

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council  
Performance Outcomes Committee  
April 15, 2025**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Committee Members Present:**

Noel O'Neill, Chairperson  
Karen Baylor  
Catherine Moore  
Susan Wilson

Don Morrison, Chair-Elect  
Erin Franco  
Liz Osegura  
Uma Zykovsky

**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

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**Item #1: Welcome and Introductions**

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The committee meeting began at 2:00 p.m.

Noel O'Neill welcomed all committee members and guests. A quorum was established with 8 out of 9 members.

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**Item #2: Review Meeting Minutes**

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The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes for January and February 2024. The minutes were accepted with no revisions.

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**Item #3: Data Notebook “Part I” Analysis**

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The Council executed a contract with Samantha Spangler of the Behavioral Health Data Project in May 2024 to analyze the Part I data collected from 2019-2023. Samantha presented a full draft of the Part I analysis report for committee review, starting with the executive summary. She highlighted changes from the previous draft which incorporated feedback from committee members as she went through the report.

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Committee members provided further edits and asked for clarification on several parts of the report.

Samantha then discussed the recommendations from the executive summary, which are:

1. Focus on Quantifying unmet needs and ensuring services are provided at the appropriate level of care.
2. Expand Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP Services) in Rural Areas.
3. Prioritize diversion, shelter, and affordable housing for individuals experiencing both behavioral health challenges and risk of homelessness.
4. Track recovery-oriented measures to demonstrate the effectiveness of behavioral health programs.

Samantha said she will provide an updated and final draft of the report to the committee in the next 2-3 weeks and will discuss it with the committee at the June quarterly meeting. Noel O'Neill said the committee will also discuss the distribution of the report in June. Susan Wilson said that the most important part of the report are the recommendations, and the committee should look carefully at them. Noel asked the committee to send any suggestions or recommendations to Samantha.

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

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Noel O'Neill provided a brief overview of the Behavioral Health Transformation Quality and Equity Advisory Committee (QEAC) for those who were unfamiliar. He noted that Liz Osegura, Theresa Comstock, and himself are on the main committee, while Samantha Spangler is additionally a member of the technical subcommittee. The Performance Outcomes Committee had an interim meeting in February to discuss the performance outcomes measures being developed with input from the technical subcommittee. The Council sent a letter to the Department of Health Care Services with detailed feedback on the proposed measures.

Noel said that the QEAC had moved on to the next phase of their work. Liz Osegura is in one of the workgroups that will be providing feedback for this phase. She shared that she completed a very detailed survey gathering input on the behavioral health goals and potential measures.

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#### **Item #5: Subcommittee Reports (Action Item)**

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At the October 2024 quarterly meeting, the Performance Outcomes Committee decided to form two subcommittees to facilitate work on specific workplan goals. The two subcommittees formed are:

- Subcommittee 1, focused on Workplan Goal #4: Showcasing effective programs that feature the guiding principles of the committee and the Council that are successful in assisting consumers in their recovery.
- Subcommittee 2, focused on Workplan Goal #3: Facilitating stakeholder engagement on behalf of the Council.

Susan Wilson updated the committee on Subcommittee 2. The subcommittee is guided by the officer team and Executive Committee. She said that the subcommittee don't want to pick topics for public forum on their own and will instead gather feedback from other committees on topics of interest. The subcommittee helped plan the film screening of *Hiding in Plain Sight* that the council hosted during the January quarterly meeting. Susan said she will continue to update the Performance Outcomes Committee on the subcommittee's activity.

Noel O'Neill updated the committee on Subcommittee 1, which met on April 3. The subcommittee discussed the topic of Wellness and Recovery Centers and reviewed a report on the topic published by the Council in 2011. The report was developed by the Adults Systems of Care Committee using survey data from several wellness centers. The report included addressed topics like funding, program design, services, community partnerships, and staffing. Noel said that Subcommittee 1 discussed conducting a survey of all counties to gather data on wellness and recovery centers, rather than collecting anecdotal information through a couple site visits.

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#### **Item #6: Data Notebook 2024 (Homelessness) Survey Results**

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Linda Dickerson presented the results of the 2024 Data Notebook on Homelessness. A total of 52 completed data notebook surveys were submitted, representing 52 counties and 1 non-county mental health board (Tri-City). There were 3 large population counties who had not responded. There was very good representation from medium and small population counties. Many counties reported providing a lot of services like specialty case management and navigation of health care and social support services.

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Linda has reviewed the data and has begun the analysis. This data notebook has fewer survey questions that have been simplified compared to previous data notebooks. Linda believes that this will make it easier to analyze the data and present a cohesive narrative for the report.

Susan Wilson asked if Linda felt she would be able to have a draft of the overview report done by the June quarterly meeting. Linda responded that she believed she would. Noel O'Neill affirmed that it would be placed on the June agenda.

