

CBHPC Executive Committee Meeting

April 16, 2025

Committee Members Present:

Karen Baylor
Erika Cristo*
Elisa Feld*
Richard Krzyzanowski*
Noel O'Neill
Mike Phillips
Susan Wilson
Daphne Shaw

Barbara Mitchell
Javier Moreno
Don Morrison
Deborah Starkey
Arden Tucker
Tony Vartan
Uma Zykovsky

*=Remote Attendance

Committee Members Absent: Maria Sierra and Bill Stewart

Staff Present: Jenny Bayardo

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Tony Vartan called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Council Members and attendees introduced themselves. At the start of the meeting, a quorum was established with 15 of 17 members present.

Accept January 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)

There were no minutes to review. No action was taken.

FY 2023-2024 Close Out Report & FY 2024-2025 Expenditure Report

Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer, reviewed the expenditure report on behalf of Naomi Ramirez, who was not present. The Council is on track to spend the full allotment, as has been the case in the past few years. Susan Wilson asked about the SAMHSA funds. Per Jenny Bayardo, there has been no change to the Council's federal funds. Javier Moreno asked about the impact of federal actions on the Council. Jenny Bayardo reported that the SAMHSA regions have closed, and regional staff contacted the Council to notify us immediately, the day they were let go. There have not been cuts to our budget. Erika Cristo confirmed that there are no fiscal impacts on the Council at this time, and we will be notified immediately if this changes. Susan Wilson shared that the Council has been working with the planning Council in Nevada to assist them in rebuilding their Council, and that contract has been pulled.

Allotments & Budget Updates

Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer, provided allotment and budget updates on behalf of Naomi Ramirez, who was not present. Jenny Bayardo reminded the Council that we had a reduction to the state-funded allotments in the amount of approximately \$240,000 for the current fiscal year. The Council had existing contracts for the Council Meetings that will be executed. To cut costs, the number of conferences and other activities to recruit new members and for the training of Council Members has been significantly reduced. Council staff are in contact with DHCS Behavioral Health Leadership and accounting about spending. We will not be able to meet the full reduction, but the Department will absorb the cost. A discussion about the budget key points is summarized below.

- Barbara Mithcell suggested the Council consider holding one virtual meeting per year to assist with cutting costs in future years.
- Tony Vartan stated that with cuts across the state, this is a time for the council's work to be present. Virtual meetings change the dynamic and work being done.
- Tony encouraged the committee to keep our mission and mandates in mind as we pull in the counties and hold the system accountable.
- Barbara Mitchell agreed with Tony's comments, then added that the Council has done a lot of effective advocacy work recently around several key initiatives, such as the Behavioral Health Services Act. Council staff have really stepped up in the amount and quality of work in response.
- Javier Moreno agreed and stated that staffing should be the last area we consider when cutting costs.

Javier asked if the Council had considered other sources of funding and about the process of making cuts. Jenny Bayardo described the process staff uses to make funding decisions, including cuts. She also shared that in the Welfare and Institutions Code, we can accept grants and donations. The Council does not have a history of this, but is willing to do the work to pursue other funding. Susan Wilson stated that the Executive Committee needs to work hard to save staff, as the Council has done a lot to build the current team. Susan shared that the leadership team meets weekly to review and discuss operations of the Council and encouraged members to share any ideas or concerns with any member of the Officer Team. Noel O'Niell asked if the Governor's Order requiring state employees to return to the office 4 days a week will have a fiscal impact on the Council. Jenny Bayardo shared that it will not be because we already have the appropriate space for staff. The allotments for the next fiscal year are still being determined. The Executive Committee will be notified once allotments are received.

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

Executive Officer Jenny Bayardo provided an update on behalf of the Ad Hoc committee established by the Officer Team to look at the two components of Proposition 1: Behavioral Health Services Act and the Behavioral Health Bond. The committee

reviewed the updated CBHPC Areas of Interest Crosswalk document. Recently, the Ad Hoc team created responses to Module 1 and Module 2 of the Behavioral Health Services Act Policy Manual developed by the Department of Health Care Services. Jenny Bayardo provided a quick review of the crosswalk, which shows the recommendations made, and notes action taken or not being taken by the Department. Members of the Ad Hoc shared their thoughts on successes to date.

- Definitions related to eligibility were broadened, to allow more individuals to be served (Barbara Mitchell).
- Many Module 1 recommendations were accepted as written: details shown on crosswalk (Jenny Bayardo).
- Module 2 has language regarding what will happen to people who are currently receiving housing support; they will be grandfathered in, allowing them to retain those supports (Barbara Mitchell).
- We have made positive connections with partners and fellow advocates during the process of creating recommendations (Susan Wilson).
- Stakeholders have reached out directly to us asking when we need their feedback (Susan Wilson).
- Uma agreed that we made some gains around housing.
- The responses have been thorough and timely (Uma Zykovsky).
- We have worked with partners to protect Community Defined Evidence-Based practices (Uma Zykovsky).
- The Council has members on the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee that work to feed information to the Ad Hoc, so Council feedback is well-informed and Cohesive (Noel O'Neill).

