

CBHPC Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026

Committee Members Present:

Erika Cristo*
Karen Baylor*
Elissa Feld*
Mike Phillips
Susan Wilson
Daphne Shaw
Barbara Mitchell
Javier Moreno

Noel O'Neill
Deborah Starkey
Bill Stewart
Arden Tucker
Tony Vartan
Richard Krzyzanowski*
Ian Kemmer*

*=Remote Attendance

Committee Members Absent: Maria Sierra

Staff Present: Jenny Bayardo and Naomi Ramirez

Welcome and Introductions

Chairperson Tony Vartan called the meeting to order at 8:53 a.m. Council Members and attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was established with 9 of 17 members present at the start of the meeting.

Review and Accept January 2026 Draft Meeting Minutes (Action)

January 2026 minutes were unavailable. The minutes will be approved at the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Council Appointments & Recruitment Plan Update

Jenny Bayardo reported on Council Member appointments on behalf of the Chief of Operations Naomi Ramirez. There are no new appointments currently. The Officer Team interviewed applicant Karen Cameron who attended the quarterly meeting in January. The Officer Team did make a recommendation to appoint the applicant and anticipate a response from the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) before the June 2026 meeting. There is currently one vacancy on the Council for a Person with Lived Experience. Executive Officer, Jenny Bayardo, asked committee members to encourage individuals they know with the expertise needed to apply. Currently, we need someone with Lived Experience of Substance Use Disorder, and we are lacking representation in the Los Angeles Area for this appointment category.

Arden Tucker asked if there is potential of having a youth on the Council. Naomi Ramirez shared that Council staff have been actively recruiting for a Transitional Age Youth.

FY 2025-26 Expenditure Report, Allotments & Budget Discussion

Chief of Operations Naomi Ramirez opened by sharing that the reason the April meeting is held in free spaces versus the hotel members stay at was to meet the required 15% reduction imposed by the Department of Health Care services in response to the Governors reduction plan. For this meeting the cost savings are estimated to be at least \$50,000 due to no AV fees or meeting space rentals.

Naomi reviewed the Expenditure Report provided to committee members. Most of the expenses in recent months are for conferences. Currently, we are only sending members and staff to conferences for exhibit tables and presentations. Naomi shared that for next fiscal year we will continue with the same process until we are notified of a change to the order prohibiting training and conferences for training and development purposes alone.

Barbara Mitchell asked if outstanding travel reimbursements are included in the budget. Staff clarified that while they not shown in the current expenditure report that are included in the projected spending plan and we will have enough to cover all travel expenses for members related to meetings and approved conferences.

Integration of Council's Focus for 2026: Committee Work

Chairperson Tony Vartan stated the purpose of this agenda item is to wrap up work the Officer Team and committee did around the Council's Areas of Focus. The Areas of Focus will guide the General Session Agendas and the work of each committee. Tony Vartan reviewed the timeline for the development of the Areas of Focus. The final Areas of Focus document was included in the tab for this agenda item. According to Chairperson Tony Vartan, the intent of this document is to ensure the Council moves together collectively to achieve its goals. Each year the Areas of Focus will be reviewed and updated.

The committees are asked to align agendas with the Areas of Focus identified. Committee members discussed how they are or may align with the items listed on the Areas of Focus document. The work of the Workgroups will be folded into the committees and full council.

Liz Oseguera commented that the work of the Reducing Disparities workgroup has not been fully incorporated. She requested that the Officer Team attend the next Reducing Disparities workgroup meeting to discuss this ,as many feel that disparities are not being addressed fully by all committees and the full Council. According to Liz, many feel this is not the time to pull away from focusing on Reducing Disparities. It was suggested

we evaluate how committees are currently addressing disparities before deciding whether to eliminate the reducing disparities workgroup.

Barbara recommended that the Council develop language expressing our values without conflicting with federal funding requirements. Noel O'Neill supported the idea that we continue the work of the Council but consider choosing language that is not prohibited by federal guidance.

In closing the agenda item, Tony stated the Officer Team will meet with the Reducing Disparities workgroup and pull in the chairpersons of committees as appropriate.

Report from CA Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH)

Daphne Shaw reported that the CA Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH) met on April 1st. The coalition talked about the California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) and California Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CHONNECT) initiative and shared partners concerns. Daphne invited Jenny Bayardo to elaborate on the coalition meeting's discussion related to HCAI, noting that HCAI was scheduled to attend but declined. Jenny Bayardo shared that members of the coalition were concerned about the lack of a written draft plan to respond to this far in the process. Many also felt like they were not included in the listening session conducted by HCAI. In addition, members expressed concerns about transparency regarding feedback provided to HCAI. In response, Jenny Bayardo invited CCBH members to send the Workforce and Employment Committee their letters to HCAI to be considered in the Council's feedback to HCAI. Coalition members were invited to attend HCAI's presentation at our General Session meeting.

Report from CA Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards (CALBHB/C)

Executive Director Theresa Comstock reported that CALBHB/C leadership members are concerned about programs previously funded by MHSA as we transition to BHSA such as wellness centers, NAMI programs, and the warmline. CALBHB/C is also concerned about funding concerns related to HR1. Most of their efforts focus on seeking increased funding and opposing budget reductions to include:

- California Association of Counties HR 1 Multi-year Budget Request.
- Opposition of the proposal to make Mobil Crisis Benefit Optional.
- California Reducing Disparities Project Budget Ask.
- Co-Sponsoring AB 2324: Vocational Education for Youth that are caregivers for family members. Gives high school credit for caregiving.
- Supporting AB 2011: Behavioral Health Parity

Theresa shared that they have entered a contract with the Commission on Behavioral Health. CALBHB/C is hiring an assistant Executive Director. The PRC chairperson will present at the CALBHB/C meeting on Friday. There will also be a presentation on Friday from Steinberg institute about the performance accelerator project related to the

Behavioral Health Transformation providing TA to counties to track performance outcomes.

General Public Comment

Janet Frank stated that there are diversity, equity and inclusion issues beyond communities of color and suggested the Council look at ways to address other disparities specifically those related to older adults.

Wrap-Up and Plan for Next Meeting

The next meeting is on June 17, 2026, in Riverside, California.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.