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#### **Item #7: Data Notebook Distribution Discussion**

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Noel O'Neill asked Susan Wilson how the finished Data Notebook overview report is distributed beyond sending it back to the behavioral health boards and county directors. Susan Wilson said that it is important to share the report with other partners and ensure it is available online and on social media. She also suggested that the Council could hold a public forum on homelessness to share the results.

Noel asked if the executive summary gets sent to the legislators and the governor's office. Jenny Bayardo replied that the report is usually sent to the Department of Health Care Services and the Oversight and Accountability Commission. She added that the Council's annual report is sent to the legislators, which contains a link to the Data Notebook reports if they are finished by the time that goes out. Jenny said that if the committee would like the Council to reach out to legislators to share the executive summary directly, she would be happy to do that. Samantha Spangler suggested reaching out to the Steinberg Institute as well because they have a strong interest in housing issues and have good connections with the legislature.

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#### **Item #8: Data Notebook 2025/2026 Planning**

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Noel O'Neill then transitioned to a discussion of the 2025/2026 data notebook. Linda Dickerson provided an overview on the background research she conducted for the topics selected, which were juvenile justice and school-based wellness for youth. Linda shared that she identified a number of resources, which included:

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- The Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) Evaluation: Objectives Analysis Chartbook 2013 to 2023.
- A report by the California Behavioral Health Data Project titled California Behavioral Health Data Landscape: Preparing for Transformation.
- The California Department of Education webpage for school-based health programs.
- Data on foster youth and justice involved youth from the Department of Social Services, the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health, and the Department of Justice.
- The Office of Youth and Community Restoration webpage.
- Various datasets from KidsData.org including demographics, behavioral health, foster care, and juvenile arrests.

Linda concluded by saying that whatever the direction the committee wants to go, it will be important to have a clear focus on what they want to know, because the topics are very broad and there is a lot of aspects to consider.

Noel O'Neill stated that he is concerned that there is already so much data available on these topics and asked what the committee felt like they wanted to learn from the boards and commissions and behavioral health departments. Susan Wilson expressed a similar concern. She said that the committee had previously discussed wanting to make the Data Notebook more directed and accessible, with a focus on recommendations. She said she thinks these topics feels very complicated and not as approachable for the boards and suggested that the committee would need to focus on one or the other and not try to pursue both of them in one Data Notebook.

Catherine Moore stated that committee could narrow down the topic if they looked specifically at the intersection of school-aged youth who are involved in the criminal justice system. It could be useful to look at that particular high-needs group and look into what they get out of the various systems of care.

Susan suggested pivoting to focus on wellness centers and services in schools since the committee is already interested in looking at wellness centers for adults. Karen Baylor agreed with Susan that the topic needs to be narrowed down to keep it accessible for the behavioral health boards, as well as to keep the Data Notebook project timely. Theresa Comstock also said that she liked the idea of keeping the topic focused and not asking the board and commission members or county staff to contact multiple agencies to complete the Data Notebook survey. Theresa added that counties have some requirements around collecting data on prevention and early intervention which could be incorporated.

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Noel shared that he liked the idea of having wellness centers at school sites, but the limitations for space and funding limited how available they were. He suggested broadening the idea from wellness centers specifically to asking about any behavioral health services of interventions that are offered for youth. Susan agreed that it wasn't just about wellness centers, but wellness services in general for school-aged youth. Noel also suggested focused on a specific age range, and Theresa suggested middle school and high school.

Samantha Spangler expressed support for focusing on wellness centers and other services for middle and high school aged youth. However, she added that there are two big projects going on at the Oversight and Accountability Commission currently related to youth drop-in centers and student mental health and suggested leaving those topics to them as they are already conducting ongoing evaluations.

Uma Zykofsky said that she liked the idea of tying it into the report on Adult Wellness Centers. She said that the committee should keep the focus narrow and the questions simple for the counties, so they are not overloaded with work. Noel agreed that this would be a priority.

Susan suggested focusing on wellness centers for adults for the 2025 Data Notebook and then follow up with wellness for middle and high school youth in 2026. Samantha said it would be a good idea to ask the same questions from 2025 again in 2026 to get the most consistent data, which Noel agreed with. She also suggested including a couple open-ended questions about the children's system in the 2025 data notebook to inform the survey for 2026.

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### **Item #9: Next Steps and Planning for Future Activities**

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Noel O'Neill and the committee members identified next steps and agenda items for the June 2025 meeting. These next steps include:

- Review a draft of the analysis report for the 2024 Data Notebook on homelessness.
- Develop the 2025 Data Notebook on wellness and recovery centers.
- Review the final draft of the Part I analysis by Samantha Spangler.
- Updates from the DHCS Quality and Equity Advisory Committee.

**The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.**