

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Performance Outcomes Committee
June 17, 2025
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Noel O'Neill, Chairperson
Karen Baylor
Susan Wilson

Don Morrison, Chair-Elect
Liz Oseguera
Uma Zykofsky

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

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 6 out of 10 members.

Item #2: Review Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes for April 2024. The minutes were accepted with one minor revision.

Item #3: Data Notebook "Part I" Analysis

In May 2024, the Council contracted with Samantha Spangler of the Behavioral Health Data Project to analyze the Part I data collected from 2019 to 2023. Samantha presented a complete draft of the Part I analysis report for committee approval. The report was revised based on feedback from the April 2025 meeting. She highlighted changes from the previous draft, which incorporated feedback from committee members.

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Samantha reviewed edits to the recommendations. The final recommendations are:

1. Focus on quantifying and reporting unmet needs.
2. Ensure services are provided at the appropriate level of care.
3. Expand the availability of IMD services in all regions, especially rural areas.
4. Increase service availability and provider skills for serving children and youth in group care.
5. Prioritize diversion, shelter, and affordable housing for individuals experiencing both behavioral health challenges and risk of homelessness.
6. Track performance outcome measures to demonstrate the effectiveness of behavioral health programs, with a focus on recovery-oriented outcomes.

Susan Wilson noted that relevant recommendations from this report will also be used in the 2024 Data Notebook Report on Homelessness in the Public Behavioral Health System.

Action Item: Susan Wilson made a motion to approve the final draft of the analysis report. The motion was seconded by Uma Zykovsky. Staff took a roll call vote. The motion passed.

Noel O'Neil thanked Samantha and the Behavioral Health Data Project for the work that went into the report. He then asked the committee how they thought the report should be distributed to stakeholders. Susan Wilson said that the report needs a cover letter to serve as an introduction and overview. She suggested that the committee send the report and cover letter to every behavioral health board/commission and behavioral health department, as well as any legislators who are interested in this issue. Uma Zykovsky said that the report should go to all legislators and any relevant committees, rather than being selective about who to send it to.

Karen Baylor asked Jenny Bayardo if the report needed to be reviewed by the Department of Health Care Services before it is distributed to the legislature. Jenny said that because it will be posted online, it will be reviewed for accessibility and data requirements, but there won't be any barriers to sharing the report.

Item #4: Behavioral Health Transformation Quality and Equity Advisory Committee Updates

Noel O'Neill provided an update on the activities of the Behavioral Health Transformation Quality and Equity Advisory Committee (QEAC). Noel shared slides from the fifth meeting of the committee that occurred on June 3, 2025. He said that at

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this meeting, John Black spoke to the committee to share his personal experience and journey of recovery, as well as recommendations for the behavioral health system. He also provided a quick overview of Phase 2 of the committee's work, which includes the development of statewide behavioral health goals and measures.

Liz Oseguera and Samantha Spangler shared concerns about the direction that the Department of Health Care Services is going regarding the statewide behavioral health goals. Liz also said that it feels like concerns from members of the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee and other stakeholders are not being taken into account. Samantha Spangler agreed and added that some of the goals exist outside of the behavioral health system. She said that addressing the goals is going to be very challenging for counties while developing their integrated plans.

Karen Baylor asked Samantha how this work connects to the Performance Outcomes Committee. Samantha said that the Performance Outcomes Committee should continue to communicate recommendations and concerns to the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee. Noel said that members of the Performance Outcomes Committee volunteered to be on the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee so that they could have some input.

Theresa Comstock commented that it will be very meaningful to the Performance Outcomes Committee, as well as the local boards, to have the performance outcomes measures that the Department is working on. She added that she had seen some adjustments in response to feedback from the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee, but that she thinks there are some requirements in California law that they need to meet.

Samantha informed the committee that the Technical Subcommittee of the Quality and Equity Advisory Committee will have their first meeting about Phase 2 next week.

Item #5: Data Notebook 2024 (Homelessness) Report

Susan Wilson presented the final draft of the 2024 Data Notebook on Homelessness in the Public Behavioral Health System for committee review. The updated draft includes some of the recommendations from the Part I analysis report. Karen Baylor said that she approved of the statement in the report that behavioral health is not, and should not be, primarily responsible for the issue of homelessness.

Action item: Susan made a motion to approve the final draft of the 2024 Data Notebook on Homelessness in the Public Behavioral Health System with the inclusion

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of some minor final edits. The motion was seconded by Don Morrison. Staff took a roll call vote. The motion passed.

Item #6: Data Notebook 2025 (Wellness Centers) Development

Noel O'Neill began a discussion of the 2025 Data Notebook on Wellness and Recovery Centers by asking staff member Justin Boese to tell the committee about the background resources he has found on the topic. Justin said that he was not able to find many resources on this topic besides the Council's own report on wellness and recovery centers, which was published in 2011. Justin said that the 2011 report is well written and is still a valuable resource.

Uma Zykofsky said that the 2011 report came out fairly early in the development of wellness centers, and that the models have evolved and changed significantly.

Noel O'Neill introduced Chad Castello, the executive director of the California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA), who helped the committee develop a draft of the survey questions. Chad said that CASRA member organizations operate 37 Wellness and Recovery Centers across the state. Some counties are concerned about losing funding for their wellness centers as soon as the upcoming fiscal year. In other counties, organizations are being asked to open new centers. Chad has hired a consultant to conduct interviews to collect information about these wellness centers in order to add that information to the discussion of this topic.

Noel then reviewed the draft survey questions with the committee. Committee members and others present provided feedback on each of the questions, as well as suggestions for new questions. Staff will edit the survey questions based on the feedback received.

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 October 2025 meeting. These next steps include:

- Finalize the 2025 Data Notebook Survey Document for distribution.
- Review preliminary results of the 2025 Data Notebook on Wellness Centers.
- Develop the 2026 Data Notebook on wellness and recovery centers for youth.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.