

California Behavioral Health Planning Council

Patient's Rights Committee Agenda

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

[Embassy Suites - San Francisco Airport](#)

250 Gateway Boulevard
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Northrop Room

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 934 5659 6213

Passcode: 030454

Join by phone: 1-669-900-6833

Passcode: 030454

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|-------------------|--|--------------|
| 10:30 a.m. | Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping
<i>Mike Phillips, Chairperson</i> | |
| 10:35 a.m. | Review June 2026 Meeting Minutes (Action)
<i>Mike Phillips, Chairperson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Discussion• Public Comment• Accept Minutes | Tab 1 |
| 10:40 p.m. | Nomination of Committee Chair-Elect
<i>Mike Phillips, Chairperson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Discussion• Public Comment• Vote | Tab 2 |
| 10:50 a.m. | Review and Approve Committee Workplan (Action)
<i>Mike Phillips, Chairperson</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee Discussion• Public Comment• Vote | Tab 3 |
| 11:10 a.m. | Updates on 2026 Priority Legislation
<i>Mike Phillips, Chairperson</i> | Tab 4 |
| 11:20 a.m. | Senate Bill 16 Discussion
<i>Mike Phillips, Chairperson</i> | Tab 5 |

If reasonable accommodations are required, please contact the Council at (916) 701-8211 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council

- 11:30 a.m. Assembly Bill 2405 Discussion** **Tab 6**
Mike Phillips, Chairperson
- 11:40 a.m. Break - 10 Minutes**
- 11:50 p.m. County Patients' Rights Advocacy Strengthening** **Tab 7**
Vanessa Ramos, Senior Advisor, Disability Rights California
- 12:15 p.m. Year-End Report Discussion (Action)** **Tab 8**
Mike Phillips, Chairperson
- 12:20 p.m. Meeting Wrap-Up and Next Steps**
Mike Phillips, Chairperson
- 12:25 a.m. General Public Comment**
Members of the public can comment on any non-action agenda item that did not have public comment or any other general item.
- 12:30 p.m. Adjourn**

The scheduled times on the agenda are estimates and subject to change.

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

Committee Members

Chairperson: Mike Phillips

Chair-Elect: Richard Krzyzanowski

Members:

Catherine Moore

Don Morrison

Daphne Shaw

Susan Wilson

Uma Zykofsky

Council Staff: Justin Boese

If reasonable accommodations are required, please contact the Council at (916) 701-8211 at least 5 working days prior to the meeting date.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: Review and Accept June 2026 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Enclosure: June 2026 Draft Meeting Minutes

Background/Description:

Committee members will have the opportunity to ask questions, request edits, and provide other feedback before the minutes are accepted.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee
June 17, 2026
Draft Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Mike Phillips, Chairperson
Don Morrison
Susan Wilson

Catherine Moore
Daphne Shaw
Uma Zykovsky

Other Council Members Present:

Bill Stewart

Council Staff Present:

Justin Boese

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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 6 of 7 members present.

Item #2: Review Meeting Minutes

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

Item #3: Engaging Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions

Mike Phillips and Daphne Shaw debriefed the committee on their presentation to the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC) on Friday, April 17. Mike said he was very pleased with how the presentation went and the positive response from the CALBHBC members. Bill Stewart commented that the CALBHBC members loved the presentation and were very receptive to the information. Bill also noted that the presentation was recorded, so it's possible it could be shared with other members who weren't in attendance.

Item #4: Review and Approve Committee Workplan

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.

Susan Wilson told the committee that the Performance Outcomes Committee is considering patients' rights and the impact of involuntary treatment services as a potential topic for the 2027 Data Notebook survey. She suggested that collaboration with the Performance Outcomes Committee could be incorporated into the workplan if that happens.

Uma Zykofsky suggested that Goal #2 be broadened to include the education of Planning Council members.

Item #5: California Office of Patients' Rights Updates

Daniel Wagoner, the Director of the California Office of Patient's Rights (COPR), provided updates to the committee on their recent activities. The California Office of Patients' Rights is Disability Rights California (DRC) unit that is contracted by the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) to ensure that people with mental illness receive quality mental health treatment that is in compliance with patients' rights regulations. They provide technical assistance and training to county patients' rights advocates (PRAs).

