



**Behavioral Health Commission**  
**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 4, 2026 | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM**



Hybrid Meeting – 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201 & 209, San Mateo, CA 94403; and online

<b>BHC Members:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jean Perry – Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leticia Bido – Vice Chair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yoko Ng – Vice Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Bill Silverfarb – BOS Rep <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Keohane <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Rice <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frieda Edgette	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Sutherland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kate Saywell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kurczak <input type="checkbox"/> P.D. Kristina Bell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Gomez (online)	<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
<b>SMC BHRS Staff:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Tasha Souter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chantae Rochester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristie Lui <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doris Estremera	
<b>Others Present (in-person)</b>	Maria LF, John Butler, Talisha Racy, Tracy Volpini, Joe Volponi, Kolja Schluette, Nihil Patel, Lisa Diaz Nash		
<b>Others Present (online)</b>	Cwkelectrical, Jack Miller, Kristina Anderson, Ericka Silva, Alexis Gruszczynski, Carol George, Cliff Miller, KPS, Sally Stueland, Bryan Keane, Christine Krolik, DK, Jennifer Chan, Carol George, Gene, Anne, Katherine Gerster, Antoinette Manuel, Andrea Gil, Jeff Blood, Faizus Amin, Audrey Davis, Ben Faoro, Jenny Chen, Judy, Katherine Gerster, Frankie Sapp, Marble Stone, Mikila Baetcke, Matthew Cutright, Kathryn Collins, Maria Martinez, Maribel Macias, Leslie Ragsale, Laurie Davies Adams, Anna Frick, Scott, Susan Cortopassi, Ryan Rhodes, Mario Caceres, Roman Margolin, Stephenie Weisner, Andrea Gil, Sharon Simone, Adriana Furuzawa, Walter Ng, Sylvia Tang, Zoe Chen, Alyse Dinapoli		

Meeting called to order at 3:36 p.m. by Chair Jean Perry.

ITEM	DISCUSSION/ACTION
<b>Roll Call/ Introductions</b>	Roll call was completed.
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The meeting agenda was approved with the following revision. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move vote on Senate Bill 707 to be after approving minutes.</li> </ul> <b>► M/S/C Keohane/ Palani</b>
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	The meeting minutes were unanimously approved. <b>► M/S/C Keohane/ Palani</b>
<b>New Business</b>	<b>Action item: Vote on Senate Bill 707</b> <b>► M/S/C Nichols/ Edgette</b>
<b>Correspondence, Announcements &amp; Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frieda Edgette - Many of our community-based partners participated in last week's Eating Disorder Awareness Week which was championed by Ray Mueller's office. This was the first time in over a decade the county has proclaimed the week, and everyday there was a different activation.</li> <li>• Frieda Edgette - #unMASKing Healthy Relationships Ashanti Branch, Founder and Executive Director, The Ever Forward Club. Tuesday, March 10, 2026, 5:30pm – 6:30pm PT, In-Person Event. Register: <a href="https://ashantibranch2026.eventbrite.com">https://ashantibranch2026.eventbrite.com</a> Join us for an interactive, in-person workshop with Ashanti Branch, founder of the Ever Forward Club and the #MillionMask Movement, featured in the groundbreaking film, The Mask You Live In.</li> <li>• Frieda Edgette - The SafeSpace P.O.W.E.R. Walk: Promoting Our Wellness, Empowering Resilience will (tentatively) take place on Saturday, May 9th at Central Park in San Mateo. This youth-led Mental Health Awareness Month event will bring together Bay Area youth, families, and community members for a one-mile awareness walk through downtown San Mateo, followed by a</li> </ul>

