



**Behavioral Health Commission**  
**Unapproved Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 1, 2026 | 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM**



Hybrid Meeting – 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Room 201, 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bill Silverfarb – BOS Rep <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Keohane <input type="checkbox"/> David Rice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frieda Edgette <input type="checkbox"/> Jason Sutherland <input type="checkbox"/> Kate Saywell <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristin Kurczak <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.D. Kristina Bell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Gomez <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paul Nichols <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sid Palani <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Veer Chowdhary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victoria Yu
<b>SMC BHRS Staff:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jei Africa <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chantae Rochester	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristie Lui <input type="checkbox"/> Doris Estremera	
<b>Others Present (in-person)</b>	N/A		
<b>Others Present (online)</b>	Anna Tran, Clara Boyden, Jordan, Laura Parmer Lohan, Melinda Henning, Mmati, Susan Cortopassi, Maria Lorente Foresti, OCFA, Brenda, 16509953880, Walter Ng		

Meeting called to order at 3:32 p.m. by Chair Jean Perry.

ITEM	DISCUSSION/ACTION
<b>Roll Call/ Introductions</b>	Roll call was completed.
<b>Old Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SB707</li> </ul>
<b>Approval of Agenda</b>	The meeting agenda was unanimously approved ► <b>M/S/C</b> Nichols/Bell
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	The meeting minutes were approved with the following revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add Gina Beltramo to others present (in-person)</li> <li>• Add Jei Africa to others present (online)</li> </ul> ► <b>M/S/C</b> Nightingale/Bido
<b>Correspondence, Announcements &amp; Public Comment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean Perry - May Mental Health Month Kick-Off event is on 5/5 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at allcove (San Mateo). If interested in the event as a volunteer or hosting your own there are available mini grants. You may contact Frankie Anguiano from Felton Institute.</li> <li>• Jean Perry - SMC Pride Celebration is on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and they are looking for more volunteers to support the event. You can find the info at <a href="http://SMCPrideCelebration.com">SMCPrideCelebration.com</a>.</li> <li>• Kristen Kurczak - I wanted to follow up on something from the retreat. I was tasked with collecting info for a point of contact for monitoring evaluation. I have the Ernst &amp; Young report for anyone interested. Kristie Lui is the official point of contact for learning more on any topics.</li> <li>• Leti Bido - Planning Committee meeting for Mental Health Month is tomorrow Thursday, 4/2 from 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. There are opportunities for us as the commission to collaborate on such as mini-grants and proclamations. The theme this year is "Mental Health Has Always Been Ours." You can find more info at <a href="http://SMCHealth.org/MHM">SMCHealth.org/MHM</a>.</li> <li>• Leti Bido – Conversations on Mental Health event on 4/28 between 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Focus is on Mental Health and needs of the community. Sponsor is Menlo Church in Mountain View. All community members are invited to attend.</li> <li>• Laura Gomez - I want to acknowledge the significant public comments from last month's meeting. The comments are real and they matter. I also want to be clear about our role as commissioners. Our role is to advise on mental health issues. Our primary obligation is to the people who receive</li> </ul>

	<p>the services. I am one of the adhoc committee members on The Big Beautiful Bill updates. There are hundreds of thousands of Californians losing coverage. The same people the BHSA 3-year integrated plan was designed to serve. We voted on a specific building, a plan for care. I would encourage us to hold that frame that our northstar is the person at the care continuum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kristina Bell - Gun Buyback event happening in June. We are in the planning phase, and I will share more information when we have it.</li> <li>• Frieda Edgette - Peninsula Health Care District has listed Blue Zones as one of its priorities. They are kicking it off with a keynote presentation to talk about creating BZ environments and making healthier choices easier. This will kick off the blue zone assessment process. Next Tuesday, 4/7, 5-7:30PM. Required RSVP. <a href="https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-zones-ignite-san-mateo-county-community-keynote-event-tickets-1982235205861?aff=oddtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-zones-ignite-san-mateo-county-community-keynote-event-tickets-1982235205861?aff=oddtcreator</a></li> <li>• Frieda Edgette - May Mental Health Photo Gallery Event Details: Date: Friday, May 1st, 2026 Time: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm Location: BHRS Patio, 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo Note: To thank you for your participation, a free ice cream will be provided upon completion of a brief gallery survey.</li> <li>• Melinda Henning - Representing Solutions for Supporting Homes and commenting on the 3-year integrated plan. I am happy what emphasis there was for support in housing. It gives us an opportunity to get clarity for what we mean by support, and I hope the commission will think about appointing a task force to explore this more deeply.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Site Visit Work Session Presentation by Paul Nichols</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The goal is for this questionnaire to be piloted at our next site visit.</li> <li>• This effort got started more than a year ago and was born from the frustration a lot of us had after site visits of not knowing anything about their mission, goals, success metrics, etc.</li> <li>• We started doing research and then original group disbanded, but this group was resurrected a couple months ago.</li> <li>• The purpose is to have more directed site visits to gain more information and learn more about the service providers.</li> <li>• We don't want to burden providers too much, so we created a 4-5 page questionnaire to be filled out mostly by us and a small part by the providers.</li> <li>• The goal is for while we are doing site visits to be looking for specific things.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Site Visit Work Session Presentation Questions and Responses</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jean Perry: If we wanted to visit a Board and Care home versus clinical care, how would this be useful? The probability is that some clients will progress to a lower level of care. A question might be "What kind of movement do you see from this level of care to another?" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paul Nichols: I was more concerned about opposite end e.g. Cordilleras, a site that tries to be all inclusive.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Laura Gomez: What data point are you trying to get from the question about what percent of people are turned away? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paul Nichols: This isn't a judgement. If Our Common Ground told us they were turning away a dozen people away every day, it would be a way for us to learn that we need more services.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Jean Perry: Maybe there is a gender question we should ask too?</li> <li>• Yoko Ng: I would like to advocate for LGBTQ+ and additional demographic info as well.</li> </ul>