Daniel told the committee about the Patients' Rights Annual Training (PRAT) conference that COPR hosted in April. They had workshops on topics such as the use of AI in patients' rights work, and patient's rights in substance use disorder facilities. They also hosted a meet-and-greet event for attendees.

Another project they are working on is updating the online patients' rights advocate training materials that COPR maintains. All newly hired advocates are required to take this training. The California Office of Patients' Rights is updating the materials to include new changes in laws regarding patients' rights and involuntary treatment. This includes things like CARE Court, Senate Bill 43, and other bills in recent years. Rayann Smith,

Daniel's executive assistant, showed the committee what the online training platform looks like. When the training is complete, it automatically sends an email to the county behavioral health director and the Patients' Rights Committee verifying completion. Uma Zykofsky suggested that the email to the behavioral health director include an explanation that they are receiving the notification because they are responsible for ensuring all patients' rights advocates complete the online training.

Daniel said that they are working on integrating the patients' rights advocate listserv with this online portal. A lot of valuable conversations about patients' rights advocacy happen in the listserv, and they are working on saving some of those discussions on the web page so that advocates can reference them at any time.

Item #6: Senate Bill 1401 (Action

Mike Phillips led the committee in a discussion of Senate Bill 1401. Senate Bill 1401 (SB 1401), authored by Senator Stern, specifies timeframes for the dismissal of felony charges for a defendant who is incompetent to stand trial (IST) and referred to one of several specified programs. It also allows the court to refer a misdemeanor IST defendant to the county conservatorship investigator in the for possible conservatorship proceedings if in its opinion the defendant appears to be gravely disabled. Daphne Shaw said her concern is that the bill allows the court to determine the defendant in a misdemeanor is "gravely disabled," potentially even when mental health experts say the person does not meet the criteria.

Action Item: A motion was made by Daphne Shaw to recommend an "oppose" position to the Council's Legislation and Public Policy committee. Susan Wilson seconded the motion. Staff took a roll call vote. The motion passed.

Item #7: Senate Bill 989 and 1016

The committee did not have time to discuss Senate Bill 989 and 1016. The Legislation and Public Policy Committee voted to take "oppose" positions on the two bills during and interim committee meeting on May 20, 2026.

Item #8: Riverside County Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court Implementation

Marcus Cannon, Deputy Director of Forensics for Riverside University Health System Behavioral Health, presented on CARE Court implementation in Riverside County. Marcus gave an overview of the Riverside University Health System (RUHS), which

functions as the health system for Riverside County. The health system is made up of four agencies: the public health department, the behavioral health, the medical center, and the community health centers.

Marcus explained that CARE Court is just one part of a broader network of court-connected programs, including mental health court, mental health diversion, veterans' treatment court, their felony incompetent to stand trial program, assisted outpatient treatment, and more. Since the beginning of CARE Court implementation in Riverside County, they have been working to educate the public on the program, presenting it as a collaborative civil court pathway to care, support and stability. Marcus said they have been clear with the public about what CARE Court can accomplish and what the limitations of the program are. It is not a criminal court, it is not for all mental health conditions, and it isn't a solution to homelessness. Furthermore, treatment cannot be forced, and medication cannot be forcibly administered as part of CARE Court.

Marcus provided data on CARE Court implementation in Riverside County. To date, they have had:

- 530 total referrals to CARE Court
- 360 formal petitions in civil court
- 27 orders to investigate from criminal court
- 73 CARE agreements enacted
- 81 petitions dismissed
- 20 graduations from the CARE program

At the time that petitions were filed, 29% of individuals had permanent housing and 20% were experiencing homelessness. Over 70% of the individuals referred to CARE Court have been male. Marcus said that initially family petitions were the most frequent, but now the Behavioral Health department is the most frequent petitioner. Overall, the CARE Team has completed 14,668 initiation services and 13,004 direct services since implementation.

