

Behavioral Health Board Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2026, 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Chair:	Patricia Sullivan
Minutes:	Michelle Blake, Senior Office Assistant

---- Agenda Topics ----

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:01p.m. by Chair Patricia Sullivan.

2. Roll Call/Introductions

The Napa County Behavioral Health Board (BHB) met in a regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, with the following members present: Chair Patricia Sullivan, Members Kristine Haataja, Greg Clark, Amy Montanez, Sandra Oliva, Liz Marks, Rob Palmer, Walter Nygaard and Jasper Lowell.

Member Supervisor Liz Alessio and Member Shauna Tackett were absent.

Napa County Behavioral Health Services Staff present: Cassandra Eslami, Deputy Director of Health and Human Services - Behavioral Health, Erica Basulto, Supervising Senior Office Assistant and Michelle Blake, Senior Office Assistant.

3. Public Comment

Speaker Theresa Comstock mentioned that there was nothing to let the public know that they are allowed to comment on agenda items. The board should add something that will let the public know that they can do this.

4. Board Member Comment or Announcements

None.

5. Approval of Minutes and Consent Items

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2025 meeting by member Jasper Lowell and was seconded by member Sandra Oliva. All members present voted aye, with no abstentions.

*See list of members under item 2 Roll Call/Introductions

6. Old Business

None.

7. Speaker Presentation

- A. Theresa Comstock, Executive Director of CALBH/BC “How to be an Effective Behavioral Health Board Training” & Changes to the Brown Act Impacting BHBs
- CALBHB/C Training Materials: www.calbhbc.org/training
 - Brown Act Resources: www.calbhbc.org/brown-act

Please see attached Behavioral Health Board & Stakeholder Advisory Committee PowerPoint presentation for additional information.

7. New Business

A. NEW BUSINESS (discussion / action)

- Theresa discussed how to be an effective Behavioral Health Board and changes to the ground map, impacting behavioral health boards.
- Theresa let the board know that she is also the president of the California Coalition for Behavioral Health, which is another broad-based organization of associations related to behavioral health.
- Theresa Stated there is quarterly training in case anyone else would like to register. Starting with another Brown Act Training session a week from Saturday. The training courses are also available on the website as well.

B. Announcement of Resignations:

- Chair Patricia Sullivan made the announcement of Elizabeth Brumbley’s retirement and announced members Marion Villalba and Jeff Dickerson’s resignations as well. Making four vacancies open on the Board.

C. Media Release & Process for Recruitment of Members:

- The Board needs need one family member and one consumer.
- Chair Patricia Sullivan also mentioned that Greg Clark and herself will reach out to the Board of Supervisors regarding the reappointment of their positions on the BHB.
- It was mentioned by the board that if you know anyone that is interested in joining, please encourage them to fill out an application on our county website.

D. Site Visits:

- Chair, Patricia Sullivan stated that last year, somebody gave a presentation about substance use disorders and the sites that would help with those issues. Someone also came out from the mental health department to give a presentation and discuss what sites people can visit to help with those issues.

- Usually, people will sign up for site visits. Maybe this year if 2 or 3 people are interested that would be great. Preferably somebody with experience, who takes the lead, and then somebody who is in a learning capacity, a first timer.
- HHS Director, Cassandra Eslami stated that she spoke with Lynette today about getting a site visit list sent out. There is already a list of sites that have already been visited last year, but there are some discrepancies, so once Lynette gets the final list updated it will be given out. The list should be ready by tomorrow morning. (1/15/26) Once the list is complete the Executive Committee can look it over and decide on some sites to visit.