Areas that the Council remains concerned about include.

- The Bond language about chronic homelessness copies the federal language and is more restrictive (Barbara Mitchell)
- The modules do not address the disruption that will occur around the restructuring of funding (Uma Zykovsky)
- It will be difficult to track implementation at the county level (Uma Zykovsky)
- Inserting provisions on Substance Use Disorder into the modules has been challenging. (Javier Moreno)

Behavioral Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission Participation in Council Meetings

Tony Vartan shared that Al Rowlett from the Commission on Behavioral Health will participate in California Behavioral Health Planning Council meetings. Commissioners are ex officio members of the Council but do not vote. Deborah Starkey asked for guidance on where Commissioners should be seated. Jenny Bayardo stated that members of the Commission who attend the General Session will be seated with Council Members. Commissioners who attend committees sit with the public as they are not assigned members of the committee. Tony Vartan asked committee chairpersons to treat the commissioners consistently as described during this agenda item. Tony also

added that Al Rowlett is the person officially representing the Commission on Behavioral Health at our Council Meetings.

The Committee reviewed Welfare and Institutions Code 5771.1 describing the relationship between the Council on Behavioral Health. Javier Moreno asked for more information on the intent of having commissioners at CBHPC committee meetings. Executive Officer Jenny Bayardo shared that in the past there was representation from the Oversight & Accountability Commission and Council Members who were interested in having the representation so we can include the commission's perspective when appropriate. Council leadership is attending meetings held by the Commission on Behavioral Health as well.

Council Membership Update

Chairperson Tony Vartan shared that he retired as the Behavioral Health Director of Stanislaus County. Tony acted as the County Behavioral Health Director's Association (CBHDA) Liaison previously and introduced the new CBHDA liaison, Elissa Feld. Tony asked Jenny to provide an update on Council Membership.

Jenny Bayardo shared that:

- The Officer team conducted interviews, and applicants may be joining committee meetings.
- The Commission on Aging will be added to the Council because of recent legislation (AB 2207).
- We will lose one provider slot because of the addition of the Commission on Aging Representative, as per DHCS legal, they are not a state Department.
- Stephanie Blake is no longer with the Department of Aging: Susan Deboise will attend for the Department of Aging.

Executive Officer Jenny Bayardo shared that historically, the Council has had county directors as members, but the CBHDA liaison role was not always present. Chief of Operations researched when and why the Council decided to have a liaison, as it is not an official role. Naomi could not determine why this role came about. The Officer Team does feel we do still need a liaison. Since we do not have a CBHDA Liaison at this time, Elisa Feld will act as the liaison through 2025. She is a part of the Executive Committee but not the full Council. The roles will be re-evaluated at the beginning of 2026.

- Daphne Shaw supports having a staff member of CBHDA in this role.
- Noel O'Neill shared that at one time, there were two CBHDA representatives
- Noel also stated that there is no mention of the CBHDA liaison in the Welfare and Institutions Code.

Council Reappointment Policy Revisions (Action)

Chairperson Tony Vartan opened the agenda item by reviewing the requirements outlined in Public Law 102-321 and Welfare and Institutions Code 5771. At the January meeting the Executive Committee discussed the current re appointment process and provided feedback. Tony also went over the current reappointment process.

The Executive Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed language to be added to the Operating Policies and Procedure Manual. The proposed language includes the feedback from the January 2025 meeting and edits during this agenda item. Committee Members discussed the current process and highlighted a few key items.

Motion: Mike Phillips made a motion to add language to the Operating Policies and Procedures as follows, “*Requests for reappointments are reviewed and then approved or denied by the Department of Health Services.*” Daphne Shaw seconded the motion.

Tony Vartan opened the floor to public comment on the agenda item before taking a vote. Stacy Dagleish referred to Tab 6, page 11, 2.1.1, where it states that Council Staff will provide a mentor. She would like it to be changed to “shall” provide a mentor.

Executive Officer Jenny Bayardo read the motion, which was then put to a roll-call vote. It passed unanimously.

Motion: Daphne Shaw made a motion to approve the proposed reappointment process included in the meeting packet, seconded by Susan Wilson. There was no public comment. A Roll-Call Vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Report from CA Coalition for Behavioral Health

Daphne Shaw reported that the CA Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH) established a committee to respond to budget issues, particularly what is happening at the federal level around Medicaid. This group is led by Randall Hagar, and the Council’s Executive Officer is a member of this committee. They developed a fact sheet that was sent out to all Council Members, partners, and legislators.

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. This quarter's training is about the crisis care continuum. The Council and Commission on Behavioral Health will attend their meeting this month. Theresa met with someone at Senator Padilla’s office about Medicaid cuts.

General Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Wrap-Up and Plan for Next Meeting

The next meeting is on June 18, 2025, in Marina del Rey, California.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.