- Paul Nichols: Do providers typically collect this data and feel free to share it with us?
  - Jei Africa: Maybe not exact numbers but what majority of clients are.
- Frieda: Presumably if a majority of them are contracted with BHRS, isn't that required data?
  - Jei: They should have an overall perspective, but maybe not exact numbers.
- Kristen Kurczak: Could Kristie help get a contact in contracts to help connect with the board? Is there any reason we couldn't schedule a site visit for this meeting time and all go together?
- Victoria Yu: I think this feels very thoughtful and comprehensive. No matter how hard you make the effort, there is always a gap between effort and needs. I think our job is to identify these gaps. I think our approach seems to have left out the clients. Other commissioners in our county actually interview clients.
  - Paul Nichols: We talked about this in the work group and there are privacy concerns. I don't know if we could make this a required part of the site visit but there have been site visits where we have chatted with patients. It would be good to set as a goal but maybe not a formal part of the tour.
- Victoria Yu: In the other commissions, the programs provide clients who are willing to talk and share feedback.
- Paul Nichols: I think Kristen touched on this, and I agree they should definitely be incorporated.
- Michael: Do we get any input from our contract monitors?
- Clara Boyden: I was going to echo Michael. I did want to acknowledge I think this is fantastic. Yes, we do site visits within Behavioral Health where we monitor compliance, and we also have internal reporting on grievances and client satisfaction surveys. With advanced notice, we can also provide some input, so you have that before the site visit.
  - Paul Nichols: Can I work with you and Gustavo to get this information?
  - Clara Boyden: Yes, we could work with you to learn what information you are looking to learn.
- Laura Gomez: How do we choose the sites?
  - Jei Africa: Work with staff liaison in the committees and they can work with you to see what you are interested in and figuring out site visits.
- Paul Nichols: We should theoretically have plenty of time to get this info before the site visits.
- Frieda Edgette: Regarding funding, it might also be worth asking what funding term is. I'm curious about what is the core of the funding question. I also feel like there is something we need to track on required regulation. Also, in the question asking, "do you track/ what are the results," we don't have a measure of what is poor/noncompliant otherwise it can be highly subjective.
- Frieda Edgette: Also perhaps add questions on outdoor spaces and physical environment. I can add some questions here.
- Jean Perry: I think we can get broad information on client satisfaction e.g. for this type of facility, how many grievances do they receive. It's aggregated per facility, but we'll be able to see the results of the satisfaction surveys. QIC is the holder of a lot of that data, so we should consider seeing what we can get from them and maybe in the future advise them about data we think is important.
- Frieda Edgette: Can we have some guidelines on sending feedback?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paul Nichols: Send any observations over the next week. My feeling is let's just start using it and see how it works.</li> <li>○ Leti Bido: Ideally, we would launch something for May visits.</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>• In March we had two members give presentations on the latest Beta version of the pathways site. Goal is by end of the month. Commissioner Palani has been very supportive. We are hoping to have something live by end of the school year.</li> <li>• Partnership with San Mateo County Office of Education is moving forward. They are piloting a new delivery model in Foster City. Aragon High School is one of the locations. Veer is also co-policy lead. We're still working through curriculum and deciding on Middle School. We are opening applications for next cohort within the next week. Please distribute to people ages 14-24.</li> <li>• Here is the Youth Committee's Pathways Prototype v2 under the leadership with YAB members Pearl Yeh-Lee and Amalia Viator with the advisory of Commissioner Sid Palani, and Walter Ng and William Elting: <a href="https://www.figma.com/proto/r18eQfHgmdQQ1SWsBHE0kQ/Pathways-Prototype?node-id=208-28&amp;t=9GpuVitUggjlcJF3-1&amp;show-prototype-sidebar=1&amp;starting-point-node-id=208%3A28">https://www.figma.com/proto/r18eQfHgmdQQ1SWsBHE0kQ/Pathways-Prototype?node-id=208-28&amp;t=9GpuVitUggjlcJF3-1&amp;show-prototype-sidebar=1&amp;starting-point-node-id=208%3A28</a></li> </ul> <p>Next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. In-person at allcove (2600 S El Camino Real Suite 300, San Mateo) and Virtual: <a href="#">Zoom</a> or dial 669-444-9171 Meeting ID: 990 0971 9684</p> <p><b>Committee for Adult Services</b> Reported by Jean Perry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We heard from Chris Robinson from Caminar and they talked about how now the clients living at Cordilleras can access the services that they provide. They are playing a role in people transitioning out of there.</li> </ul> <p>Next meeting is Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. Virtual: <a href="#">Zoom</a> or dial 669- 900- 6833 Meeting ID: 983 9161 3998</p> <p><b>Committee for Older Adult Services</b> Reported by Jean Perry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same presentation from Adult Committee will be presented at Older Adult Committee if you are interested in hearing it.</li> </ul> <p>Next meeting is Wednesday, April 16, 2026, at 1 p.m. In-person at 2000 Alameda de Las Pulgas, Suite 200, San Mateo, CA 94403 Virtual: <a href="#">Zoom</a> or dial 669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 944 8158 6160</p> <p><b>Committee for Alcohol and Other Drug Services</b> Reported by Paul Nichols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our last meeting we visited Our Common Ground located in East Palo Alto. There were 16 attendees consisting of 5 commissioners. One person was a participant in Our Common Ground and eventually became a counselor. Clients there did all the work e.g. cleaning, maintenance, etc. All of us walked away very impressed.</li> <li>• Staff are currently all men. Next meeting 4/8. We will go over CalAim changes including change in fee-per-service with Sheryl Uyan.</li> </ul> <p>Next meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 4PM-5PM. Virtual: <a href="#">Teams</a></p>