After the presentation, Marcus answered questions from the committee members, including the following:

- Mike Phillips asked why Marcus thought the number of petitions from family members had decreased. Marcus said that over time the behavioral health staff found it more efficient to ask family members if they would like the staff to file the petition on their behalf, and many family members have accepted that offer.
- Catherine Moore asked how much the CARE Court program resembles the assertive community treatment model. Marcus answered that it is very similar as a "whatever it takes" model. Without involuntary treatment tools, the behavioral health department relies on connecting with individuals and meeting their immediate needs so that they can be engaged in further services.
- Daphne Shaw asked if the behavioral health department has been able to bring on more staff to provide CARE Court services. Marcus said that they did bring on new staff at the start of the CARE Court program, and they are grateful that the

state provide some startup funds that they were able to use for that. However, those funds are now expended, which is presenting some challenges.

- Bill Stewart asked if there were any unexpected benefits of CARE Court that they had observed. Marcus said that one benefit was that the broad outreach approach that they implemented to educate the public about CARE Court connected a lot of people to other resources, even if their loved one didn't qualify for CARE Court. He also said that active participants in the program are receiving services and attention in ways they didn't previously thanks to the persistent outreach required.

Item #9: Article Discussion: Addressing Mental Health Disability in Unsheltered Homelessness

The committee discussed an article shared by Catherine Moore titled *Addressing Mental Health Disability in Unsheltered Homelessness: Outpatient Conservatorship in Los Angeles*. The article was published in the Psychiatric Services journal in 2024 and describes a pilot program for outpatient conservatorship services for gravely disabled individuals experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles County. The program served 43 individuals between August 2020 and July 2021. The article reported that the program showed promising results in reducing homelessness for participating clients and diverting clients from more restrictive treatment.

Catherine Moore said that the program looked like an improved use of resources compared to people being stuck in the most expensive forms of care like emergency rooms and hospital beds. She said the outpatient conservatorship model is something the committee should investigate and suggested reaching out for a presentation on the program if possible. Mike noted that it was a limited time pilot program and it is unclear if it was continued in any way but said that the committee could look into it.

Item #10: 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.
- Finalize the committee work plan.
- Follow up on the outpatient conservatorship pilot program in Los Angeles.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Performance Outcomes Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: Nomination of Chair-Elect (Action)

Enclosures: None

Connection to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides the opportunity for committee members to nominate the next Patients' Rights Committee Chair-Elect. The Chair-Elect is responsible for supporting the Chairperson with leading committee activities.

Background/Description:

Each standing committee shall have a Chairperson and Chair-Elect. The committee members shall nominate the Chairperson and Chair-Elect to be submitted to the Council's Officer Team for appointment.

The current committee Chairperson is Mike Phillips, who will finish his 2-year term at the end of 2026. The current Chair-Elect is Richard Kryzynowski, who will begin his term as Chairperson in 2027.

The term of the newly nominated Chair-Elect will be 2 years, and they will begin their term as Chairperson in 2029.

The role of the Chair-Elect is outlined below:

- Facilitate the committee meetings as needed, in the absence of the Chairperson.
- Assist the Chairperson and staff with setting the committee meeting agendas and other committee planning.
- Participate in the Executive Committee Meetings.
 - Wednesday of every quarterly meeting from 8:30 am – 10:00 am.
- Participate in the Mentorship Forums.
 - Thursday of every quarterly meeting, immediately after General Session (5:00 p.m.)

Motion: Nomination of a committee member as the Chair-Elect of the Patients' Rights Committee.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: Review and Approve Committee Workplan (Action)

Enclosures: Patients' Rights Committee 2027 Work Plan (Draft)

Connection to Council Mission

To review, evaluate, and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides committee members with the opportunity to review and update the committee work plan in alignment with the committee's mandated duties. It will also ensure that the committee workplan aligns with the Council's focus topics for 2027, including Lanterman-Petris-Short Act reform, involuntary treatment, and adequate patients' rights support in communities and jails.

Background/Description:

The purpose of the Patients' Rights Committee is to monitor, review, evaluate, and recommend improvements in the protection and upholding of patients' rights to receive effective, timely, and humane treatment in a public behavioral health system in California. The committee work plan outlines the objectives and goals of the Patients' Rights Committee and identifies the necessary tasks to achieve those goals, in alignment with the committee's charter.

Committee members will review and vote to approve the 2027 committee workplan.

