



California Behavioral Health Planning Council

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

AGENDA

April 15, 16, 17, and 18, 2025
Lake Natoma Inn
702 Gold Lake Dr, Folsom, CA 95630

Notice: All agenda items are subject to action by the Council. Scheduled times on the agenda are estimates and subject to change. If Reasonable Accommodation is required, please contact the Council at 916-701-8211 by **April 1, 2025** to meet the request. All items on the Committee agendas posted on our website are incorporated by reference herein and are subject to action.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

2:00 pm [Performance Outcomes Committee](#)

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

8:30 am [Executive Committee](#)

10:30 am [Patients' Rights Committee](#)

12:00 pm LUNCH (on your own)

12:10 am Children/Youth Workgroup (working lunch)

1:30 pm [Workforce and Employment Committee](#)

1:30 pm [Legislation and Public Policy Committee](#)

Thursday, April 17, 2025

8:30 am [Housing and Homelessness Committee](#)

8:30 am [Systems and Medicaid Committee](#)

12:00 pm LUNCH (on your own)

12:10 pm Reducing Disparities Work Group (working lunch)

12:10 pm Substance Use Disorder Workgroup (working lunch)

5:15 pm Mentorship Forum

Thursday, April 17, 2025

COUNCIL GENERAL SESSION

Room: Sierra Ballroom

Conference Call: (669) 900-6833 (Listen Only)

Meeting ID: 883 3069 6226 **Passcode:** 099560

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1:30 pm | Welcome and Introductions
<i>Tony Vartan, Chairperson</i> | |
| 1:40 pm | Local County Behavioral Health Services Overview
<i>Ryan Quist, PhD, Director of Behavioral Health,
Sacramento County</i> | TAB P |
| 2:25 pm | Public Comment on County Presentation | |
| 2:30 pm | 10-MINUTE BREAK | |
| 2:40 pm | Introduction of Behavioral Health Services Oversight
and Accountability Representative
<i>Tony Vartan, Chairperson and Al Rowlett</i> | TAB Q |
| 2:55 pm | California Department of Public Health Population
Based Prevention/Behavioral Health Services Act
<i>Dr. Erica Pan, CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer
Christine Siador, Assistant Director
Julie Nagasako, Deputy Director, Office of Policy & Planning
Ashley Mills, Assistant Deputy Director, Center for Health Communities
Katey Rosenquist, Policy Section Manager, Office of Policy and Planning
Trudy Raymundo, Office of Policy & Planning
Britt Higgins, Emerging Issues and Policy Specialist, Office of Policy & Planning
Jeannie Balido, Special Assistant to the Director</i> | TAB R |
| 3:40 pm | Public Comment on Department of Public Health Presentation | |
| 3:45 pm | 10-MINUTE BREAK | |
| 3:55 pm | Department of Health Care Services Update
<i>Paula Wilhelm, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, CA Department of Health
Care Services</i> | |
| 4:25 pm | Public Comment on Department of Health Care Services Update | |
| 4:30 pm | Council Member Representation at External Meetings
<i>Tony Vartan, Chairperson and Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer</i> | TAB S |
| 4:45 pm | General Public Comment | |
| 5:00 pm | Recess | |

Public Comment: Limited to a **3-minute maximum** to ensure all are heard.

Mentorship Forum for Council members, including Committee Chairpersons and Chair-Elects, will occur following Thursday's General Session in the same room. We respectfully ask those not participating to exit the meeting space to allow for Council business to occur.

Friday, April 18, 2025

COUNCIL GENERAL SESSION

Room: Sierra Ballroom

Conference Call: (669) 900-6833 (Listen Only)