E. Behavioral Health Director's Report

- EQRO is coming up. We have transitioned, as most people know, from our old EQRO provider to our new EQRO provider, which is known as HSAC. They're the Health Services Advisory Group out of Texas, and this is our second year with them. HHS has pulled a ton of information, including our newly monitored measures for them to look at. This is very different from the old model we had, which really looked at clinical and programmatic services as well as data. The new EQRO is 95% just focused solely on our data.
- Over the holidays and winter break, all our information was put into the data system where they retain all our information and review it prior to our audit. The audit will be at the end of this month and just like last year we are being audited annually also are being audited for the Department of Health Care Services for Drug Medi-Cal organized delivery system waiver, as well as our substance use block grant at the end of February., the very end of February, and we are well prepared for that.
- For now, our department is waiting for any feedback based on information that wasn't provided so that we can get that sent to them.
- In our last Behavioral Health Board meeting, there was a presentation on the Behavioral Health Services Act and the transition from MHSA to BHSA. HHS is doing a lot of work right now, both with our executive team, including Jennifer Yasumoto, as well as Kimberly Danner, our Chief Fiscal Officer, on our integrated plan for housing, Behavioral Health Supported Services, and then our new EVPs, which will include our FSPs, the Assertive Community Treatment, and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment. So, doing a lot to really balance the budget going forward for those new programs, as well as really lift those evidence-based practices.
- There are a lot of program shifts right now with the staffing that we have and the programs that we have, including our full-service partnership programs, to lift Assertive Community Treatment, which is much more field-based and really engaged with clients who are at times more severe, or have a history of hospitalizations while really taking a look at how we can kind of merge some of our current programming, including the Care Act and Mental Health Diversion, into the Forensic Assertive Community Treatment Program.
- The integrated plan will get to the state on time, and the state will have the required 30 days to give us feedback, and they will give us the timeline back, as well, to respond to the feedback they give us. So, the team is both excited and nervous about the BHSA process.

- Behavioral Health Director, Casandra Eslami will be transitioning out of her role as Director at the end of next month (February 2026).
- SAMSA (Mental Health Block Grants) announcement. Funding the county gets for MH services, contracts might be exempt from the list, but funds are going to get cut by about two billion. SAMSA dollars are federal and don't come straight to the county. They go to the state first, and then they come to us. The funding we receive for now is safe.

F. Committee & Workgroup Updates – Hand in Reports:

- In this new year to please make sure to complete workgroup updates. It doesn't need to be much, just a few bullet points. Patricia Sullivan included a template for the report for board members to use. Those need to be completed, because they become part of the public records.
- Chair, Patricia Sullivan made an announcement to board members to please let her know if they will not attend meetings. She would like to keep track of who is attending.

G. CALBH/BC:

- CALBH/BC has done some advocacy in the last week regarding a new ruling on healthcare positions within the residential psychiatric facilities.
- They have 10 members on their governing board that all participate on one of the local boards in California.
- Cal Department of Public Health is implementing some new regulations that would result in the reduction of 700 beds in psychiatric hospitals, because they are changing the ratio of patient to nurse ratio.
- CALBH/BC has joined with other advocacy groups in California to write a letter asking them to delay their regulations and allow enough time to figure out funding and operations.
- Have already reached out to the Department of Public Health and the Governor's Office.
- It is supposed to be done by January 31st, 2026, but CALBH/BC is hoping it will be 2027. To give agencies need to be able to respond.
- CALBH/BC wants to work with them to make sure that the funding flows when they change regulations like that in the future.
- San Diego County is also at risk of losing 55 beds quickly, and it was for a variety of reasons that all counties face in terms of the staffing ratio.

8. Announcements & Informational Items

- A. Proposed Speaker Schedule for 2025 - 2026

February 11: SUD's - Contingency Management &/or SUDs RISE

- This will change to the HHS Be Well Van/Mobile Clinic presentation. The board will meet in the Walmart parking lot off Imperial at 4pm for the van presentation/tour. After the meeting we reconvene in the Silver Lupine conference room located at 650 Imperial Way where the last BHB meeting was held.
 - Meetings will continue at the new location until construction of the original conference room is complete. Construction should be complete by the end of February.
- B. Napa County Behavioral Health Board Meeting web page & link: includes EC & BHB meeting Agenda's, Minutes, Description of Board Purpose, Qualifications & Application:
[http://www.countyofnapa.org/HHSA/MentalHealthBoard/Napa County: Boards](http://www.countyofnapa.org/HHSA/MentalHealthBoard/NapaCountyBoards)
- C. Next Behavioral Health Board Meeting February 11, 2026 4:00 – 6:00pm.
- D. Next Executive Committee Meeting: January 22, 2026 Azelia Conference Room 4:30 – 5:30pm.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by member Greg Clark and was seconded by Rob Palmer. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:31 pm.