



**Behavioral Health Commission
Unapproved Minutes**
Wednesday, January 7, 2026 | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting – 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201, San Mateo, CA 94403; and online



BHC Members:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Perry – Chair (online) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leticia Bido – Vice Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Yoko Ng – Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Silverfarb – BOS Rep <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Keohane <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Rice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frieda Edgette (online)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Sutherland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Saywell <input type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kurczak <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.D. Kristina Bell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Gomez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Lim	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Nichols <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sid Palani <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veer Chowdhary (online) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Yu
SMC BHRS Staff:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jei Africa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chantae Rochester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristie Lui <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doris Estremera (online)	
Others Present (in-person)	Dr. Maria Lorente Foresti, Dr. Jana Spalding, Yolanda Ramirez		
Others Present (online)	Charles Huggins, Frances Lobos, Kristina Anderson, Maria Martinez, Jonathan, Sofia Recalde, Kristina, Sylvia Tang, Tia Bell, Clara Boyden, OCFA, Adriana Furuzawa, Waynette Brock		

Meeting called to order at 3:34 by Chair Jean Perry.

ITEM	DISCUSSION/ACTION
Roll Call/ Introductions	Roll call was completed.
Approval of Agenda	The meeting agenda was unanimously approved. ► M/S/C Edgette/ Keohane
Approval of Minutes	The meeting minutes were approved with the below changes. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pg 1: Change to “not a new government commission”• Pg 2: Change to “Youth Action Board” ► M/S/C Keohane/ Bido
Correspondence, Announcements & Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frieda Edgette- On Jan 21st from 4PM-7PM allcove San Mateo is celebrating its two-year anniversary, so I encourage everyone to join a big party. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet with care providers and over the last months we've made great strides in expanding our coalition. Expect games, food, fun activities, live music, and more!• Jean Perry- The SB43 info session will be tomorrow. It is a 1 hr presentation explaining SB43 and the definitions of gravely disabled. You can ask questions or provide feedback about SB43 Implementation in San Mateo County. Join us this Thursday, January 8th, 11:00AM to Noon for a virtual SB43 Community Forum - ask your questions or raise issues related to SB43 Implementation in San Mateo County. We want to address implementation issues early in the process, so please attend. ZOOM Link: https://smcgov.zoom.us/j/92254535319• Jean Perry - Deadline for the Hall of Fame awards is this Friday. Please help spread the word. https://smcbhrlsblog.org/2025/12/10/2026-george-culores-hall-of-fame-nominations-now-open/• Leti Bido - This Friday, 1/9, the Naloxone Awareness and Community event sponsored by SamTrans will be from 9AM-10:30AM.• Frieda Edgette- We made history with passing the resolution on the last Board of Supervisors meeting on the Future Generations commission. Stay tuned for more exciting news!

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristie Lui - The BOS Recognition for Boards and Commissions is on 1/28, 5PM-7PM for all commissioners. Help the county become better with your involvement.
<p>Understanding Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) as a Behavioral Health Plan Presented by Dr. Jei Africa, San Mateo County BHRS Director</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing landscape of the behavioral health continues to accelerate. We are seeing state and federal reforms. With the changing compliance, regulations and rules, we are seeing the needs for behavioral health services are changing. While I have appreciated this county has focused a lot of their work on treatment and direct client care, something we missed was the operations. • A lot of our operations are funded by state reimbursements. So, if we don't have a lot of people seeking services, that will have an impact on us financially. • Historically BHRS has been considered a safety net entity, meaning everything for everybody. • Before, we could serve anybody, no matter what. Now under managed care, we are focusing on clients who have SMI and SUD. • County behavioral health is focused on serving those with moderate to severe MH and or substance use disorders. • Many counties are worried about the number of MediCal recipients given what we are seeing in CA. • We can still serve these people, but we will not be reimbursed for these services. • When people are diagnosed with a behavioral health condition, there is a determination if this person is more in the mild or severe spectrum. If your behavioral health condition is determined to be mild, it is the Health Plan of San Mateo and Kaiser that is responsible for your care. If moderate to severe, then we (BHRS) become responsible. • The other component is related to MHSA/prevention. We did prevention for over 2 decades. Now that is moving to public health. • Payment mechanism is also shifting. From cost reimbursement now it is shifting to fee for service (FFS) with CalAIM. Now there are contract maximums and if you don't do the service, you won't get paid. This is value-based performance or capitation. • One thing I want to emphasize for top priorities for effective health plans is strong provider networks and data-driven decision making. • Key takeaways include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarifying priority populations and mandated versus non mandated services. We need to maximize billing which is related to compliance. 2. A value-based financing aka capitation 3. Risk management 4. Performance measures/ Continuing to invest in our data infrastructure 5. Community Planning 6. Provider network - communicating changes and providing support
<p>Understanding Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) as a Behavioral Health Plan Presentation Questions and Responses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Nichols- Given the political environment, how would you argue in favor of these mandated changes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jei Africa- There are always pros and cons and assessing the risk of not doing this. I do agree there are some parts of shifting to managed care that I agree with. As a clinician I would like to people I treat to be better. When we start hearing about performance and measuring success, I am all for that. But the change the state is asking us to do is so fast paced, and I don't think we can do these changes well without mindfulness and discussion. EPIC is coming and we are hoping the data

	<p>mechanism will fulfill some of the gaps. We are hoping some of the big gaps we can address.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veer Chowdhary- For capitation, if you exceed the cost allocated to you, do you eat the cost or does the patient? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You eat the cost. You don't get paid more. • Leti Bido- I will save majority of my questions for the retreat. I do want to reiterate that your leadership is critical. Specifically, to have someone see both sides of the intricacies of the changes. I think that for us as a commission this is critically important to be well informed. • Sid Palani- What can this commission do outside of appreciation and reminding people? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Jei Africa- The commission has been really critical in moving the crisis work forward. If you have ideas for improving our system, bring that here. People will listen to commissioners. There is a weight you all carry. You are obligated by the state to have specific functions e.g. site visits, learning about providers, going to events. This helps elevate behavioral health. There are also advocacy opportunities at CalBHB/C. • Adriana Furuzawa- Does BHRS anticipate decrease in Medi-Cal enrollment due to the HR1 federal bill and subsequent impact on funding and services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Overall, there will be a decrease and will have an impact on whether they can get MH/SUD services.
Standing Committee	<p>Committee for Children & Youth Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report given. <p>Committee for Adult Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report given. <p>Committee for Older Adult Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report given. <p>Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report given. <p>Mental Health Services Act Steering Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report given.
Old Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Retreat Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If anyone has any questions, please ask. Otherwise it will be January 24th, from 10AM-4PM at 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas in the Atrium.
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ No updates
Adjournment	This meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Jean Perry.

Next BHC Meeting:	Wednesday, February 4, 2026, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Atrium, San Mateo, CA 94403, and Online Information will be posted on www.smchealth.org/BHC .
Next Executive Committee Meeting:	Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:30p.m. 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Atrium, San Mateo, CA 94403, and Online
Note:	PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT KRISTIE LUI AT KFLUI@SMCGOV.ORG . IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND EITHER THE BHC OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING. In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), auxiliary aids and services for this meeting will be provided upon request when given three-day notice. Please call 650.573.2544.

