



# California Behavioral Health Planning Council

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

## AGENDA

April 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2026

Residence Inn Sacramento Capitol Park/California Endowment/DHCS, Sacramento,  
CA

Notice: All agenda items are subject to action by the Council. Scheduled times on the agenda are estimates and subject to change. If Reasonable Accommodation is required, please contact the Council at 916-701-8211 by **March 30, 2026** to meet the request. All items on the Committee agendas posted on our website are incorporated by reference herein and are subject to action.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### Tuesday, April 14, 2026

2:00 p.m. [Performance Outcomes Committee](#)

#### Wednesday, April 15, 2026

8:30 a.m. [Executive Committee](#)

10:30 a.m. [Patients' Rights Committee](#)

**12:00 p.m.** LUNCH (on your own)

1:30 p.m. [Workforce and Employment Committee](#)

1:30 p.m. [Legislation and Public Policy Committee](#)

#### Thursday, April 16, 2026

8:30 a.m. [Housing and Homelessness Committee](#)

8:30 a.m. [Systems and Medicaid Committee](#)

**12:00 p.m.** LUNCH (on your own)

**Thursday, April 16, 2026**

**COUNCIL GENERAL SESSION**

**Conference Call:** (669) 900-6833 (Listen Only)

**Meeting ID:** 979 8764 5534 **Passcode:** 880950

**Location:** California Endowment Sacramento

1414 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**1:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions**

*Tony Vartan, Chairperson*

**1:35 p.m. Acceptance of January and April 2025 Meeting Minutes      Tab P**

*Susan Wilson, Chairperson Elect*

**1:40 p.m. Senate Bill 803 (SB 803): Medi-Cal Peer Support      Tab Q**

**Specialist Certification Program Statewide Updates**

*Program Overview: Ivan Bhardwaj, Division Chief, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Policy Division, CA Department of Health Care Services*

*Certification Update: Lucero Robles, LCSW, Senior Director, Quality Assurance and Compliance, California Mental Health Services Authority*

*Statewide Implementation Update: Elissa Feld, Executive Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA)*

- *Panel Presentations (35 minutes)*
- *Council Member Discussion (10 minutes)*

**2:35 p.m. 15-Minute Break**

**2:50 p.m. SB 803 Implementation: Stakeholder Perspective      Tab R**  
**Opportunities for Improvement and Advocacy**

*Heidi Strunk, MHA, President & CEO, California Coalition for Mental Health  
Lynn Rivas, Executive Director, California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations*

*Dawniell Zavala, Associate Director & General Counsel, Cal Voices*

*Meron Agonafer, Policy Director, Cal Voices*

- *Panel Presentations (30 minutes)*
- *Council Member Discussion (10 minutes)*
- *Public Comment (5 minutes)*

**3:25 p.m. 5-Minute Break**

**3:30 p.m. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Update**

*Paula Wilhelm, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health, CA Department of Health Care Services*

- *Presentation (20 minutes)*
- *Council Member Discussion (5-7 minutes)*
- *Public Comment (4-5 minutes)*

**4:00 p.m. General Public Comment**

**4:20 p.m. Recess**

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

**Friday, April 17, 2026**

**COUNCIL GENERAL SESSION**

**Conference Call:** (669) 900-6833 (Listen Only)

**Meeting ID:** 979 8764 5534 **Passcode:** 880950

**Location:** Department of Health Care Services

1700 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

**8:30 a.m. Welcome Back & Announcements**

*Tony Vartan, Chairperson*

**8:35 a.m. Commission for Behavioral Health Address to the Council**

*Al Rowlett, Chair/Commissioner (Invited)*

- Presentation (10 minutes)
- Council Member Discussion (5 minutes)

**8:45 a.m. Committee Report-Outs**

- **Performance Outcomes:** Noel O'Neill, Chairperson
- **Executive:** Tony Vartan, Chairperson
- **Patients' Rights:** Mike Phillips, Chairperson
- **Legislation and Public Policy:** Javier Moreno, Chairperson
- **Workforce and Employment:** Bill Stewart, Chairperson
- **Housing and Homelessness:** Maria Sierra, Chair-Elect
- **Systems and Medicaid:** Karen Baylor, Chairperson

**9:10 a.m. Presentation of Draft 2026-2030**

**Workforce Education and Training (WET) 5-Year Plan**

*Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)*

- Presentation (50 minutes)
- Council Member Q&A (10 minutes)
- Public comment (10 minutes)

**Tab S**

**10:20 a.m. 15-Minute Break**

**10:35 a.m. Workforce and Employee Committee Lead  
Discussion on Draft 2026-2030 WET 5-Year**

- Committee Findings (10 minutes)
- Facilitated Round Table Discussions (20 minutes)
- Round Table Report outs (5 minutes)

**Tab T**

**11:10 a.m. Unshame CA Campaign & Treatment Atlas**

*Saskia VandeKamp, Senior Director of Community Engagement*

*Lisa Kugler, Psy.D. Senior Vice President, Treatment Atlas*

- Presentation (20 minutes)
- Council Member Q&A (10 minutes)

**Tab U**

**11:40 a.m. General Public Comment**

**11:55 a.m. Closing Remarks**

*Tony Vartan, Chairperson*

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

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

### **2026 Council Meeting Schedule**

- June 16-19, 2026: [Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center](#), Riverside, CA
- October 20-23, 2026: [Embassy Suites San Francisco Airport-South San Francisco](#), South San Francisco, CA

### **2027 Council Meeting Schedule**

- January 19-22, 2027: San Diego, CA
- April 13-16, 2027: Sacramento, CA
- June 15-18, 2027: Los Angeles Area
- October 19-22, 2027: Bay Area