	<p>community resource fair and celebration. The goal of the P.O.W.E.R. Walk is to destigmatize mental health, promote wellness, and connect youth and families to vital local resources. The event will feature youth speakers, live entertainment, wellness activities, and community-based organizations sharing information about services and supports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean Perry - Suicide Prevention Committee is going to be hearing from CalTrain. It will be the first Tuesday of the month in April and it will be virtual.</li> <li>• Frieda - Welcome to Futures on the Field in Half Moon Bay! Join us for an afternoon where soccer meets imagination. You'll play, build skills, connect with your community, AND co-design real solutions to mental health challenges that could be implemented in our own backyard, here in San Mateo County. Event Details: Saturday, March 28, 2026   12-4 PM   255 Main Street, Half Moon Bay</li> <li>• Leti – The San Mateo County Overdose Prevention Coalition welcomes all members of the community to come together to collaborate to reduce drug overdose in our communities. There are different task forces e.g. youth, unhoused. Visit the website <a href="https://www.smchealth.org/post/san-mateo-county-overdose-prevention-coalition">https://www.smchealth.org/post/san-mateo-county-overdose-prevention-coalition</a> for the application to participate.</li> <li>• Melinda Henning- I'm part of Solutions for Supportive Homes. This is the nonprofit of aging parents who are taking care of aging adults with mental illness. I'm joined by other mothers. All four of our sons are now homeless largely because they didn't get the support they needed in their previous living situations. We think it wouldn't have happened had they had adequate support, and so we're hoping that the behavioral health system can commit to funding and actively embedding, robust, 24-7 on-site services in all supported housing.</li> <li>• Public comment- There has been confusion about how public comment will take place. We feel 40 seconds is not enough. Everyone should be granted 1 minute.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Upcoming Medi-Cal Changes Presentation by Ximena Herrera and Maribel Macias, HSA Health Coverage Program Policy Analyst</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On July 4th, 2025, President Trump signed the HR1, commonly known as the Big Beautiful Act, into law, which makes significant changes to Medicaid, known as Medi-Cal in California.</li> <li>• HR1 established new eligibility and enrollment changes to Medicaid including requirements that change eligibility criteria for which individuals are eligible and creating new requirements for how to enroll and maintain coverage.</li> <li>• These changes significantly affect California's Medi-Cal Program.</li> <li>• Effective October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the federal definition for qualified non-citizens will change.</li> <li>• Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027, there will be changes to the semi-annual redeterminations for adults ages 19-64, reduction of the retroactive coverage limited to 1-2 months.</li> <li>• Effective October 1, 2028, changes will also apply to cost sharing (co-pays) if income is between 100-138% of Federal Poverty Level.</li> <li>• Changes to definition of qualified non-citizen includes lawful permanent resident, Cuban or Haitian entrants, migrants legally residing in the United States and its territories.</li> <li>• This change will end the availability of Federal funded full scope Medi-Cal benefits for refugees, asylees, conditional entrant granted before April 1980, paroled into the US for one year or more, battered non-citizen or parent or child of a battered non-citizen, persons residing under color of law.</li> <li>• DHCS has clarified that those who no longer have Qualified Non-Citizens must be move into unsatisfactory immigration status and will be eligible</li> </ul>

