB) November 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting convened at 5:08 p.m. and was called to order by Kathy Rupe, Chair. Kathy Rupe led the board members and the audience in the pledge of allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

Cynthia Bocage, Ruben Imperial, Teresa Alvarez, Kong Vang, Melissa Farris, Paula McDowell, Charles Yarnell, Olivia Jimenez

GUESTS PRESENT

Jessica Parman, Deborah Allison, Brian MacLaren, Chris S., J. Fields, Codie Hernandez, Miguel, E. Romero, V. Zapien, N. Rivas, Chris A., Patric L., P. Smith, Timothy S., E. Sotelo, D. Grays, L. Banford, C. Jones, R. Acosta, R. Tobin, Todd D., David N., D. Francis, S. Savin, Allan S., K. Aguilera, Kathy A., Alexandre A. R. Gonzalez, N. Dawson, B. Hess, A. Ventura, R. Haslam, E. Stevens, N. Renteria, T. Stallworth, C. Benge, B. Waldrop, P. Rosales, Alexander C., W. Townsend, J. Raymundo, J. Rhea, N. Luna, R. Goes,

CORRESPONDENCE

None reported.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Action: Margie Johnson made a motion to approve the Behavioral Health Board minutes of October 23, 2025, and Daljit Grewal seconded the motion.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (BOS) REPORT

Supervisor Withrow encouraged consumers to remain committed to their recovery journey, emphasizing that each of them can make a meaningful difference.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONSUMER, GENERAL, FAMILY

None reported.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD (BHB)

Kathy Rupe presented the Slate of Officers as follows: Kathy Rupe as Chair and Keryn Whitlow as Vice Chair. With no further recommendations, Kathy made a motion to close nominations. Motion to elect Kathy Rupe as Chair and Keryn Whitlow as Vice Chair was made by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED BHB COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Action: Kathy Rupe called for a motion to accept the proposed committee structure. Kym Barber moved to approve it, and Daljit Grewal seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING RELOCATION AND TIME CHANGE

Action: Kathy Rupe called for the vote to approve the proposed changes to the Behavioral Health Board meeting time and location effective January 2026. Meeting location from 3500 Coffee Rd., Ste. 15, Modesto to 1130 12th St., Modesto, and adjusting the meeting start time from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Kathy Rupe reported that the committee finalized the agenda for the November 20, 2025, board meeting. Cynthia reminded the committee about the upcoming BHB training on November 8, 2025, held at the Self-Help Federal Credit Union, Modesto. The committee discussed the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) planning and upcoming BHSA Stakeholders meetings.

Administrative Fiscal Management Committee

None reported.

Inpatient Committee

None reported.

Mental Health Committee

None reported.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Committee

None reported.

DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Ruben Imperial, BHRS Director, reported the following highlights:

- A local DUI education program is proposing an expansion into one of the local cities. The January BHB agenda item will consider approval of this expansion. The BHB must find that there is a need for the program and that the expansion will not have an adverse financial impact on other DUI programs. After this finding, the item will go to the Board of Supervisors for final approval. Information regarding the proposal, along with material outlining the law and the role of the BHB will be distributed in December for review.
- BHRS continues to meet with Stakeholders on the Behavioral Health Services ACT (BHSA) Plan. On November 19, 2025, BHRS met with stakeholders; several BHB members were in attendance to review state-mandated performance goals the department will be required to report on.
- Ruben continues to meet with law enforcement executives to understand Behavioral Health (BH) priorities and community needs related to mental health (MH) 911 calls. Meetings have been held with the Ceres, Turlock, Modesto Police Chiefs, as well as the Sheriff's

Department, with a focus on strengthening partnerships and improving coordinated responses to MH emergencies. BHRS as well as the Sheriff's Department are developing trainings to clarify roles, authority on scene, communication protocols, and co-response procedures. BHRS staff have increasingly co-responded with law enforcement to MH 911 calls. Policies and protocols are being established to support effective coordination across jurisdictions, with positive feedback from law enforcement partners. Outreach is still needed with Newman and Oakdale law enforcement agencies.

- BHTA discussed incorporating employment programs for BHRS members as a requirement in new Plans. Downtown Streets Team funding and other employment programs were noted as supports for members.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Jack Waldorf and Kym Barber along with NAMI are teaching a class titled "Providers of Services".

Annie Henrich Stanislaus Asian American Community Resource (SAACR) member stated Kym Barber visited their organization to teach the group how to tell your story to help oneself and support community members. Additionally, Annie shared SAACR will be hosting a Holiday Gift giving event on December 7, 2025, at Enoch High School. Modesto City Schools will provide the names of families in need.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The next meeting will be Thursday, January 22, 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., 1130 12th St., Modesto.

Respectfully Submitted by O. Jimenez, Confidential Assistant III