Meeting ID: 883 3069 6226 **Passcode:** 099560

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|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 8:30 am | Welcome Back & Announcements
<i>Tony Vartan, Chairperson</i> | |
| 8:45 am | Proposition 1 Ad Hoc Update
<i>Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer; Barbara Mitchell, Council Member; Javier Moreno, Council Member; Susan Wilson, Council Member; Uma Zykofsky, Council Member</i> | |
| 9:00 am | Opportunities for Strengthening Public Systems for the Justice-Involved Population
<i>Brenda Grealish, Executive Officer, Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH)</i> | TAB T |
| 9:50 am | Public Comment on Council on CCJBH Presentation | |
| 10:00 am | Commission for Behavioral Health Update
<i>Commission for Behavioral Health Representative/Staff</i> | |
| 10:10 am | 20-Minute Break | |
| 10:30 am | Health and Human Services Agency Update
<i>Ali Vangrow, Senior Program Analyst, California Health and Human Services</i> | TAB U |
| 11:00 am | Committee Report-Outs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Executive: Tony Vartan, Chairperson• Patients' Rights: Daphne Shaw, Chairperson• Performance Outcomes: Noel O'Neill, Chairperson• Patients' Rights: Daphne Shaw, Chairperson• Legislation and Public Policy: Barbara Mitchell, Chairperson• Workforce and Employment: Walter Shwe, Chairperson• Housing and Homelessness: Deborah Starkey, Chairperson• Systems and Medicaid: Uma Zykofsky, Chairperson• Children/Youth Workgroup: Dave Cortright• Reducing Disparities Workgroup: Liz Oseguera• Substance Use Disorder Workgroup: Javier Moreno | |
| 11:50 am | General Public Comment | |

11:55 am Closing Remarks
Tony Vartan, Chairperson

12:00 pm Adjourn

2025 Council Meeting Schedule

June 17-20, 2025: [DoubleTree Hotel Marina del Rey](#)

October 14-17, 2025: [Embassy Suites San Francisco Airport Waterfront](#)

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
General Session**

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Agenda Item: Local Behavioral Health Services Overview

Enclosures: None

Background/Description:

Behavioral Health directors from areas surrounding Council meetings are invited to present to the Council's full membership.

Presenter Bio:



Ryan Quist, Ph.D., is the Behavioral Health Director in Sacramento County. His focus is on mental health and substance abuse services for the homeless population, criminal justice population, and bolstering the crisis continuum of care to prevent psychiatric hospitalizations. For children's services, he is dedicated to promoting field-based and school-based services and collaborating to support the foster youth and probation populations.

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
General Session**

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Agenda Item: Introduction of Behavioral Health Services Oversight
and Accountability Representative

Enclosures: None

Background/Description:

In accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 5771.1, members of the Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (BHSOAC) serve as ex-officio members of the California Behavioral Health Planning Council by virtue of their position. The Behavioral Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission has rebranded themselves and also go by the Commission on Behavioral Health.

The current Vice Chair of the Commission on Behavioral Health, Al Rowlett, will participate in Council meetings as their official representative.

Presenter Bio:



Al Rowlett was named Turning Point Community Programs' Chief Executive Officer in 2014. Commissioner Rowlett has been with the agency since 1981 and today provides leadership and guidance to over 40 programs in several Northern and Central California counties. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Ottawa University, a Master's in

Business Administration in Health Services Management from Golden Gate University and in Social Work from California State University, Sacramento. He is also a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Rowlett was appointed as a trustee to the Elk Grove Unified School District in 2009 serving through 2012. He is currently a Volunteer Clinical Professor at the University of California, Davis Department of Psychiatry co-directing the Community Psychiatry seminar for residents and formerly served as an adjunct professor for the CSUS Mental Health Services Act cohort. In 2020, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon re-appointed Al to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Board.

Commissioner Rowlett fills the seat of a mental health professional.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council General Session

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Agenda Item: California Department of Public Health Population Based Prevention/Behavioral Health Services Act

Enclosures: None

Background/Description:

In March 2024, Californians passed Proposition 1, now referred to as Behavioral Health Transformation, to transform behavioral health by addressing gaps in care for the most vulnerable Californians.

The two legislative bills that created the language in Proposition 1 are:

- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) [SB 326](#)
- Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act [AB 531](#)

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will receive funding to implement population-based behavioral health-prevention strategies.

- A minimum of 4% of BHSA funds will be directed for population-based mental health and substance use disorder prevention programs.
- A significant portion of these prevention funds (51%) will be reserved for programs addressing prevention for populations who are 25 years or younger.

Representatives from CDPH will provide an update on the implementation of the Population Based Prevention for the Behavioral Health Services Act.

Additional Resources:

[CDPH Partner and Community Engagement Webpage](#)

[The Next Step to Transform California's Behavioral Health System \(California Health and Human Services\)](#)

**California Behavioral Health Planning Council
General Session**

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Agenda Item: Council Member Representation at External Meetings

Enclosures: Council Member Representation in External Groups

CBHPC Operating Policies and Procedures - Representing the Planning Council (Excerpt)

Background/Description:

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) continues to expand its reach across the state of California by participating in other statewide groups. Members are approved to represent the Council per Operating Policies and Procedures 10.2.

