

California Behavioral Health Planning Council

Executive Committee Agenda

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

The Residence Inn Sacramento Capital Park
1121 15th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Capitol Room

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 812 9047 2133

Passcode: 926093

Join by phone: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 926093

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|------------------|---|--------------|
| 8:30 a.m. | Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping
<i>Tony Vartan, Chairperson</i> | |
| 8:35 a.m. | Review and Accept January 2026 Draft Meeting Minutes (Action)
<i>Susan Wilson, Chairperson-Elect</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Discussion• Public Comment• Accept Minutes | Tab 1 |
| 8:40 a.m. | Council Appointments & Recruitment Plan Update
<i>Naomi Ramirez, Chief of Operations</i> | Tab 2 |
| 8:50 a.m. | FY 2025-26 Expenditure Report, Allotments & Budget Discussion
<i>Naomi Ramirez, Chief of Operations</i> | Tab 3 |
| 9:00 a.m. | Integration of Council's Focus for 2026: Committee Work
<i>Tony Vartan, Chairperson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of Final Document• Committee Discussion | Tab 4 |
| 9:15 a.m. | Break | |
| 9:25 a.m. | Report from CA Coalition for Behavioral Health
<i>Daphne Shaw</i> | |

If reasonable accommodation is required, please contact the Council at (916) 701-8211 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council

- 9:35 a.m.** **Report from the CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions**
Theresa Comstock
- 9:45 a.m.** **General Public Comment**
Members of the public can comment on any non-action agenda item that did not have public comment or any other general item.
- 9:55 a.m.** **Wrap-Up and Plan for Next Meeting**
Tony Vartan, Chairperson
- 10:00 a.m.** **Adjourn**

The scheduled times on the agenda are estimates and subject to change.

Public Comment: Limited to a **2-minute maximum** to ensure all are heard.

Executive Committee Members

Officers: Tony Vartan, Chairperson Susan Wilson, Chair-Elect Deborah Starkey, Past Chair

Housing/Homelessness: TBD, Chairperson Maria Sierra, Chair-Elect

Legislation: Javier Moreno, Chairperson Deborah Starkey, Chair-Elect

Patients' Rights: Mike Phillips, Chairperson Richard Krzyzanowski Chair-Elect

Systems and Medicaid: Karen Baylor, Chairperson Ian Kemmer, Chair-Elect

Workforce and Employment: Bill Stewart, Chairperson, David Cortright, Chair-Elect

Performance Outcomes: Noel O'Neill, Chairperson

At-Large: Arden Tucker

Liaisons: **CBHDA:** Elissa Feld **DHCS:** Erika Cristo

CCBH: Daphne Shaw

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**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Executive Committee**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Accept January 2026 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Enclosures: None

Background/Description:

The January 2026 Draft Meeting Minutes will be e-mailed by the Chief of Operations at least three (3) business days before the meeting. Committee members will review and accept meeting minutes.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council Executive Committee

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Council Appointments & Recruitment Plan Update

Enclosures: [Council Appointment List](#)
Recruitment Plan

Background/Description:

To ensure fulfillment of the provisions in Welfare and Institution Code Section 5771, the Chief of Operations updates the Executive Committee on appointments at each quarterly meeting. The Executive Committee reviews council composition needs and identifies any actions needed. The committee also periodically reviews the recruitment plan to ensure recruitment activities are relevant and focused on the immediate needs of the Council.

Appointments

There are currently two (2) vacancies on the Council for Persons with Lived Experience. After the January 2026 meeting, Naomi Ramirez, Chief of Operations (COO), carried out the following activities:

- Reached out to partner peer organizations to share information about current vacancies.
- Submitted information for applicants who attended the January 2026 meeting to the Officer Team.
- Set up interviews for applicants who meet the Council's current needs.

No changes have occurred since the January meeting.

