

CBHPC Executive Committee Meeting

June 18, 2025

Committee Members Present:

Erika Cristo*
Elissa Feld
Richard Krzyzanowski
Noel O'Neill
Mike Phillips
Susan Wilson
Daphne Shaw
Barbara Mitchell

Javier Moreno
Don Morrison
Maria Sierra
Deborah Starkey
Bill Stewart
Arden Tucker
Tony Vartan
Uma Zykovsky

*=Remote Attendance

Committee Members Absent at the start of the meeting: Karen Baylor and Arden Tucker

Staff Present: Jenny Bayardo

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Tony Vartan called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Council Members and attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was established with 16 of 17 members present at the start of the meeting.

January and April 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Chairperson Susan Wilson stated there were no minutes to review. Tony commented that we have a shortage of staff and will catch up on the minutes by the next meeting. No action was taken.

Council Membership Update

Executive Officer Jenny Bayardo provided the update on behalf of the Chief of Operations, Naomi Ramirez, who is expected to return by the next meeting. There are two vacancies for persons with lived experience. There are several interested applicants who will be interviewed if they meet the Councils current needs. Javier Moreno inquired about interest in being appointed to the Council. Jenny Bayardo shared that we have several applications on file and more applicants than vacancies. For this reason, the Executive Committee has identified priority areas of expertise to assist in the selection of new Council members.

FY 2024-2025 Expenditure Report

Jenny Bayardo shared there is no expenditure report to share at this time. Council staff are working with the department on closing out the fiscal year expenses and will provide an expenditure report at a later date. Jenny Bayardo stated that the Council will use all the funds from both accounts for Fiscal year 2024-2025. Allotments for next year have not been released. The replacement of the seasonal clerk is on hold until the Council knows how much money we will receive for Fiscal year 2025-2026 and the restriction on blanket positions are removed.

Tony Vartan addressed Jenny Bayardo stating that we need to be mindful that the work of the Council has grown a lot and the work of the committees has expanded. We need to look closely at staffing and resources to ensure the Council is supported.

Noel O'Neill asked about the Mental Health Block Grant funds. Jenny Bayardo stated that there have not been cuts to our federal funding, it was the Mental Health Services Act budget that was impacted with a 15% reduction. Jenny Bayardo called on Erika Cristo to ask if the Department has any new information on the status of federal funds. Erika Cristo, DHCS Liaison, stated that there is no new information and the Department will keep the Council informed as changes occur.

Javier Moreno stated that we need to ensure the Council is properly staffed, as that has resulted in the Council being able to take on more work and appoint new members to the Council. Javier asked about the timeline for allotments. Jenny Bayardo shared that we have requested the funds needed to maintain required Council activities, including in-person meetings, and to fill the clerk position recently vacated. The allotments are expected no sooner than July of 2025.

Ad Hoc: Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Implementation Advocacy Update

Chairperson Tony Vartan invited the Ad Hoc members to give the committee an update on their recent activities. Members of the Ad Hoc team shared high points of activities and outstanding items since the April update.

- Comments were provided for the BHSA policy modules and the performance outcomes developed by the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee (Uma Zykovsky)
 - We must decide what to do next around the policy manuals and think about their impact at the county level
- The Department of Health Care Services has released several Behavioral Health Information Notices on Evidence Based Practices which are related to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Implementation (Uma Zykovsky)
- We must find a way to track how the money is moving around and think about if we have a committee structure to do that (Uma Zykovsky)
- Counties will be judged on their outcomes, and the proposed outcomes measures do not reflect things the counties can control, this has not been resolved (Barbara Mitchell)

- Some terminology used in the regulations have no definitions, and in other cases there are contradictions particularly in housing sections. We anticipate clean up of policies and regulations will be needed and therefore we will continue to track this. (Barbara Mitchell)
- The Integrated Plan portion of the Behavioral Health Services Act has quick turnaround as the counties must have the plans in to the Department by March of 2026 and the policy modules are still in development. (Susan Wilson)
- The Behavioral Health Measures counties are responsible for related to substance use disorder extend beyond the influence of the counties. The Council recommended measures be separated by type of service. (Javier Moreno)

Tony Vartan thanked the Ad Hoc committee for all the work they have done on behalf of the Council.

Jenny Bayardo directed the Executive Committee to the BHSA Council Priorities crosswalk document used to track activities related to the Proposition 1/ Behavioral Health Transformation implementation. It was updated by staff after the April meeting.

General Session Upcoming Meetings

Susan Wilson shared that the Officer Team has been discussing how we decide what to cover at General Session. Items identified for future meetings included:

- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) training for Council Members and inserting SUD into the overall work of the Council (Susan Wilson & Javier Moreno)
 - Overview of the Continuum of Care to include what it looks like, licensing process, and services in each level of care
 - Intersection with housing and housing services
 - Narcotic treatment programs
- Education on Behavioral Health (Mental Health) System of Care for those not as familiar (Javier Moreno)
- The Council would benefit from a training about the differences in licensing in mental health versus SUD housing programs (Barbara Mitchell)
- Understanding of the treatment system in Substance Use Disorder versus Behavioral Health (Barbara Mitchell)
 - Include how clients see it
- Build foundation and knowledge base of Council members to support policy recommendations and advocacy around Behavioral Health Transformation (Tony Vartan and Javier Moreno)
- Hold public forums on Fridays to communicate to our stakeholders (Susan Wilson)
- We need to be realistic and make time on our agenda during General Session to share our own information and findings, such as the Data Notebook and other survey reports (Uma Zykosky)
- Patients' Rights in Substance Use Disorders is not typically addressed; we should explore this more especially now with integration/Behavioral Health Transformation (Uma Zykosky)

