



**Stanislaus County**  
 Department: Behavioral Health and Recovery Services  
 MINUTES



<b>Type of Meeting:</b>	Behavioral Health Equity Committee (BHEC)	<b>Date:</b>	March 9, 2026
<b>Place:</b>	1130 12 <sup>th</sup> Street, Room 16	<b>Starting Time:</b>	11:00 AM
<b>Facilitator:</b>	Lezzette Ervin	<b>Ending Time:</b>	12:01 PM
<b>Support Staff:</b>	Nicole Portillo		
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>BHRS Staff:</b> Melissa Ayson, Maribel McCarroll, Kristie Nelson, Erika Doronio, Terrance Massey, Cadence Envia</p> <p><b>Collaborative and Community Based Organizations:</b> Annie Henrich, Carlo Vasquez, Laura Urzua, Maria Lopez, Emily Beecroft, Kristin Brown, Laci Prather, Kathia Frias, Virginia Linker, Ana Davila, Gabriela Palos</p> <p><b>Community Representatives/Guests:</b> Stanley Bindner</p>		

Order of Agenda Items	Presenter(s)	Discussion	Scheduled Actions
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Lezzette Erwin	Lezzette called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM, and introductions were made.	
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	All	Lezzette asked for a motion to approve the February 9, 2026, meeting minutes. Melissa Ayson motioned. Carlo Vasquez seconded. Minutes approved. August 11, 2025, meeting minutes are pending.	
<b>BHSA Updates</b>	Maribel McCarroll	<p>Maribel provided a BHSA update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The timeline for the BHSA 3-Year Integrated Plan includes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Draft plan submitted to DHCS on March 30</li> <li>○ Public Comment Period: April 28 – May 28</li> <li>○ Final draft presented to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on June 17</li> <li>○ Final Draft submitted to DHCS on June 30</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Additional Behavioral Health goals, in addition to the statewide Behavioral Health goals, were identified through community input:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Overdoses</li> <li>○ Suicides</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further discussions regarding the additional goals and overall budget will take place as the planning process continues.</li> <li>▪ Individuals interested in being added to the BHSa Advisory Committee meeting email distribution list were encouraged to reach out to the BHSa team at <a href="mailto:bhsa@stanbhhs.org">bhsa@stanbhhs.org</a>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>FY 24-25 Behavioral Health Equity Plan</b></p>	<p>Lezzette Ervin</p>	<p>Lezzette reviewed the FY24-25 Behavioral Health Equity Plan in detail with the committee. The committee reviewed part of the plan, with the remaining items scheduled for review at the next meeting.</p> <p>Sections reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key priorities identified</li> <li>▪ Mission and Vision</li> <li>▪ Organizational Values</li> <li>▪ Responsibilities of the BHEM</li> <li>▪ Demographic and service data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ General population</li> <li>○ Medi-Cal population service needs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>During the review of the plan, Lezzette highlighted ADA compliance, examining trends through an equity lens, streamlining staff trainings to improve service quality, and the need for more committee members with lived experience.</p> <p>The committee engaged in a group discussion on demographic data, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Penetration rates and populations below county averages, with a focus on working with the elderly population and being more purposeful in outreach.</li> <li>▪ Possible reasons for observed disparities, including cultural stigma, census criteria affecting accurate counts, and the importance of identifying the race of unknown/not reported cases.</li> <li>▪ Strategies to address gaps and improve equity, such as meeting people where they are and tailoring interventions to better reduce disparities.</li> </ul>	<p>A committee member requested clarification that the “Sex” category in the chart refers to traditional biological or legal classifications (male/female) and asked whether there are plans to expand the chart to reflect self-identified gender beyond these two options. Lezzette indicated she would look into this matter.</p>

<p><b>Community Announcements</b></p>	<p>All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Know Your Rights About ICE Event – Scheduled for March 27, 6:00–7:30 PM at CalPride Stanislaus, 111 Modesto Avenue, Modesto.</li> <li>▪ Trans Day of Visibility – Scheduled for March 30, 5:00–7:00 PM at CalPride Stanislaus, 111 Modesto Avenue, Modesto.</li> <li>▪ March 2026 CalPride Events Calendar – Flyer provided</li> <li>▪ Building Bridges of Inclusivity Training – Scheduled for April 22, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM at Stanislaus BHRS, 1130 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Modesto – Flyer provided</li> <li>▪ The Stanislaus County Food Resource Guide is now available on the Food Initiative Greater Stanislaus (FIGS) website.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b> <a href="#">April 13, 2026 – 1130 12th Street, Room 16, Court Room, Modesto CA 95354</a></p> <p><b>Reminder:</b> The time spent on Quality Services activities can be claimed for reimbursement from enhanced funding. <b>All BHRS staff</b> are asked to code time spent on quality improvement activities and meetings on their time entry each week using organizational code <b>MH60211650</b> or <b>MH6501170 (for SUD)</b>. (Instructions are located on BHRS Intranet – QS TAB/Additional Resources). In addition, be sure to sign the sign-in sheet for these activities.</p>			

Respectfully Submitted By: Nicole Portillo, ADC III