Recruitment Plan

The Chief of Operations will review the current recruitment plan and provide a report on activities/deliverables conducted to date in alignment with the plan. Topics discussed related to the plan will include

- Identification of members available to partner with staff at exhibit tables for upcoming conferences
- Review and discuss events for 2026-2027 Fiscal Year

- Review staff “crosswalk” of Council Member partnerships (Recruitment Strategies 2b)
- Select 2-3 items identified in the “Recruitment tools and Deliverables” section of the Recruitment Plan to complete by end of this fiscal year

This agenda item provides an opportunity for the committee to influence the recruitment activities of the Council and to discuss any changes or additions needed to the current plan.

Council Member Recruitment Plan

Council Member Recruitment Plan

The recruitment plan was adopted in 2019. All Council Members and staff will be familiar with the recruitment plan and current appointment needs. The primary goal is to fill current vacancies timely with qualified candidates whose strengths align with the Mission and Vision of the Council. This recruitment plan will help the Council in fill future vacancies as they become available. The Executive Committee will monitor the effectiveness of the plan quarterly and revise as needed.

Current Vacancies: As of March 2024, we have 2 vacancies for Persons with Lived Experience.

Mission and Vision of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC)

Vision: The CBHPC envisions a behavioral health system that makes it possible for individuals to lead full and productive lives. The system incorporates public and private resources to offer community-based services that embrace recovery and wellness. The services are client and family-driven, responsive, timely, culturally competent, and accessible to ALL of California's populations.

Mission: The CBHPC evaluates the behavioral health system for accessible and effective care. It advocates for an accountable system of responsive services that are strength-based, recovery-oriented, culturally and linguistically responsive, and cost-effective. To achieve these ends, the Council educates the public, the behavioral health constituency, and legislators.

Recruitment Process

The Executive Officer, along with the Officer Team (Chairperson, Past-Chair and Chair-Elect) will regularly assess membership to identify membership composition needs to ensure compliance with WIC Sec 5771 and discuss this with the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will ensure the Council's composition is demographically, geographically and culturally and linguistically balanced and reflects Council priorities and areas of interest. Our recruitment efforts will include:

1. Targeted recruitment efforts for regions under-represented on the Council
 - a. Identify members on the Council in these areas to solicit lists of organizations for potential recruitment
2. Targeted recruitment of members representative of California's diverse population
3. Targeted recruitment of individuals with SMI/SUD and family members of persons with SMI/SUD.
4. Targeted recruitment around areas of membership composition needs identified by the Executive Committee
 - a. Identify, prioritize and come to consensus on current areas of interest to focus on when recruiting new members for current vacancies

Council Member Recruitment Plan

Recruitment Strategies

Immediate:

1. Engage all current Council Members in the recruitment process as appropriate and when needed. Council Members are encouraged to:
 - a. Identify opportunities for partnership
 - b. Participate in relationship building
 - c. Make direct referrals
 - d. Post event photos, event announcements or articles of interest to the Council's Facebook Page or submit these items to CBHPC staff for posting
 - e. Assist with staffing CBHPC recruitment tables at conferences and other mental/behavioral health events
2. Identify and develop Council members who will establish new relationships and expand existing partnership within the identified targeted areas to assemble a pool of potential applicants for current and future vacancies.
 - a. CBHPC staff will collect information about Council Member's current partnerships
 - b. CBHPC staff will develop a "crosswalk" of Council Member partnerships including organization descriptions and identification of the organizations area of expertise
 - c. Executive Committee can/will utilize "crosswalk" to identify and recruit Council Members to assist with recruitment of new members to be considered for appointment by the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
3. Engage existing partners in the recruitment process as appropriate and when needed.

Ongoing:

4. As ambassador of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Executive Officer **must** have the ability to represent the Council state-wide to advance the Mission and Vision of the Council as well as fulfill our federal requirements and state mandates. It is essential that the Council partner with local behavioral health organizations. The Executive Officer will re-establish and strengthen existing partnerships as follows:
 - a. Attend local behavioral health meetings in target areas as appropriate
 - b. Identify and attend mental/behavioral health advocacy meetings across the state
 - c. Develop new relationships with various mental/behavioral health organizations (Consumer run, Tribal, Parent/Family)
5. The CBHPC staff shall engage in recruitment activities by actively participating in meetings, events and conferences identified by the Executive Committee. The

Council Member Recruitment Plan

Council should have tables at conferences that attract persons with lived experience, SMI/SUD advocates and family members.

