



California Behavioral Health Planning Council

ADVOCACY • EVALUATION • INCLUSION

AGENDA

April 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2026

Residence Inn Sacramento Capitol Park/California Endowment/DHCS, Sacramento,
CA

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 **March 30, 2026** 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 14, 2026

2:00 p.m. [Performance Outcomes Committee](#)

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

8:30 a.m. [Executive Committee](#)

10:30 a.m. [Patients' Rights Committee](#)

12:00 p.m. LUNCH (on your own)

1:30 p.m. [Workforce and Employment Committee](#)

1:30 p.m. [Legislation and Public Policy Committee](#)

Thursday, April 16, 2026

8:30 a.m. [Housing and Homelessness Committee](#)

8:30 a.m. [Systems and Medicaid Committee](#)

12:00 p.m. LUNCH (on your own)

Thursday, April 16, 2026

COUNCIL GENERAL SESSION

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

Meeting ID: 979 8764 5534 **Passcode:** 880950

Location: California Endowment Sacramento

1414 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

1:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

Tony Vartan, Chairperson

1:35 p.m. Acceptance of January and April 2025 Meeting Minutes Tab P

Susan Wilson, Chairperson Elect

1:40 p.m. Senate Bill 803 (SB 803): Medi-Cal Peer Support Tab Q

Specialist Certification Program Statewide Updates

Program Overview: Ivan Bhardwaj, Division Chief, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Policy Division, CA Department of Health Care Services

Certification Update: Lucero Robles, LCSW, Senior Director, Quality Assurance and Compliance, California Mental Health Services Authority

Statewide Implementation Update: Elissa Feld, Executive Director, County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California (CBHDA)

- *Panel Presentations (35 minutes)*
- *Council Member Discussion (10 minutes)*

2:35 p.m. 15-Minute Break

2:50 p.m. SB 803 Implementation: Stakeholder Perspective Tab R

Opportunities for Improvement and Advocacy

Heidi Strunk, MHA, President & CEO, California Coalition for Mental Health

Lynn Rivas, Executive Director, California Association of Mental Health Peer Run Organizations

Dawniell Zavala, Associate Director & General Counsel, Cal Voices

Meron Agonafer, Policy Director, Cal Voices

- *Panel Presentations (30 minutes)*
- *Council Member Discussion (10 minutes)*
- *Public Comment (5 minutes)*

3:25 p.m. 5-Minute Break

3:30 p.m. Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Update

Paula Wilhelm, Deputy Director, Behavioral Health, CA Department of Health Care Services

- *Presentation (20 minutes)*
- *Council Member Discussion (5-7 minutes)*
- *Public Comment (4-5 minutes)*

4:00 p.m. General Public Comment

4:20 p.m. Recess

Public Comment: Limited to a **2-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 17, 2026

COUNCIL GENERAL SESSION

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

Meeting ID: 979 8764 5534 **Passcode:** 880950

Location: Department of Health Care Services

1700 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95811

8:30 a.m. Welcome Back & Announcements

Tony Vartan, Chairperson

8:35 a.m. Commission for Behavioral Health Address to the Council

Al Rowlett, Chair/Commissioner (Invited)

- Presentation (10 minutes)
- Council Member Discussion (5 minutes)

8:45 a.m. Committee Report-Outs

- **Performance Outcomes:** Noel O'Neill, Chairperson
- **Executive:** Tony Vartan, Chairperson
- **Patients' Rights:** Mike Phillips, Chairperson
- **Legislation and Public Policy:** Javier Moreno, Chairperson
- **Workforce and Employment:** Bill Stewart, Chairperson
- **Housing and Homelessness:** Maria Sierra, Chair-Elect
- **Systems and Medicaid:** Karen Baylor, Chairperson

9:10 a.m. Presentation of Draft 2026-2030

Workforce Education and Training (WET) 5-Year Plan

Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI)

- Presentation (50 minutes)
- Council Member Q&A (10 minutes)
- Public comment (10 minutes)

Tab S

10:20 a.m. 15-Minute Break

10:35 a.m. Workforce and Employee Committee Lead

Discussion on Draft 2026-2030 WET 5-Year

- Committee Findings (10 minutes)
- Facilitated Round Table Discussions (25 minutes)
- Round Table Report outs (10 minutes)

Tab T

11:20 a.m. Unshame CA Statewide Campaign

Saskia VandeKamp, Senior Director of Community Engagement

- Presentation (20 minutes)
- Council Member Q&A (10 minutes)

Tab U

11:50 a.m. General Public Comment

11:55 a.m. Closing Remarks
Tony Vartan, Chairperson

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

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

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2026 Council Meeting Schedule

- **June 16-19, 2026:** [Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center](#), Riverside, CA
- **October 20-23, 2026:** [Embassy Suites San Francisco Airport-South San Francisco](#), South San Francisco, CA