The “Council Member Representation in External Groups” list provided in this tab includes members representing the Council and a brief description of the groups they participate in.

This agenda item provides the opportunity for members to share about their participation in statewide advisory groups and for leadership to acknowledge their contributions.



**California
Behavioral Health
Planning Council**

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Council Member Representation in External Groups

Name of Group	Purpose/Description	Participants	Meeting Frequency	Council Representative	Date Appointed
Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) Act Working Group	Provide coordination and ongoing engagement with, and support collaboration among, relevant state and local partners and other stakeholders throughout the phases of county implementation to support the successful implementation of the CARE Act.	DHCS, CalHHS, Legal Aid Association of California, California Department of Housing & Community Development, California Department of Veterans Affairs, Disability Rights	Quarterly (during the implementation, shall end by December 31, 2026)	Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer	February 2023
CARE Ad-hoc Group: Training, Technical Assistance and Communications	Working group began in early 2023 as a mechanism to receive feedback from partners to support successful implementation and help key constituents understand policy and program progress who can then disseminate accurate information.	Representation from families, cities and counties, behavioral health providers, judges, legal counsel, peer organizations, disability rights and racial equity stakeholders, and housing and homelessness providers.	Quarterly (during the implementation, shall end by December 31, 2026)	Mike Phillips	October 2023
CARE Ad-hoc Group: Data Collection, Reporting & Evaluation Ad Hoc Group	Working group began in early 2023 as a mechanism to receive feedback from partners to support successful implementation and help key constituents understand policy and program progress who can then disseminate accurate information.	Representation from families, cities and counties, behavioral health providers, judges, legal counsel, peer organizations, disability rights and racial equity stakeholders, and housing and homelessness providers.	Quarterly (during the implementation, shall end by December 31, 2026)	Susan Wilson	October 2023

Name of Group	Purpose/Description	Participants	Meeting Frequency	Council Representative	Date Appointed
CARE Ad-hoc Group: Services and Supports	Working group began in early 2023 as a mechanism to receive feedback from partners to support successful implementation and help key constituents understand policy and program progress who can then disseminate accurate information.	Representation from families, cities and counties, behavioral health providers, judges, legal counsel, peer organizations, disability rights and racial equity stakeholders, and housing and homelessness providers.	Quarterly (during the implementation, shall end by December 31, 2026)	Uma Zykovsky	October 2023
Black Health Equity Advisory Group (BHEAG)	Strategic partner of CDPH by recommending departmental policy, practice, and program changes that will lead to increased opportunities for Black Californians to live their healthiest lives. Additionally, the BHEAG will serve as a bridge between CDPH and the community, including private citizens, service providers, and other community-based organizations who are working to advance Black health equity in California.	Persons who are of Black or African American descent, California residents, and currently employed by or affiliated with an organization.	As Needed	Monica Caffey	February 2024
Assembly Bill (AB) 2242 Stakeholder Workgroup	Development of a model care coordination plan (MCCP) to comply with the requirements of Assembly Bill 2242, Welfare and Institutions Code, Division 5, Chapter 4, Section 5402.5.	DHCS and stakeholders	As Needed	Daphne Shaw	February 2023
988-Crisis Policy Advisory Group - Workgroup #1 Comprehensive Assessment of Behavioral Health Crisis Services	CalHHS shall convene a state 988 advisory group for purposes of advising the California Health and Human Services Agency on the set of recommendations to support the five-year implementation plan. AB 118 extended the implementation plan deadline to December 31, 2024.	Broad range of external stakeholders	As Needed	Uma Zykovsky	October 2023

Name of Group	Purpose/Description	Participants	Meeting Frequency	Council Representative	Date Appointed
988-Crisis Policy Advisory Group - Workgroup #1	CalHHS shall convene a state 988 advisory group for purposes of advising the California Health and Human Services Agency on the set of recommendations to support the five-year implementation plan. AB 118 extended the implementation plan deadline to December 31, 2024.	Broad range of external stakeholders	As Needed	Uma Zykofsky	October 2023
Behavioral Health Task Force	Addresses the urgent mental and substance use disorder needs across California. Advises on the Administration's efforts to advance statewide behavioral health services, prevention, and early intervention to stabilize conditions before they become severe.	Broad range of stakeholders, including people living with behavioral health conditions, family members, advocates, providers, health plans, counties, and state leaders	Quarterly	Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer	September 2023
California Coalition for Behavioral Health (CCBH)	The California Coalition for Mental Health (CCMH) provides a single unified voice for mental health organizations with a statewide advocacy presence.	Family and consumer organizations, nonprofit service providers, professional associations, hospitals, and others -- having a statewide advocacy presence -- who seek to improve the delivery of mental health care in California.	Quarterly	Daphne Shaw	N/A

