

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Performance Outcomes Committee
January 20, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Noel O’Neill, Chairperson
Karen Baylor
Catherine Moore
Liz Oseguera

Susan Wilson, Interim Chair-Elect
Lanita Mims-Beal
Don Morrison

Invited External Partners Present:

Theresa Comstock, CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions
Samantha Spangler, Behavioral Health Data Project

Staff Present:

Justin Boese
Linda Dickerson

Jenny Bayardo
Simone Vue

Item #1: Welcome and Introductions

The committee meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

Noel O’Neill welcomed all committee members and guests. A quorum was established with 7 out of 8 members present.

Item #2: Review Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed and accepted the October 2025 meeting minutes.

Item #3: Homelessness Webinar Debrief

Noel O’Neil led a debrief of the webinar on homelessness that was held on December 4, 2025. The one-hour webinar event was facilitated by Noel. Susan Wilson and Samantha Spangler presented findings and recommendations from the 2024 Data Notebook Overview Report and the Data Notebook Part I 5-Year Analysis Report. Noel shared that he felt the event was very successful.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Performance Outcomes Committee
January 20, 2026
Meeting Minutes

Noel asked Jenny Bayardo for her thoughts on the event and what improvements could be made for the next one. Jenny said that advertising the event earlier and more often would be the main improvement. She said that between thirty and forty people attended the event, including some legislative staff. Samantha Spangler said that she felt it was a very good turnout for the first webinar the committee has facilitated.

Item #4: Quality and Equity Advisory Committee Updates

Anna Naify from the Department of Health Care Services, Quality and Population Health Management program presented to the committee on the activities of the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee. Her presentation gave a brief overview of the purpose and structure of the committee. She then described the two phases of their work developing behavioral health measures.

Anna said that Phase 1 are interim measures based on publicly available data. These population level measures are not performance measures. Phase 2 is the development of performance measures that use Medi-Cal claims data for county behavioral health and managed care plans. She said it will result in fifty to seventy measures in total that will be used for planning purposes. The Department of Health Care Services will use the claims data to calculate the measures which will be published annually. Anna noted that a statewide data analytics tool will be implemented to make the data more available and accessible.

Item #5: Data Notebook Debrief and Discussion

Noel O'Neill asked staff for an update on the publication of the Overview Report for the 2025 Data Notebook on Wellness and Recovery Centers. Justin Boese reported that the report was in the final stages of review by the Department of Health Care Services and is expected to be approved soon. Once it is approved, the report will be distributed to the local behavioral health boards and commissions, county behavioral health departments, and other stakeholders. Noel asked Linda Dickerson to share her thoughts on the completed report. Linda said she was very impressed with how informative and well-edited the final product is.

Noel then reviewed the proposal for the 2026 Data Notebook that was included in the meeting packet for members. The document proposes that the focus for the 2026 Data Notebook would be behavioral health services for foster youth. Noel noted that the

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Performance Outcomes Committee
January 20, 2026
Meeting Minutes

committee would partner with the California Alliance of Child and Family Services for the 2026 Data Notebook. The proposal included the following questions to guide the development of the 2026 Data Notebook: :

1. Is our study to learn more about how counties work with their local system of care to serve this group?
2. Are we interested to know the access, quality and length of treatment that individual youth receive?
3. Do we want to know the concerns and needs for change the organizations within the Alliance are promoting?
4. Do we want to know specifically how the Boards and Commissions view services that foster care youth receive?
5. Ultimately, are foster youth receiving the quality care that they need and deserve from trusted providers in a timely manner?

Noel noted that planning for the 2026 Data Notebook is in the early stages, and the committee will have more discussion during the development.

Item #6: Behavioral Health Services for Foster Youth Panel

The committee received presentations from a panel of speakers on the topic of behavioral health services for foster youth.

The purpose of the panel was to educate the committee on the foster youth system for the 2026 Data Notebook. The panelists included:

- Liz Oseguera, Performance Outcomes Committee member and Director of Public Policy for the California Alliance of Child and Family Services.
- John Bucher, a Program Director at the San Diego Center for Children.
- Jeff Wieman, Executive Director of the Angels Family Foster Network.

Liz Oseguera provided background information on the membership of the California Alliance of Child and Family Services and the work they do. The Alliance is the collective voice for over 160 non-profit community-based organization dedicated to service children, youth, and families. The organization provides legislative and regulatory advocacy to the Governor, the Legislature, and various state departments.

Liz presented an overview of several topics to inform the committee, including:

- California Department of Social Services (CDSS) tiered rate structure (TRS). The tiered rate structure is a new method for paying those that work in child welfare that are based on the individual needs of each child, rather than the type of placement they are in.
- Concerns about the tiered rate structure from the Alliance, including the concern

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Performance Outcomes Committee
January 20, 2026
Meeting Minutes

- that unsustainable rates will lead to service providers closing their doors.
- High Fidelity Wraparound, an evidence-based, team-based practice for servicing youth and families with the most intensive mental or behavioral health challenges.
 - A cost analysis of the CDSS tiered rate structure.
 - A summary of Assembly Bill 896, which mandates changes to the foster care placement and transition practices.

John Bucher informed the committee about his work in San Diego, where he a=has provided wraparound services for youth for over 12 years. Last year his program served over 240 youths. He described the team structure, the population they serve, and how the wraparound model of care works in practice. The program is currently going through the certification process for the High-Fidelity Wraparound model with support from UC Davis. John also highlighted key successes, challenges, and the challenges that youth and their families continue to face.

Jeff Wieman shared the story of how he founded Angels Foster Family Network after his family experienced fostering a young child. Angels Foster Family Network primarily focuses on children from ages 0 to 5. Jeff said that the state is focused on a kinship-first model, where the priority is to have foster children placed with family members rather than unrelated foster families. Jeff expressed support for this model but said that there is a gap in terms of support services for the family or kinship caregivers. Angels Foster Family Network piloted a kinship caregiving program since March 2025, but it is completely self-funded. Due to unsustainable funding and rates, they are closing in a couple of months.

Noel thanked the panelists for their presentations. He asked members how they would like to approach the 2026 Data Notebook focused on foster youth. Karen Baylor asked whether local behavioral health boards and commissions would have much knowledge about this topic. Susan Wilson noted that a key goal of the committee is to help educate the behavioral health boards. Liz added that specialty mental health plans will now include a High-Fidelity Wraparound component. She mentioned that the counties may not be fully aware of the issues in the child welfare system but agreed with Susan that the committee could help educate them on it. Noel concluded by stating that the committee will continue the discussion at the next meeting in Sacramento.

Item #7: Next Steps and Planning for Future Activities

Noel O'Neill and the committee members identified some next steps and agenda items for the April 2026 meeting. These next steps include:

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Performance Outcomes Committee
January 20, 2026
Meeting Minutes

- Facilitate a webinar on Wellness and Recovery Centers, sharing results from the 2025 Data Notebook.
- Continue the development of the 2026 Data Notebook on behavioral health services for foster youth, including drafting potential survey questions.
- Invite presenters to speak to the committee on foster youth services, from organizations such as the California Alliance of Child and Family Services, the Department of Social Services, and/or the County Behavioral Health Director's Association of California.
- Nominate a new chair-elect for the committee

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.