	<p>only for state funded full scope. However, on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the governor released the state budget proposal for 2026-2027 which included QNC would only be included for restricted scope Medi-Cal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once state budget is finalized sometime in July of 2026, there will be a phase 2 implementation to move this population to restricted scope Medi-Cal where no protections will be applied.</li> <li>• Starting January 1, 2027, some Medi-Cal members will have their eligibility checked twice a year instead of once. This is applicable to adults ages 19-64 and missing deadlines could result in loss of coverage.</li> <li>• Only individuals on the case who are subject to a 6-month annual renewal will return for renewal.</li> <li>• Renewal period continues to be on an annual basis for populations such as children, pregnant people, older adults, persons with disabilities, and American Indian and Alaska Natives.</li> <li>• The 6-month redetermination process will largely mirror existing annual renewal processes.</li> <li>• It is estimated that about 289,000 Medi-Cal members may lose coverage by June 2026 and increasing to approximately 400,000 by 2029 to 2030.</li> <li>• Starting January 1, 2027, Medi-Cal will pay for fewer months of past medical bills form before you applied. This is applicable to adults ages 19-64 without children age 0-18.</li> <li>• Starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027, some adults will need to work, volunteer or go to school to keep their Medi-Cal active. This applies to adults age 19-64 who are eligible for Medi-Cal because of the Affordable Care Act expansions and individuals that don't meet an exemption.</li> <li>• This will also impact the retroactive coverage period. With this change, retro may not be granted unless evidence demonstrates that the individual was exempt during those prior months.</li> <li>• Once eligible, these individuals are eligible for 6-month renewals.</li> <li>• DHCS will lead a coordinated communication and outreach strategy to ensure that stakeholders and members have the information they need as the H.R. 1 provisions take effect.</li> <li>• Strategies include toolkits, texting, DHCS coverage ambassadors and navigators.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Upcoming Medi-Cal Changes Presentation Questions and Responses</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kristen Kurczak – Can you define on slide number 6, restricted scope Medi-Cal. Does that cover everything that occurs in an emergency room? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A: Restricted scope Medi-Cal refers to emergency services. Correct, this covers emergency room. Because we don't have the system in place to just drop them from full-scope Medi-Cal, they will be placed in full-scope Medi-Cal state funded without dental coverage in a limited time until we are able to phase them into restricted scope.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jason Sutherland – What is the projected impact of those who are projected to fall out of Medi-Cal? And is there a timeline for when more of this research will be done? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A: We haven't presented numbers on a county level. We are still in the gathering stage. DHCS is still working on the ins and outs of this whole implementation. That's where we feel will be the biggest impact. Our hardest population is our unhoused population. DHCS is doing their best to automate to ensure these individuals remain on. Health Coverage Unit has been our biggest supporter in ensuring these individuals remain on. Currently we're just gathering raw data of current caseloads, so we are still dealing with these reports.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura Gomez - Can you clarify what battered citizen and child of battered citizen means? Does this mean any family member that has been a victim of domestic violence will not be covered? What about the child? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A: They will be eligible for restricted scope unless they are pregnant. Children are not impacted at all regardless of immigration status. They will maintain their full scope.</li> <li>○ A: These HR provisions are on a national level so there are different things that are going to be impacting other states that may not impact California. California does have measures in place to protect children. So, although that status at a national level is not protected, children will be protected in California.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Paul - The purpose of this bill is to shift cost of medical care from government to other entities. Who else is going to have to pay for the cost the government has managed to push onto other parties? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A: We feel the same. These costs are going to impact our states. It's still a waiting game until the final budget.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Frieda - I want the public to know this is a priority of the commission to gain clarity and share information out. This will be a repeat item as more information is coming on.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Standing Committee</b></p>	<p><b>Committee for Children &amp; Youth Service</b> Reported by Frieda Edgette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This last month, Veer, as our policy co-chair updated the committee on changes on a new youth mental health curriculum that is going to be piloted.</li> <li>• This month we will hear presentations from our mental health fellows. One individual from SMC who is also from YAB who is designing this program.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee for Adult Services</b> Reported by David Rice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had a presentation on CARE Court and how that implementation is going.</li> <li>• In March, we will talk about supportive employment. In May we will have a Serenity House tour.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee for Older Adult Services</b> Reported by Jean Perry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You don't need to be an OA to participate in this committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services</b> Reported by Paul Nichols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had a presentation from management analyst on services of the county in terms of CalAIM requirements. Next meeting will be a site visit at Our Common Ground, detox and residential facility in East Palo Alto.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Liaison, Task Force and Ad Hoc Committees</b></p>	<p><b>Suicide Prevention Committee</b> Reported by Jean Perry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are hosting a presentation from Caltrain next month.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Member Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>QIC Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site Visits Committee</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No report given.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cal BHB/C</b></p> <p>Reported by Dan Keohane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We met Jan 24 which was an intro to a retreat weekend. We want to do work that puts good resources into the county when dealing with behavioral health. There are counties throughout the state that are working hard to get more resources, more finances, more info, as to what they can provide to people in the county. There are no specific facilities in the county. What can we do to help other counties build that and establish facilities.</li> <li>Next meeting is April 12th.</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>Doris Estremera- I'll be giving a high-level summary of substantive comments. Substantive comments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Ambassador Program requesting that we include the health ambassador program as a strategy to address disorder treatment.</li> <li>We are in agreement that permanent supportive housing is important. Specifically, the use of Z-codes. We want to let folks know this has been incorporated into the plan. As of November, BHRS document has been updated to include Z-codes.</li> <li>A few comments on the importance of early intervention particularly ages 0-5.</li> <li>A lot of substantive comments on Horizon treatment center. This is objection of the inclusion of the facility in our plan. A request to extend and not close to comments.</li> </ul> <p>Gina Beltramo - There is a required element to advise the state of any funding commitments related to a BCHIP project which is the Horizon project. So, to remove mention of that would make this plan inaccurate or incomplete. It is all important to include all potential funding opportunities in the plan. So, the county has committed to funding a type of SUD treatment project. So, if we don't include language of funding for this type of project, we lose the opportunity to have that funding. The Horizon project is a grant application to be approved by the state.</p> <p>Members of the Public – Comments/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comment: Ensure that youth voice is included in shaping youth BH and SUD services in the plan.</li> <li>Comment (translated from Spanish to English): Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the BHSA Three-Year Integrated Plan. My name is Lourdes Briseno and Catalina Maya Martinez, and we are speaking as members of the BHRS Health Ambassador Program. Health Ambassadors are 106 community leaders with lived experience and behavioral health education. We serve as a bridge between the community and BHRS services, helping residents understand how to access care and reducing stigma around mental health and substance use. We respectfully request the formal integration of Alcohol and Other Drug services into the Health Ambassador Program while maintaining HAP within the Office of Diversity and Equity. Remaining in ODE is critical because it allows Ambassadors to continue learning and practicing cultural humility, trauma-informed care, equity, and inclusive community engagement. The leadership of the ODE director, with</li> </ul>