Recruitment tools and other deliverables:

- Brochure and other materials to distribute to prospective Council Members
- Facebook Content: CBHPC staff, under the direction of the Chief of Operations, will create pre-approved recruitment post to share when vacancies occur in each appointment category
- CBHPC staff will work with Executive Committee to create standardized messaging about the Council's responsibilities, membership composition and needs
- Photo Library of Council Member activities to use in marketing efforts (social media posts, brochures, website)
- Council Member videos that tell our story and inspire others to get involved that can be posted online or shared via social media
- Letter to DHCS regarding the need for Council staff to engage in state-wide activities directly related to the mission, vision and mandates of the Council.
- Social Media Disclosure Statements and photo consent forms for members

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Executive Committee**

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Expenditure Reports & Allotments Update

Enclosures: 2025-2026 Allotments

Summary of Allotments

Background/Description:

The current expenditure report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 is enclosed. Chief of Operations Naomi Ramirez will present current and projected fiscal year spending. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Expenditure Report will be completed and mailed by the Chief of Operations prior to the meeting. Council Members may inquire about current and future spending.

The Chief of Operations will also provide an update on the allotments including identification of reductions and status of requests to restore funding. The Chief of Operations will also disclose Budget Change Proposal deadlines and actions taken to request position to back fill the position lost due to statewide positions drill.

2025 Budget Act Allotments

Fiscal Year	Division
2025/26	CBHPC-4260LB00

Allotment		BFS Appropriation		
Object_Category	Object_Name	001-0890-3960-	001-3085-3960-	Grand Total
1-Salaries and Wages	Civil Service - Perm	307,198	319,249	626,447
	Flex Elect	10,916	12,526	23,442
1-Salaries and Wages Total		318,114	331,775	649,889
2-Benefits	Staff Benefits	124,671	124,437	249,108
2-Benefits Total		124,671	124,437	249,108
3-Operating Expense and Equipment	General Expense	132,451	88,549	221,000
	Communications		5,000	5,000
	Travel: In-State	85,000	65,000	150,000
	Training	10,000	5,000	15,000
	C&P Services - Interdepartmental	25,000		25,000
	C&P Services - External	85,000	40,000	125,000
	3-Operating Expense and Equipment Total		337,451	203,549
Grand Total		780,236	659,761	1,439,997

**2025 Budget Act Allotments
Contract Details**

Contracts	001-0890-3960-	001-3085-3960-	Grand Total
P-TBD		0	0
Spending Plan	85,000	40,000	125,000
Grand Total	85,000	40,000	125,000



California Behavioral Health Planning Council

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Summary of Allotments for the Past Nine Years

Fiscal Year	MHSA Total Allotment	SAMHSA Total Allotment	Distributed Overhead
25/26	\$659,761	\$780,236	\$0
24/25	\$644,061	\$475,425	\$0
23/24	\$1,257,702	\$942,374	\$615,120
22/23	\$1,244,442	\$940,068	\$622,860
21/22	\$ 497,364	\$274,269	\$0
20/21	No Allotments Given	No Allotments Given	\$0
19/20	No Allotments Given	No Allotments Given	\$0
18/19	\$ 507,711	\$ 1,081,787	\$0
17/18	\$ 745,475	\$ 1,032,891	\$0

California Behavioral Health Planning Council Executive Committee

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Agenda Item: Integration of Council's Focus for 2026: Committee Work

Enclosures: Focus for 2026

[CBHPC Roles and Priorities](#)

BHSA Council Prioritization

Background/Description:

The Officer Team adopted areas of focus that will direct the topics discussed during the General Session meetings and guide the work of all committees for the upcoming year. At the October 2025 Executive Committee meeting, members had an opportunity to provide feedback on the areas of focus. The committee voted to adopt the proposed focus for 2026, with some modifications. In January 2026, the Executive Committee identified additional edits to the document to include

- A statement on Housing due to the extensive work the Housing and Homelessness committee is doing that is not limited to Behavioral Health Services Act funding.
- Highlight the focus on outreach and engagement with persons with lived experience of the Public Behavioral Health System.
- Removal of the statement addressing lack of funding for Public Guardian and Conservators under Justice Involved to make it broader and not specific to Justice-Involved only.