- Identify and explore key definitions related to the Behavioral Health Services Act and Integration of SUD (Uma Zykovsky)
- Committee agendas also need to shift to do some deep work related to our priorities and the information then shared at General Session (Tony Vartan)
- Education on housing for Substance Use Disorder under BHSA (Barbara Mitchell)
 - How do these systems work together
 - How do clients see this working
- The Council should review current committees to see if they address everything being suggested and our current work (Daphne Shaw)
- Use Quarterly Meetings for public forms so we do not extend time for Council Members and the public to attend (Bill Stewart)
- The Children and Youth workgroup members have requested that Children's Mental Health and SUD be addressed during General Session (Jenny Bayardo)
 - We should build the framework/educational base before going into specifics like Children's Substance Use Disorder (Javier Moreno)
- Patients' Rights in Substance Use treatment is something San Diego County is already doing and the team in San Diego can provide education in this area (Mike Phillips)
 - Tony commented we will call on them for future General Session meetings.
- An acronym list for Substance Use Disorder is needed to be added to the Council's existing Acronym list (Barbara Mitchell)

Tony Vartan encouraged Council Members to submit additional suggestions to the Executive Officer Jenny Bayardo. The Officer Team will meet to discuss these suggestions and bring them back to the Executive Committee at the next meeting.

Committee Distribution Review & Discussion

Tony Vartan referred committee members to the committee distribution list in the meeting packet. He then asked committee chairperson to reflect and comment on the current distribution of members in each committee. Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer, shared that we must be mindful of who is on the committees and look at the mix of appointment types on each committee.

- There should not be more than a quorum on a committee-no more members in Legislation and Public Policy Committee.
- Committees should ideally have a balanced distribution of appointment types.
- Members who are on leave will be removed from committees.
- Suggest considering rotating members through committees.
 - Some members are concerned about rotating due to the expertise and history needed for some subject matters discussed in various committees.
- Staff will work with the Officer Team to address attendance issues.
- The Executive Committee consists of committee chairpersons. Workgroup members are invited to attend at times but are not official members of the committee.

- The membership of Patients' Rights is prescribed in law (Welfare and Institutions Code 5514)
- Patients' Rights Committee has a vacancy for a person with lived experience.
- Performance Outcomes Committee is a voluntary committee that takes place on Tuesdays. The size is appropriate at this time.

In closing, Tony noted we are not far from where we should be with the distribution of Council Members on the committees. He asked chairpersons to pay attention to attendance and in-person participation of committee members.

Approve Transparency Statement (Vote)

Tony Vartan referred members to the transparency statement in the meeting packet. Jenny Bayardo reported that the Transparency Statement was updated based on Council Member responses to the e-mail requesting a review of the transparency policy and member activities for the upcoming fiscal year. Council Members Barbara Mitchell, Javier Moreno, Arden Tucker, and Tony Vartan reported additional changes that were made to the Transparency Statement.

Noel O'Neill made a motion to approve the Transparency Statement as corrected. Bill Stewart seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Committee. Public Comment included a question from Stacey Dalglish about whether Council Members who do not disclose should be listed. Chairperson Tony Vartan shared that the requirement is that Council Members disclose potential relationships that fall under the Council's review. Noel O'Neill referred to the four bullets on the tab for this agenda item that states when a Council Member should disclose.

Motion: Approve the corrected Transparency Statement.

A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed. (16 Yes, 0 No and 1-person absent Erika Cristo)

Report from CA Coalition for Behavioral Health

Daphne Shaw reported that the CA Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH) has not met since the April 2025 Council meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2025. There will be a presentation by Brenda Grealish from the Commission on Behavioral Health, the Trevor Project, and Richard Krzyzanowski from CHAMPRO.

Report from CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards (CALBHB/C)

Executive Director Theresa Comstock reported that the CALBHB/C continues to meet quarterly and holds training for the Behavioral Health Boards statewide. Theresa stated she loved the idea Council Members shared today about doing more with our local behavioral health boards and commissions during General Session on Fridays. This would bring more people and recognize the importance of the role of the Behavioral

Health Boards and Commissions. Theresa shared that the Commission is now involved in the contracts which has delayed the approval of the CALBHB/C contract by a few months.

General Public Comment

Janet Frank stated that the work the Council is doing around integrating substance use and mental health under the umbrella of behavioral health is very important. She went on to suggest that this is played out through the selection of committee leadership. The Council appears to be moving in the right direction to support integration.

Stacey Dalglish expressed support of the idea that Council Members rotate through committees. She also stated that younger people need to be brought in to the Council to build up the historical memory. Stacey requested that the Council provide their updated glossary to the commissions across the state.

Wrap-Up and Plan for Next Meeting

Tony Vartan thanked Council Members and the public for their contributions to the meeting. The next meeting is on October 15, 2025, in Burlingame, California.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.