clinical expertise, together with the program coordinator's experience in communication and whole-person care, has elevated HAP into a model for system improvement.

Ambassadors collaborate across youth, adult, and older adult programs and help strengthen community trust in the behavioral health system. Our impact is measurable. During the pandemic, Ambassadors produced public service announcements in multiple languages, worked in COVID vaccination clinics, and helped connect families with behavioral health information. We also hosted four Facebook Live events reaching more than 15,000 people, according to County communications.

In 2025, Ambassadors delivered 30 "Know the Signs" suicide prevention workshops in Spanish, reaching 390 families across nine cities in the county. We also conduct test ACCESS calls to help ensure the County meets state requirements for timely connection to care.

Today, Ambassadors are participating in the BHSA planning process and providing public comment in Spanish, which is another example of system change. Some Ambassadors now serve on County commissions and others have entered the behavioral health workforce.

The Health Ambassador Program builds community trust, strengthens prevention, and serves as a workforce pipeline into behavioral health. We respectfully ask that the Health Ambassador Program remain in the Office of Diversity and Equity and that AOD services be integrated into the program, and that HAP be recognized in the BHSA Plan as the BHRS trusted bridge between the community and access to care, and as a workforce pipeline into behavioral health.

- Comment: Pending legislation SB1600 would prohibit facilities like the Horizon substance use treatment facility within 1000 feet of a school. It seems reasonable that county should pause to see how this plays out. The sobering and detox components of the facility raise the greatest concern given proximity to schools, daycares and senior housing. Please remove these components from the site.
- Comment: Horizon facility is close to school and daycares, part of residential area that is already congested, and there is no parking. Reconsider location.
- Comment: Location and scale are a mismatch. No community engagement. Please extend public comment from 60 days. Remove from BHSA plan.
- Comment: I oppose the site location due to proximity of the Horizon facility due to location to schools and retirement centers. Proposed site is near a walking path, a substance use facility would change the dynamic of the community and cause a safety risk.
- Comment: Located only one block from downtown San Mateo, heart and soul of the city. The area currently feels safe and that may change with addicted and mentally ill patients of detox center would make it feel unsafe.
- Comment: Extend public comment period to allow for further public education, comment and engagement on this issue.
- Comment: There is always resistance to these facilities in neighborhoods. They don't want them in their neighborhoods. The community is worked up about this because we didn't know about it, haven't had enough time to learn about it, and we owe the community a chance to get our questions answered.
- Comment: I have a brother that suffered from mental health and addiction issues. Some days he was fine, other days it could be scary. Given unpredictable nature of these behaviors and triggers, it doesn't make sense to look at a facility of this type in a location near schools, daycares and senior centers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: I strongly oppose the Horizon facility. I have a 7-year old that attends the elementary school a half mile away. It is surrounded by multiple schools and elder care facilities. The lot itself is small, less than 0.5 acres, roughly the size of 3 single family homes. Discharging individuals for these short-term voluntary holds directly into this pedestrian gateway creates an unacceptable safety risk.</li> <li>• Comment: We recognize the importance of the integrated plan and these kinds of facilities. However, the size of the project requires a clear transparent framework with consideration for the safety of children that are less than a thousand feet from the proposed location. There is a gap between the proposal and community's understanding of its impact. We understand pressures of Prop 1 timelines, but urgency is not a substitute for transparency. Moving forward without meaningful engagement with neighbors undermines the process.</li> <li>• Comment: I have 3 kids that attend the Day School. I support expanding mental health and addiction treatment services in the county, but I am deeply troubled by the lack of transparency surrounding the Horizon project at El Cerrito, particularly given its sensitive receptors such as children and seniors. BHCIP requires that we run a transparent process. The applicant has to say that they have run an engagement process in order to be considered launch ready, and yet County funding and the grant application were approved and submitted to the State in October of last year. The County committed \$2M to this project in October. The neighborhood, schools and churches were not notified until February. Why? That's not community engagement. Moving forward without critical engagement erodes trust.</li> <li>• Comment: Please grant a 60-day extension. I am supportive of mental health facilities and support services. Lack of trust and community engagement is our biggest challenge here, so I'd like you to vote to extend the comment period and separate the BHSA plan from this particular site location. Prop 1 funding is not site-specific, so you can approve the plan and find another site that would be more appropriate based on comments that other residents have given.