The edits discussed and agreed upon at the January 2026 meeting were made and are included in the meeting materials. During this agenda item Chairperson, Tony Vartan, will discuss the intent of this document and how it is already and will continue to be used by committee chairpersons. These strategic focus areas position CBHPC to provide informed, timely, and actionable guidance as California continues to transform its behavioral health system. The Council remains committed to promoting access, equity, accountability, and outcomes for all individuals served.



California Behavioral Health Planning Council

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Focus for 2026

Purpose

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) establishes the following strategic focus areas for 2026 to guide its policy advisement, oversight, and stakeholder engagement activities. These priorities reflect key system transformation efforts underway across California and are intended to inform state leadership, counties, and community partners.

1. Statewide Behavioral Health Integration (including all populations: children, adults, and older adults)
 - Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder (SUD)
 - Educate the full Council on SUD and SUD Treatment
 - Behavioral Health Services Act
 - Modifications of Regulations
 - Managed Care & Specialty Mental Health
 - Educate on reorganization and rebalancing of funding
 - SAMHSA Strategic Priorities
 - Housing for individuals with behavioral health needs
 - Lack of Funding
2. Advocacy for Persons with Lived Experience and Stakeholder Engagement
 - Outreach and engagement with Persons with Lived Experience
 - Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) County Integrated Plans
 - Peer Certification (Senate Bill 803)
 - Wellness Community Coaches
3. Patients' Rights
 - Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act Reform and the Impact on Patients' Rights
 - Involuntary Treatment
 - Senate Bill 43
 - Adequate Patients' Rights Support in Communities and Jails



**California Behavioral Health
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- Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) Act
- 4. Justice-Involved Populations in the Behavioral Health System
 - Lack of Resources
 - Alternative Resources
 - Shifting Responsibility Back to Counties
 - Potential Increase in Murphy Conservatorships
 - Dependents of the Court and Wards of the Court
 - Efficacy of Prop 36

Prioritization of Sections for BHSA

Topic	Code Section(s)	Implementation Date (Effective Date)	Lead Committee	All Relevant Committees	Committee Action Update
Definitions of who can be served under BHSA	SEC 2(b); SEC 12 4094 (f)(1)(B); SEC 12 4094 (h); 4096.5(b); SEC 38 5806(a),(2)(a),(D)(E)(5)(7)(8)(9)(10); SEC 46 5835(2)(A); SEC 50 5840(E)(i)(ii) and (c)(3); SEC 53 5840.6(c)(1) and (f)(2); SEC 55 5840.7(a) (1)(3)(6); SEC 76 5868(a)(2)(A)(D)(3)(4)(5)(8)(9)(10); SEC 78 5878.1(a); SEC 81 5878.3(a)(1)(A)(c); SEC 95 5892(d) and (L)(7)	July 1, 2026 (All sections)	TBD	LPPC, HHC, SMC	<p>8/8/2024: HHC coordinated and submitted a joint letter—cosigned by 13 state and local behavioral health organizations—urging the Administration to adopt key recommendations.</p> <p>12/3/2024: HHC provided feedback and recommendations on housing definitions for the first Module of the BHSA Policy Manual.</p> <p>Outcome: The recommended definitions were adopted in the final Module 1 of the Policy Manual.</p>
FSPs and restrictive nature of who is eligible/time limitations	Part 4.1: 5887(d)(1) ; 5887.1; SEC 95 5892(a)(2A)	July 1, 2026 (Both sections)	SMC	LPPC, SMC	The SMC has invited counties and local organizations to discuss this topic at the June 2025 Quarterly Meeting
Data Requirements	SEC 109 WIC 5963.02 (b), WIC 5963.04 (a)(2); SEC 18 WIC 5604.2 (a)(7); SEC 25 WIC 5610 (b)(1); SEC 27 WIC 5613, SEC 30 WIC 5664 (a)	<p>January 1, 2025 (SEC 27 County Data to Boards and DHCS, SEC 25 WIC 5610 (b)(1), SEC 109 WIC 5963.04 (a)(2) BHOATR),</p> <p>July 1, 2025 (SEC 109 Integrated Plan Data),</p> <p>July 1, 2026 (SEC 25 WIC 5610 (b)(1))</p>	POC	POC	In Progress

