

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council**  
**Patients' Rights Committee**  
**January 21, 2026**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:**

Mike Phillips, Chairperson  
Catherine Moore  
Daphne Shaw

Richard Krzyzanowski, Chair-Elect  
Don Morrison  
Susan Wilson

**Council Staff Present:**

Justin Boese

Simon Vue

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**Item #1: Welcome and Introductions**

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**The committee meeting began at 10:30 a.m.**

Mike Phillips welcomed all Patients' Rights Committee (PRC) members and guests. Committee members, staff, and guests introduced themselves. A quorum was established with 6 of 7 members present.

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**Item #2: Review Meeting Minutes**

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The committee reviewed and accepted the October 2025 meeting minutes, with no edits requested.

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**Item #3: Engaging Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions**

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Mike Phillips led a discussion on how the committee could engage local behavioral health boards and commissions. Mike said that it aligned with the Council's focus for 2026, which was discussed in the Executive Committee meeting. Mike added that he felt there was a general lack of awareness of patients' rights advocacy in the local behavioral health boards and commissions. He noted that the committee could conduct another survey of the local boards and commissions, following up on the 2021 survey that focused on patients' rights advocacy in jails.

Daphne Shaw shared that in her experience, patients' rights advocates aren't typically present in local behavioral health board meetings. She said that a good way to engage the boards and commissions would be through Theresa Comstock, the Executive

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Director of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions. Daphne also suggested that the committee present during a CALBHB/C meeting, rather than trying to go to county board meetings individually.

Richard Krzyzanowski shared that patients' rights advocacy was a very technical subject, and many people in the behavioral health field don't have much understanding of it. He explained that the patients' rights advocate role can often feel very isolating and suggested that greater awareness could be built by engaging people outside of crisis situations.

Susan Wilson stressed the importance of connecting with Theresa regarding the April agenda, and to ask for her help finding a few behavioral health board and commission members to come speak to the committee. She also suggested that the committee facilitate a presentation to the full Council on patients' rights advocacy to increase all members' knowledge on the subject.

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**Item #4: California Office of Patients' Rights Updates**

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Daniel Wagoner, the interim director of the California Office of Patients' Rights (COPR), updated the committee on the organization's recent activities. Daniel said that recently they conducted training with LA county (patient's rights advocacy team on the implementation of Senate Bill 43. They have also been working on updating their online training materials for newly hired patients' rights advocates. The organization is putting together an online portal for patients' rights advocates to access the training manual, videos of previous trainings, and other information. Daniel shared that COPR is holding their annual patients' rights advocacy training conference in Sacramento in April 2026 during the same week that the Council is holding their quarterly meetings.

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**Item #5: Committee Workplan Development**

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The committee continued the development of a new work plan for 2026 and beyond. A draft workplan was included in the meeting materials, which included four goals. The goals were:

1. Increase the number of Patients' Rights Advocates in California.
2. Engage Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions on issues affecting patients' rights advocacy.

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3. Strengthen the committee's legislative responsiveness to advocate for Patients' Rights Advocacy.
4. Prioritize the inclusion of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs and facilities as part of the patients' rights advocacy system.

Daphne brought up the 2025 LPS Act Report that was recently published and said the committee should set aside some time to review and discuss it.

Susan Wilson noted that for Goal 3 of the draft workplan, the patients' rights committee and staff should collaborate with the Legislation and Public Policy Committee to ensure timely action on patients' rights related bills. She added that this work should include actions beyond just sending letters.

Catherine Moore suggested that the committee investigate a new model for outpatient conservatorship being used in Los Angeles County. This model has had success so far, including reduced time in locked facilities and reduced homelessness.

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**Item #6: Planning for Future Meetings/Activities**

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Mike Phillips and other members identified some next steps and agenda items for the January 2025 meeting. These next steps include:

- Reaching out to local behavioral health boards and commissions to engage them on the topic of patients' rights advocacy, including inviting board/commission members to speak to the committee in April.
- Continuing development of the committee's work plan.
- Reviewing patients' rights advocate training verification forms received from the California Office of Patients' Rights.

**The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.**