</li> <li>• Comment: I am head of school at Episcopal Day School. Our school is grounded in values of compassion, inclusion and service. We support expanding mental health and recovery services in our county, but a facility of this scale and intensity deserves community conversation. Our campus is intentionally open. We do not have gates and fences. Please extend the public comment period and remove the Horizon facility from the plan so a thoughtful, transparent process can occur.</li> <li>• Comment: I represent over 200 residents in the neighborhood where this project is planned. I request that you decouple this from the plan for lack of transparency and lack of public process engagement. If this is the right project in the right place, then transparency will prove it.</li> <li>• Comment: Individuals struggling with behavioral health issues and drug dependency require treatment environments that prioritize safety, privacy and therapeutic containment. Placing detox services in a highly visible downtown location may inadvertently increase stigma, compromise confidentiality, and expose patients to unnecessary external triggers.</li> <li>• Comment: Agree with everything that has been said. I'm disappointed in the lack of transparency that has occurred, very disappointed in the leadership of County and State. This is a classic example of perfect service, wrong location. Please do not push this forward.</li> <li>• Comment: The County communicated with Councilmember Nash to let her know that we will share a Horizon FAQ and have a meeting on March 24th in the San Mateo Library.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: I strongly oppose this. I believe this is the wrong location. None of us were notified. I can't imagine having a rehab center in a residential neighborhood, near a school, in that congested area. There are so many vacant buildings around here. Why did they close down the old one? Can we build on that?</li> <li>• Comment: The Horizon location is close to many young children and seniors. A more appropriate location would be in area of warehouses or office buildings, such as east of Highway 101. The size of the facility is also a problem. The Horizon Detox Center on Palm Ave needed police response 33 times in 2025, and that facility only have 17 beds. This facility would have 69 beds.</li> <li>• Comment: I am a former employee of the sobering station we had with StarVista. The multiple service building in South City is vacant, and it's right by Kaiser. That would be a great place.</li> <li>• Comment: Wrong place. Horizon does not care about children. If they did, they wouldn't put their facility near all these schools.</li> <li>• Comment: I have close family members who have benefited from these services, and I support them. I attended Zoom call led by Supervisor Corzo, and it wasn't community outreach. It was an ad campaign for Horizon. No questions were taken; no follow-ups were available. This location poses a safety risk. If you cannot separate this approval from the entire plan, then I suggest you wait until all our questions are answered before you submit the plan.</li> <li>• Comment: I am a mother of a first grader at Episcopal Day school He and his classmates play on the open lawn that is one block away from the proposed site. It makes zero sense for facility of this size to be located than 1,000 ft away from schools, daycares and senior centers. It is disgraceful that community members have not been engaged. My understanding is that the county needs to provide a letter of support for the application. If it hasn't yet been submitted, when is it planned for?</li> <li>• Comment: We just think it is wrong location. My children go to school near the property. The safety concerns are paramount, and the traffic and congestion that it's going to create.</li> <li>• Comment: Please extend the comment period and remove the location from this process. There is more evaluation that takes place when someone does a remodel in their home in our neighborhood. Have there been studies on traffic, environmental impact, parking, on other protected citizens who are in proximity. There has been zero transparency or resident input.</li> <li>• Comment: I support the need for this type of facility. I am concerned about the location, proximity to schools, elderly, daycare. That corner is dangerous in terms of traffic. I ask that public comment be extended and alternative location is identified.</li> <li>• Comment: I live less than a block from this site. A project of this scale is unprecedented in this kind of area. We should be fully informed of this project as community members. Please extend public comment period so we can understand the project.</li> <li>• Comment: I live within a block of the facility, have children at the schools nearby. This will create more traffic, and police or ambulance activity could lead to accidents.</li> <li>• Comment: I am a father of two children that attended school less than a thousand feet away. I want to push back on a comment that Supervisor Corzo gave to the Daily Journal yesterday about how there are schools and senior centers and residential areas all over our city and county and only a few viable locations where you can be less than a certain distance</li> </ul>
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from those facilities. That is absurd. I invite everyone to look at where StarVista's old site is to see how misplaced the proposed location is.