Name of Group	Purpose/Description	Participants	Meeting Frequency	Council Representative	Date Appointed
The County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA)	Advocate for behavioral health before the legislature and state agencies to better serve each of California's 58 counties and two cities, defend adequate state and federal funding for member counties so that they can provide crucial behavioral health services, while supporting workforce development investments to address a significant shortage of public behavioral health professionals in California, and lobby for important legislative change.	Behavioral health directors from each of California's 58 counties, as well as two cities (Berkeley and Tri-City).	As Needed	Tony Vartan	March 2019
The Quality and Equity Advisory Committee	The Quality and Equity Advisory Committee (QEAC) supports the development of a quality and equity strategy and advises the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) on a comprehensive vision for improving population behavioral health statewide. The quality and equity strategy will extend across multiple statewide behavioral health programs and initiatives.	Broad range of external stakeholders	As Needed	Noel O'Neill	N/A
Student Mental Health Policy Workgroup	The Student Mental Health Policy Workgroup assesses the current mental health needs of California students and gathers evidence to support its policy recommendations to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and the California Legislature.	Broad range of stakeholders including teachers, school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, and school administrators, and state and county mental health professionals	Quarterly	Monica Caffey	N/A

Name of Group	Purpose/Description	Participants	Meeting Frequency	Council Representative	Date Appointed
Compliance Advisory Committee (CAC)	The goals of the Compliance Advisory Committee (CAC) is to address Changes Impacting Behavioral Health, Seek Feedback and Improvement Opportunities, Facilitate Open Dialogue and Fostering Collaboration	Invited stakeholders	Annually	Deborah Starkey Don Morrision	N/A
Pacific West Hub Advisory Board	The goal of the Advisory Board is to serve Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Ceneter for Mental Health Services (CMHS) grantees and other mental health organizations through implementation support by generating resources, and delivering targeted and intensive technical assistance (TA) around dissemination, implementation, and sustainment.	Invited stakeholders	Bi-Annually	Jenny Bayardo, Executive Officer	N/A

CBHPC OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (EXCERPT)

10. Representing the Planning Council

10.1 Selection of Planning Council Members to Attend Training/Conferences

The Planning Council maintains a list of various organizations' annual trainings, conferences, and events. The Council will periodically solicit volunteers to travel to these events on behalf of the Planning Council. Once all interested members have submitted their names, the Officer Team will evaluate and select a representative(s) based on how closely they match the scope and purpose of the event. The following criteria will be used in making this determination:

- Experience and seniority (for policy development)
- Council member's attendance at previous trainings, conferences, and events
- New member (for training purposes)
- Regular attendance and active participation
- Subject matter expertise
- Specific criteria required by the requesting organization

Council members should explore whether their employer will fund or reimburse for traveling and attending these events.

Council members are expected to share the information/knowledge gained from these events with the Council. Members should be prepared to address the following questions after attending these events:

1. What three things did you learn?
2. How does what you learned relate to the work of the Council and/or your committee?
3. Is there any action the Council should take as a result of the information you learned? (If yes, please explain)

10.2 Roles and Accuracy of Planning Council Positions

Individual members may be called upon to represent the Planning Council before the Legislature, state departments, or other groups. In addition, individual members may wish to represent the Planning Council at particular forums.

In any forum, members must indicate whether they are representing the Planning Council or are speaking as individuals. Individuals may represent the Planning Council only when

CBHPC OPERATING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (EXCERPT)

authorized by the Chairperson or Executive Officer, and are responsible for representing the Planning Council's positions accurately.

10.3 Personal Projects

Planning Council members are to use their status as Planning Council members only when doing official business of the Planning Council. Members are not authorized to use their positions as Planning Council members to obtain information for personal projects.

