

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee
April 15, 2026

Committee Members Present:

Mike Phillips, Chairperson
Catherine Moore
Daphne Shaw
Uma Zykofsky

Richard Krzyzanowski, Chair-Elect
Don Morrison
Susan Wilson

Council Staff Present:

Justin Boese

Item #1: Welcome and Introductions

The committee meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

Mike Phillips welcomed all Patients' Rights Committee (PRC) members and guests. Committee members, staff, and guests introduced themselves. A quorum was established with 7 of 7 members present.

Item #2: Review Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed and accepted the January 2026 meeting minutes, with no edits requested.

Item #3: Engaging Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

Mike Phillips led a discussion about engaging local behavioral health boards and commissions on the topic of Patients' Rights. He informed the committee that Theresa Comstock invited him and Daphne Shaw to present to the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions on Friday, April 17. Theresa said that this was a good start to establish collaboration between the two groups. She said she hopes that local boards and commissions will be able to connect with county patients' rights advocates to identify gaps and obstacles in the behavioral health system. Mike agreed and said that advocates could share trends and data they have gathered.

Item #4: Committee Workplan Development

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee
April 15, 2026

The committee continued the development of a new work plan for 2026 and beyond. A draft workplan was included in the meeting materials, which included four goals. The goals are:

1. Increase the number of Patients' Rights Advocates in California.
2. Engage Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions on issues affecting patients' rights advocacy.
3. Strengthen the committee's legislative responsiveness to advocate for Patients' Rights Advocacy.
4. Prioritize the inclusion of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment programs and facilities as part of the patients' rights advocacy system.

The committee discussed the goals and objectives for the workplan. Susan Wilson suggested that the committee identify topics to bring to the Planning Council regarding patients' rights in substance use disorder (SUD) facilities as part of Goal 4. She also said that the committee should differentiate between mental health and substance use disorders, as there are differences between the systems when it comes to people's knowledge. Richard Krzyzanowski said he would like the committee to look into the influence of the peer/consumer movement and the recovery model within SUD treatment, as it offers a different approach to the traditional "12-step" model used in SUD treatment.

Item #5: Senate Bill 1221 (Action)

Mike Phillips led the committee in a discussion of Senate Bill 1221. The bill, authored by Senator Stern, aims to prioritize placement of potentially dangerous defendants found incompetent to stand trial who have been conserved on Public Safety Conservatorships ("Murphy" Conservatorships). The bill would ensure that the District Attorney has full access to the conservatorship hearings. It would also update evaluation standards of the Public Conservator/Guardian when evaluating potential conservatees.

Mike shared his concern that prioritizing Murphy conservatorships over Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) conservatorships wouldn't change the lack of beds within state hospitals that lead to lengthy waitlists. He also questioned the need for further involvement of the District Attorney in this process, when existing law already provides flexibility in that regard. Susan Wilson commented that the real issues were system-wide and that this bill would not effectively solve anything. Uma Zykofsky agreed that it was not a solution.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee
April 15, 2026

Action Item: A motion was made by Susan Wilson to recommend an “oppose” position to the Council’s Legislation and Public Policy committee. Richard Krzyzanowski seconded the motion. Staff took a roll call vote. The motion passed.

Item #6: Assembly Bill 1676 (Action)

The committee discussed Assembly Bill 1676, authored by Assemblymember Stefani. Mike Phillips said that the bill would allow counties, with court approval, to include involuntary medication as part of an assisted outpatient treatment plan. The bill was referred to the Committee on Health, but Don Morrison informed the committee that the hearing had been canceled at the request of Assemblymember Stefani. Don said there was such vocal opposition to the bill that Assemblymember Stefani was not pursuing it further this legislative cycle. Mike noted that it would likely come back in another form next year, so it is good for the committee to be informed about it.

**Item #7: Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE)
Court Article Discussion**

The committee discussed an article published by Cal Matters that Daphne Shaw shared. The article, titled “Newsom threatens California counties for failing to use his new mental health court,” talks about Governor Newsom’s frustrations with certain counties that he feels are underutilizing CARE court.

Committee members agreed to continue tracking the implementation of CARE court across the state. Catherine Moore suggested that the committee invite someone from a local behavioral health program to present to the committee on CARE court implementation during the June 2026 quarterly meeting.

Item #8: Patients' Rights Advocate Training Verification Forms

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee
April 15, 2026

Justin Boese, Council staff, provided an update to the committee on the patients' rights advocate training verification forms received by the committee to date. In 2018, the Patients' Rights Committee co-sponsored Assembly Bill 2316, authored by Assemblymember Susan Eggman. Assembly Bill 2316 requires the California Office of Patients' Rights (COPR) to make training materials for county mental health patients' rights advocates. It also requires counties to verify that newly hired advocates review these materials within 90 days of their start date. A record of each advocate who completes the online training is sent to the patients' rights committee.

Justin reported the number of advocate training verifications received, along with each one's completion date and county. There was a total of 17 forms received in 2025, and 6 so far for 2026. This is a decrease from 25 forms received in 2024 and 36 in 2023. The committee decided to send another letter out to the county behavioral health directors to remind them of the legal requirements of Assembly Bill 2316. Daphne Shaw suggested that the committee send a reminder letter annually.

Item #9: Planning for Future Meetings/Activities

Mike Phillips and other members identified some next steps and agenda items for the June 2026 meeting. These next steps include:

- Send a reminder to county behavioral health departments about training requirements for patient's rights advocates.
- Reach out to county CARE court programs to hear about local implementation, including program challenges.
- Continue expanding committee and Planning Council knowledge of patients' rights in SUD facilities.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.