- Comment: I don't live in the area, but the lack of transparency on this project is my main concern. You should give us the opportunity to have 60 days to provide the transparency that is needed.
- Comment: I'm a mom and live next door to the facility, and we are absolutely terrified by this project. I ask that you extend public comment and give county to find a more appropriate lot. We cannot solve one problem and create another one in the community.
- Comment: I know you're going to make the right decision to extend this because this location is a big problem, and we need more time to understand the project. I am here because I saw a social media post about this project. I hear more about my neighbor's remodeling plan through the ADRB than I did about this, and that's not right.
- Comment: I am on the Council but am speaking in my personal capacity right now. We want compassionate, effective services for everyone, but we also want the community to have the information necessary to build consensus on the project.
- Comment: When talking about a 69-bed, 24/7 intake facility with law enforcement drop offs, location matters, especially when it's within walking distance of schools, daycares, etc. A regional scale facility doesn't belong in the middle of a dense residential neighborhood. We ask for a level of transparency.
- Comment: When we get our extension, I would like some questions to be answered by Horizon. What happens after clients complete treatment? Where do they get discharged? I could see bad circumstances occurring if they simply walked out the door. Horizon should explain this to us for transparency's sake.
- Comment: My husband and I moved here 3 years ago, and we moved here because it is safe. It's a family-oriented area. This facility should never even be discussed, going in with children in this kind of community, where the prices we pay for our homes, the property taxes we pay for our homes. Do they care if our property values go down because that facility is ruining the community?
- Comment: Think of the mental health of our community. We all moved here for a reason. Take that into consideration. I would be happy to volunteer if there are any committees or in evaluating the process.
- Comment: Echoing everyone's concern that it is about the location, not the center itself. I promote this type of service, as a psychologist. I have worked with this population, and it will cause disruption to the surrounding neighbors, and it will be disturbing to children and adults in the area.