Motion: To approve the 2027 Patients' Rights Committee workplan.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee (PRC)
Work Plan 2027
(DRAFT)**

Goal #1: Increase the Number of Patients' Rights Advocates (PRAs) in CA

Objective 1.1: Promote legislative engagement to support the publication of the Legislative Analysts' Office (LAO) report on PRA staffing.

Activities:

- Identify state legislators who have shown an interest in behavioral health or patients' rights.
- Contact legislators to inform them about PRA staffing issues and share the LAO report.
- Encourage interested legislators to request the publication of the report on the LAO website.

Timeline: January 2027 – December 2027

Goal #2: Engage Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions on issues affecting patients' rights advocacy.

Objective 2.1: Educate local behavioral health boards and commissions on the duties of PRAs and current issues affecting patients' rights advocacy.

Activities:

- Develop patients' rights advocacy training for local behavioral health boards and commissions.
- Provide training to local boards and commissions, along with informational materials, relevant reports, and other resources.

Timeline: January 2027 – December 2027

Goal #3: Strengthen the Committee's Legislative Responsiveness to Advocate for Patients' Rights Advocacy in California

Objective 3.1: Increase the committee's capacity to respond rapidly to legislative developments.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee (PRC)
Work Plan 2027
(DRAFT)**

Activities:

- Connect with partners such as Disability Rights California, the California Office of Patients' Rights, and the California Association of Mental Health Patients' Rights advocates to stay informed about current legislation affecting patients' rights.
- Work with Planning Council staff and the Legislation and Public Policy Committee to identify key bills, understand their impact, and coordinate timely action.
- Send letters of support or opposition on priority legislation in a timely manner.

Timeline: January 2027 – December 2027

Goal #4: Prioritize the inclusion of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment programs and facilities as a part of the patient's' rights advocacy system.

Objective 4.1: Increase Planning Council and committee knowledge of patients' rights advocacy for patients with substance use disorders.

Activities:

- Continue expanding the committee's knowledge through research and guest presentations.
- Identify topics related to patient's rights in SUD treatment

Timeline: January 2027 – December 2027

Objective 4.2: Encourage best practices for patients' rights advocacy and substance use disorder treatment.

Activities:

- Identify best practices regarding patients' rights advocacy for substance use disorder patients.
- Share identified best practices with patients' rights advocates, county Behavioral Health, local boards and commissions, and other identified audiences.

Timeline: January 2027 – December 2027

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: Updates on 2026 Priority Legislation

Enclosures: None

Connection to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item relates to the duties of the Patients' Rights Committee to monitor, review, evaluate, and recommend improvements in the protection and upholding of patients' rights to receive effective, timely, and humane treatment in a public mental health system in California

Background/Description

The Patients' Rights Committee tracked and voted to make position recommendations to the Legislation and Public Policy committee on several pieces of legislation during the 2026 legislative session. This agenda item gives time for the committee to review the final status of these bills:

[**Senate Bill \(SB\) 1221**](#), authored by Senator Stern, prioritizes placement of incompetent to stand trial (IST) defendants who have been conserved on public safety conservatorships (Murphy Conservatorships). It also gives the District Attorney full access to conservatorship hearings and updates standards for evaluating potential conservatees. The Patients' Rights Committee voted to recommend an *oppose* position on this bill at the April 2026 quarterly meeting.

Status of SB 1221: Placed in suspense file by Senate Appropriations on May 4, 2026.

[**Senate Bill \(SB\) 1401**](#), authored by Senator Stern, specifies timeframes for the dismissal of felony charges for a defendant who is found incompetent to stand trial IST, as well as several other changes regarding the sharing of confidential medical records and referral of misdemeanor IST defendants to county conservatorship investigations. The Patient's Rights Committee voted to recommend an *oppose* position on this bill at the June 2026 quarterly meeting.

Status of SB1401: Enrolled and Presented to the Governor on September 3, 2026.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 989](#) , authored by Senator Blakespear, would provide that a first responder may request the county behavioral health agency to file a petition to commence the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) process, as specified. The Legislation and Public Policy Committee voted to take an *oppose* position on this bill on May 20, 2026.

Status of SB 989: Enrolled and Presented to the Governor on September 4, 2026.