10.4 Media Policy

The Planning Council will refer all media inquiries to the Executive Officer. The Executive Officer will use the steps outlined below when contacted by the media:

- Provide the reporter with the information sought if they possess that information or refer to other staff as appropriate based on expertise
- Arrange for an interview with the appropriate Planning Council member who is the best source of information provided that the member knows they are speaking on behalf of the Planning Council and must accurately represent the position of the Planning Council
- Work with the Department's Public Information Office if the request for information is politically sensitive

10.5 Transparency Policy

To facilitate open communication and understanding on all projects conducted by the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) among its members who may or may not be involved in paid employment related to CBHPC business, Planning Council members will notify the Executive Officer, who will place a transparency statement notification on the Executive Committee agenda to be included in the Executive Committee minutes when the following occurs:

- A member is doing paid work for the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) or other state agencies whose work may be reviewed by the CBHPC
- A member is doing paid work for the federal government that may be related to federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Act Block Grant activities
- A member is doing paid work for a contractor of the DHCS
- A member is doing paid work for a county when that work is likely to be reviewed by the CBHPC
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California Behavioral Health Planning Council General Session

Friday, April 18, 2025

Agenda Item: Opportunities for Strengthening Public Systems for the Justice-Involved Population

Enclosures: None

Background/Description:

The Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) is a 12-member council chaired by the secretary of CDCR and comprised of representatives from the Department of State Hospitals (DSH), the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), and appointed experts from criminal justice and behavioral health fields. The council investigates, identifies, and promotes cost-effective strategies that prevent adults and juveniles with behavioral health needs from becoming incarcerated; identifying incentives for state and local justice and health programs to adopt such approaches; reporting activities to the legislature; and providing recommendations for improving the cost-effectiveness of existing behavioral health and criminal justice programs.

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) is mandated in Welfare & Institutions Code 5771 to review and report on the public behavioral health system, to advocate for adults and older adults with serious mental illnesses and children and youth with serious emotional disturbances and their families, and to make recommendations regarding mental health policy development and priorities.

The Behavioral Health Services Act targets funding to provide services to the most vulnerable populations including those at risk of incarceration, re-entering the community from a justice-involved setting, at risk of conservatorship, in foster care, and/or at risk of institutionalization. It is imperative that Council Members understand the needs of our justice involved behavioral health population in order to make quality recommendations on the implementation of the Behavioral Health Transformation and advocate for the behavioral health needs of persons with lived experience of justice-involvement.

The Executive Officer of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH) will provide an overview of the opportunities in the current public behavioral health system to strengthen the continuum of care for justice-involved individuals.

Presenter Bio:

Brenda Grealish is currently the Executive Officer of the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health (CCJBH), which is part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Prior to joining CCJBH, she worked at the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), where she served in several positions, including Chief of the former Mental Health Services Division, Assistant Deputy and Acting Deputy Director for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Services, and Chief of the Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Division. Prior to working at DHCS, she held several positions at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Research, including Deputy Director, Research Manager III and Research Manager II. In her early career, she held several positions at the former California Department of Mental Health, including Research Program Specialist I and Research Analyst I/II. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Psychology from California State University, Sacramento.

California Behavioral Health Planning Council General Session

Friday, April 18, 2025

Agenda Item: Health and Human Services Agency Update

Enclosures: None

Background/Description:

In 1961, Government Code section 12800 established the Human Relations Agency, which became the Health and Welfare Agency in 1972. [Assembly Bill 2352 \(Woods, Chapter 817, Statutes of 1998\)](#) changed the name of the Health and Welfare Agency to the Health and Human Services Agency.

Mission: Our mission is to work together with counties, cities, and communities, as well as our public, private, faith, and educational partners to make California a healthy, vibrant, inclusive place to live, play, work, and learn.

Ali Vangrow, Senior Program Analyst for the California Health and Human Services Agency will provide an update on the agency's priorities and initiatives.

Additional Resources:

[Guiding Principles and Strategic Priorities \(full\)](#)

[Guiding Principles and Strategic Priorities \(condensed\)](#)

Presenter Bio:



Ali Vangrow brings over six years of health policy experience. She joined CalHHS in August of 2023 after graduating from University of California, Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy (GSPP) where she received a Master of Public Policy degree. During her time at GSPP, Ali specialized in health policy, focusing particularly on behavioral health and the well-being of early childhood populations. Throughout her graduate studies, she collaborated with a range of organizations, including First 5 California and the Kennedy Forum. Prior to her graduate studies, Ali gained extensive federal experience by working in the United States Senate and House of Representatives in Washington D.C. for about five years. Her main focus was health policy, but she also worked on other topics such as agriculture, veterans' affairs, LGBTQ rights, among others. Ali earned her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Colgate University, where she discovered her passion for policymaking and public service.