Topic	Code Section(s)	Implementation Date (Effective Date)	Lead Committee	All Relevant Committees	Committee Action Update
Outcomes	SEC 64. WIC 5848 (c),(e); SEC 84 WIC 5886 (k)(1); SEC 113 WIC 14707.5 (b)(2), (c), (d), (e)(1); SEC 114 WIC 14707.5; SEC 25 WIC 5610 (b)(1)	January 1, 2025 (SEC 64, SEC 84, SEC 113, SEC 114) July 1, 2026 (SEC 25)	POC	POC	In Progress
Integrated Plan (3-year County Plans)	SEC 40 5813.5 (d)(g)(4); SEC 63 5847; SEC 95 5892(a)(1)(B)(C); Chapter 3 Article 2 5963, 5963.01, 5963.02, 5963.03, 5963.04, 5963.05	January 1, 2025 (Chapter 3 Article 2 5963.03, 5963.05); July 2026 (Chapter 3 Article 2 5963.04 County Behavioral Health Outcomes, Accountability, and Transparency Report) July 1, 2026 (SEC 40 5813.5 (d)(g)(4)), SEC 95 5892(a)(1)(B)(C), Chapter 3 Article 2 5963, 5963.01, 5963.02)	SMC	SMC	In Progress
Engaging Stakeholders with Emphasis on Consumer Voice	SEC 38 WIC 5806 (1); SEC 64 WIC 5848 (a); SEC 95 WIC 5892 (c)(3), (e)(1)(C)	January 1, 2025 (SEC 38 Stakeholder Engagement on IPs)	POC	POC	In Progress

Topic	Code Section(s)	Implementation Date (Effective Date)	Lead Committee	All Relevant Committees	Committee Action Update
Statewide Workforce	SEC 2(e); 1095.5(a)(1); SEC 12 4094 (f)(1)(C)(D); SEC 38 5806 (C) and (b)(c); SEC 42 5830 (c)(3); SEC 53 5840.6(c)(4)(6); SEC 55 5840.7(c); SEC 66 5848.5(b)(3)(4)(8-b-iv-vi); SEC 95 5892(f)(1)(D) and (L)(5)	January 1, 2025 (SEC 10, SEC 66) July 1, 2026 (All Other Sections)	WEC	WEC	The WEC leadership presented the Workforce Initiative to the committee during the April 2025 Meeting. The WEC invited HCAI to discuss the Medi-Cal Community-Based Provider Training Program within this Initiative during the June 2025 Meeting. The committee also added this component to the Work Plan.
Housing Continuum	SEC 43 5830 (a)(1) SEC 95 5892 (a)(1)(A),(b)(1)	July 1, 2026 (Both sections)	HHC	HHC, SMC	In Progress
Implementation of SUD services in all parts of the mental health service system	SEC 2(b); SEC 40 5813.5(j)(k); SEC 50 5840(a)(1),(3), and (e); SEC 53 5840.6(e)(4); SEC 55 5840.7(a)(1)(5); SEC 81 5878.3(d)(2); SEC 90 5891(a)(1); SEC 92 5891.5(a)	July 1, 2026 (All sections)	SMC	LPPC, SMC	SMC is including this in the FSP conversation during the June 2025 Meeting
Effective collaboration with partners in the behavioral health transformation for a statewide plan that serves all Californians	SEC 109 5963.06. (c)(11); SEC 58 WIC 5845 (f)(13), (g)(1)	December 21, 2029 (SEC 109) January 1, 2026 (SEC 58 Collaboration between BHSOAC with CBHDA, DHCS, CBHPC on reports and recommendations)	TBD	TBD	In Progress
Behavioral Health Board	SEC 15 WIC 5604; SEC 19 WIC 5604.2; SEC 109 WIC 5963.03 (b)	January 1, 2025 (All sections)	POC	POC	In Progress