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 1016](#) (**SB 1016**), also authored by Senator Blakespear, would create a pathway for a Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) respondent to be ordered to undergo an evaluation under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act when certain conditions are met. The Legislation and Public Policy Committee voted to take an *oppose* position on this bill on May 20, 2026.

Status of Senate Bill 1016: Held in committee and under submission on August 13, 2026.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: Senate Bill 16 Discussion

Enclosures: None

Connection to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item relates to the duties of the Patients' Rights Committee to monitor, review, evaluate, and recommend improvements in the protection and upholding of patients' rights to receive effective, timely, and humane treatment in a public mental health system in California.

This item addresses Involuntary Treatment, which is one of the Council's focus areas for 2026.

Background/Description:

Under the Lanterman-Petris-Short act, when a person is determined to be a danger to others, to themselves, or is gravely disabled due to a mental health condition, the person may be taken into custody and placed in a facility designated by the county and approved by the State Department of Health Care Services for up to 72 hours for evaluation and treatment. Existing law authorizes a county behavioral health director to develop procedures for the county's designation and training of professionals who will be designated to perform the above-described provisions.

[Senate Bill 16](#), authored by Senator Blakespear, would instead require a county behavioral health director to establish and implement procedures governing the county's designation and training of professionals who will be designated to perform the above-described provisions. By imposing additional duties on county behavioral health directors, the bill would create a state-mandated local program. The bill was signed by the Governor on September 18, 2026.

Patients' Rights Committee members will have an opportunity to discuss the bill and its potential impact on the patients' rights system of California.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: Assembly Bill 2405

Enclosures: None

Connection to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item relates to the duties of the Patients' Rights Committee to monitor, review, evaluate, and recommend improvements in the protection and upholding of patients' rights to receive effective, timely, and humane treatment in a public mental health system in California.

This item addresses Involuntary Treatment, which is one of the Council's focus areas for 2026.

Background/Description:

[Assembly Bill 2405](#) , authored by Assembly Member Gibson, would require a peace officer who is transporting a person on a to a designated facility for assessment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS Act) to transport the person to the closest appropriate designated facility from where the peace officer took the person into custody. If a person is being transported by a peace officer to a designated facility for assessment, the bill would authorize the person to express their preference to the peace officer regarding the facility that they would prefer the peace officer to take them. By requiring a higher level of service from local law enforcement, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill was enrolled and presented to the Governor on September 4, 2026.

Patients' Rights Committee members will have an opportunity to discuss the bill and its potential impact on the patients' rights system of California.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: County Patients' Rights Advocacy Strengthening

Enclosures: None

Connection to Council Mission

To review, evaluate and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

This agenda item provides Council members with information about the implementation of the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Act volunteer supporters. The Patients' Rights Committee will use this information to review and evaluate the patients' rights system in California as part of the mandated duties of the Patients' Rights Committee.

This item addresses Adequate Patients' Rights Support in Communities and Jails, in alignment with the Council's focus for 2026.

Background/Description:

Vanessa Ramos from Disability Rights California will present an overview of efforts to strengthen county patients' rights advocacy in California's public behavioral health system. The committee will have an opportunity for questions and discussion after the presentation. This will include subjects such as expanding education on patients' rights for substance use disorder (SUD) providers, developing statewide policy framework for patients' rights, and more. Committee members will have an opportunity for questions and discussion after the presentation.

Biography:



Vanessa Ramos is a Senior Advisor with Disability Rights California's Investigations and Self-Advocacy Unit. Drawing on both professional and lived experience as a survivor of the U.S. drug war, she advocates for disability rights, recovery, and health-centered solutions while advancing community-based alternatives to unnecessary institutionalization and civil commitment.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
Patients' Rights Committee**

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

Agenda Item: Discussion of the 2026 Patients' Rights Committee Activities for the Council's Year-End Report (Action)

Enclosures: None

Connection to Council Mission

To review, evaluate, and advocate for an accessible and effective behavioral health system.

The purpose of this agenda item is to review the activities and action items the committee completed in 2026. The discussion will support the Council's 2026 Year-End Report.

Background/Description:

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council releases an annual report highlighting the achievements and activities of each committee. The Patients' Rights Committee will review the activities of the committee in 2026. Committee members will have the opportunity to discuss and select items to include in the Patients' Rights Committee section of the Council's 2026 Year-End Report.