Commissioners – Comments/Questions

- Question: If the BHSA Integrated Plan is approved today and then by the Board of Supervisors, what commitment does it make? Does it commit us to a specific location, or around funding?
  - Counsel Response: It does not make a commitment around a location. Some funding has already been committed, and the plan mentions that, but it doesn't commit the County to additional funding. If the comment period closes now, the next step is for the plan to go to the Board of Supervisors.
- Question: Does submitting the Integrated Plan to the Board of Supervisors also constitute the approval of a specific facility?
  - Counsel Response: No
- Question: If you submit this plan now, then this can proceed to the State, and the State can see that the County has approved the 10% match, right?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supervisor Corzo Response: The 10% match was approved by the Board of Supervisors in October 2025. The Horizon project is governed by Proposition 1, which was passed by the voters statewide in March 2024 and which allows Horizon to apply for this grant. The County plays no role in approving this project. If the State approves the grant, it will go to city council and their planning for approval. Horizons reached out to Councilmember Nash in September 2025 to ask for support on this project and reached out 2 weeks later. The city and city manager were notified of this in September. The city encouraged the County and Horizon to reach out to residents. Horizons had a meeting in February, and I was invited to be a part of that meeting. We are going to have another meeting about this project to answer any questions. My understanding is that approval of this plan plays no role in the State's decision to approve the grant.</li> <li>● Question: What is the negative impact of extending the public comment period?       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr. Souter Response: This is a Proposition 1 required plan that we must submit to the State, and there are timelines for submission that allow us to fund all of our mental health and substance use services, from prevention to treatment. Not closing the comment period would jeopardize every program the county has for mental health and substance use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Question: What are the forums for the public, and what is the remaining approval process for the public to engage on the location of the facility?       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supervisor Corzo Response: The location is in the incorporated city of San Mateo. The City will approve whatever Proposition 1 requires them to approve, and if they don't, they open themselves to litigation from the State or anyone who wants to bring that litigation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Question: Is the city approving the location of the facility?       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supervisor Corzo Response: No. The State will score the grant application that Horizon submitted and choose to award the money or not. This is more a question for the San Mateo City Council and their city attorney for what tools they have or what the process looks like for their city to approve or not approve this project.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Comment: The only opportunities for us (San Mateo City Council) to provide input on is whether it the project meets objective design standards, which has nothing to do with the content.</li> <li>● Comment: All these comments will be included in the Integrated Plan that is going to the Board of Supervisors. We are closing the comment period in terms of the Commission. All of your comments will go to the Board of Supervisors.</li> <li>● Comment: I want to clarify that we are voting on the plan itself, not the specific project.</li> <li>● Question: What happens if we extend comment period for 60 days?       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doris Estremera Response: We are required to provide an update to DHCS feedback by March 15th. We will then submit the plan to the Board of Supervisors for approval followed by Controller's certification. If we extend the public comment period for 60 days, we may not be able to meet the deadlines for submission of the plan and will not be in compliance. My understanding is that DHCS can withhold our funding when we do not submit our plans in a timely manner.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comment: I am shocked that none of these neighbors feel that they have had been able to comment on this, and we are getting mixed messages.</li> <li>• Follow-up: Even if we extend public comment, there was a commitment to the BHCIP grant application. That cannot be removed from the plan.</li> <li>• Comment: I would like to understand the BHCIP process if I am voting on this.</li> <li>• Comment: From what I have heard, our vote on this plan doesn't have any bearing on the commitment the County made to BHCIP. It is important that we should figure out the process, but I don't think this plan has anything to do with what happens.</li> <li>• Comment: When I read what our obligation is as a commission, this is exactly what it is – to assure that County and BHRS is serving its mission with regards to its population. I appreciate that we do tours and have presentations, but I am still trying to get a lot of information about how things even work.</li> <li>• Comment: I don't agree with fast-tracking. However, I do want to advocate for the reality of what you already have in your neighborhoods. Do your homework and understand what is in your neighborhood now to understand what you are compromising because a lot of that stuff already exists. Be aware that when you make statements to the public, commissioners and the Board of supervisors that you don't want this in your backyard. The building at 9th avenue, Project 90 used to be there. You also have Palm Avenue Detox. They are already there.</li> <li>• Comment: I don't think we need to share our opinions here unless it helps with your vote.</li> <li>• Question: Do Frieda's comments get added to the draft, or how does that get incorporated? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doris Estremera Response: I will update the public comment document with a response on how the suggestions will be incorporated. You can vote to submit plan including the changes that Frieda requested.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Question: What is the next step if/when this gets submitted to the County Supervisor? What is the timeline? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doris Estremera Response: By March 15th we will submit an updated draft to the State. It will then go to the Board of Supervisors, we are targeting May, followed by Controller's Office certification.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Question: Who decided Horizon would provide these services? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Doris Estremera Response: Horizon applied for the grant from the State.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Question: The County had no say about it?</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supervisor Corzo Response: Staff recommended to the County that this was an identified need, a gap in our continuum of care for residents in this county. I was notified by our County Executive that there was a non-profit interested in bringing this to the County and then brought to the Board of Supervisors the request for the \$2M match, and it was approved by the Board in October 2025. Horizon decided on the location. The State understands that there is always concerns about these kinds of programs, no one wants it in their neighborhoods, which makes it hard to have enough supply. To address that challenge, Proposition 1 streamlined the approval process so that the only thing the City will be approving is what the building will look like.</li>   <li>● Vote to Close the 30-Day Public Comment Period for the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan, Fiscal Years 2026–29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes: 8 members</li> <li>○ No: None</li> <li>○ Abstain: 4 members</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>▶ <b>M/S/C</b> Nichols/ Keohane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Vote to submit the BHSA Integrated Plan, Fiscal Years 2026-29 to the Board of Supervisors</li> </ul> <p>▶ <b>M/S/C</b> Keohane/Palani</p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	This meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m. by Chair Jean Perry.

<b>Next BHC Meeting:</b>	Wednesday, April 1, 2026, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201, San Mateo, CA 94403, Millbrae Library and Online Information will be posted on <a href="http://www.smchealth.org/BHC">www.smchealth.org/BHC</a> .
<b>Next Executive Committee Meeting:</b>	Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 5:30p.m. 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201, San Mateo, CA 94403, Millbrae Library and Online
<b>Note:</b>	PLEASE BE SURE TO CONTACT KRISTIE LUI AT <a href="mailto:KFLUI@SMCGOV.ORG">KFLUI@SMCGOV.ORG</a> . 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.