Topic	Code Section(s)	Implementation Date (Effective Date)	Lead Committee	All Relevant Committees	Committee Action Update
Voluntary vs. Involuntary Services*	SEC 12 4094(h); SEC 13; SEC 38 5806(E); SEC 61 5845.5(e)(2); SEC 74 5852.5(a), SEC 85 5886 (F)(viii); SEC 95 5892(d)	January 1, 2025 (SEC 61, SEC 74, SEC 85) July 1, 2026 (All Other Sections)	SMC	LPPC, PRC, SMC	In Progress
Crisis Continuum*	SEC 2(i); SEC 12 4094; SEC 13 4096.5; SEC 32 5675; SEC 36 5805; SEC 53 5840.6(7) and (e)(1) ; SEC 55 5840.7(a)(1)(2)(10); SEC 66 5848.5; SEC 74 5852.5(a); SEC 76 5868; Part 4.1 5887(e); SEC 95 5892(f)(1)(E)(vi)(IV)	January 1, 2025 (SEC 66, SEC 74) July 1, 2026 (All Other Sections)	SMC	SMC	SMC is tracking this item.
Statewide Prevention (non-FSP)*	SEC 46 5835; SEC 50 5840; SEC 53 5840.6; SEC 66 5848.5(b)(1) and (g)(1)(E); SEC 95 5892(f)(1)(E)(i)(ii)(V)(iii)(iv)(v)(vi)	January 1, 2025 (SEC 66) July 1, 2026 (All Other Sections)	SMC	SMC	In Progress
Fiscal implications/sustainability*		July 1, 2026	TBD	All	In Progress
Evidence Based Practices and Community-Defined Evidence Practices*	SEC 46 5835(2); SEC 50 5840(B),(3)(A),(c); SEC 53 5840.6 (e)(2)(3) and (h); SEC 55 5840.7(a)(4)(8); SEC 66 5848.5(a),(b)(8)(B)(iii), Part 4.1 5887(a)(6) and (h)(1)(6); Chapter 3 Article 2 5963.02(a)(5)	January 1, 2025 (SEC 55, SEC 66) July 1, 2026 (All Other Sections)	SMC	SMC	SMC is tracking this item. Members attend the BHT Quality and Equity Advisory Committee meetings as well

Topic	Code Section(s)	Implementation Date (Effective Date)	Lead Committee	All Relevant Committees	Committee Action Update
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (How BHSA changes impact communities of color)*	SEC 38 5806(B)(C) and (3)(4)(10); SEC 40 5813.5 (e)(3); SEC 42 5830 (a)(1)(2) and b(A)(C); SEC 50 5840(C),(E)(ii),(f); SEC 53 5840.6(8),(e)(5),(f); SEC 55 5840.7(a)(4)(7); SEC 59 5845.1(b)(1)(2)(A); SEC 76 5868(b)(2)(B) and (D)(3); SEC 78 5878.1(b); SEC 95 5892(f)(1)(E)(IV) and (h)(5)(G); Chapter 3 Article 2 5963.02(b)(5) and (c)(8)(D); 5963.03(a)(2)(ii)	<p style="text-align: center;"> January 1, 2025 (5963.03(a)(2)(ii)) July 1, 2026 (All other sections) January 1, 2027 (SEC 42 repealed) </p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SMC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> Integrated into all committee presentations by asking presenters to address CBHPC equity questions in their presentations </p>

* = Added by Executive Committee Members 10/16/2024