<p><b>Director's Report</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Governor's proposal in January, he proposed to take away funding for mobile crisis and make it an opt-in benefit for counties. Right now, we get 85% and state kicks in 15%. Next year the federal government will decrease contribution to 50% and state will have to pick up the other 50%. If counties continue to use mobile crisis, we will have to find an alternative funding source the other portion since the state funding will no longer be available.</li> <li>• We will be seeing the slow impact of HR 1. Lots of advocacy happening to have state funding to continue supporting counties.</li>   <li>• The other issue we are lifting up is that we are not receiving any more funding for Prop 36 funding. This is the proposition where people can receive treatment instead of getting charged. Each county received some allocation. We got almost \$500,000 but after that there is no additional funding.</li> <li>• One shift of BHSA is to maximize MediCal billing. We are trying to project the impact of less people on MediCal.</li> <li>• This is what CBHDA elevated to our legislators during the lobby day.</li> <li>• Invitation to join the April 7th Press Conference on impact of not getting full VLF funding. This funding is being used locally for public safety, emergency response, health, mental health, and homelessness. Venue is downtown Redwood City Fire Station.</li> <li>• Two Audits in April: First one just completed. Our QM team and our billing team and MIS team were there to answer questions.</li> <li>• We have changed the format of our newsletter to be more web base more ADA compliant. PDF is only permitted for things intended to be printed.</li> <li>• Check out the CalMHSA 10-Minute video: Understanding County Behavioral Health</li> <li>• BHSA Integrated Impact Timeline: We will now go to the board for approval on June 9th. If we do not submit by June 30th, we will be not in compliance with the DHCS, meaning we cannot use any of the MHSA funds.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Director's Report Questions and Public Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frieda Edgette: For the board, is there anything we can do? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jei Africa: When it comes time to go to the board, your support would be important.</li> </ul> </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>• Next Tuesday we'll have a presentation from Caltrain.</li> </ul> <p><b>New Member Committee</b> Reported by Jean Perry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally, please recruit out.</li> <li>• We have 6 vacancies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 Client</li> <li>○ 2 Family Member</li> <li>○ 1 Client age 18-25</li> <li>○ 1 Education</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>QIC Committee</b> Reported by Jean Perry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will be meeting in April.</li> </ul> <p><b>Site Visits Committee</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No additional report out.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cal BHB/C</b></p> <p>Reported by Dan Keohane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a meeting on 4/17 and 4/18.</li> <li>They will present on CDPH population-based prevention plan.</li> </ul>
<b>New Business</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tony Hoffman Award nominations open. Award will be presented in May.</li> <li>Vacancy Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please extend invitations for people to join commission.</li> <li>We have potentially two candidates in the pool.</li> <li>Leti and Yoko will be completing their 3rd terms on September 30th. Something to also think about for chair and co-chair nominations.</li> </ul> </li> <li>OCFA - Jairo Wilches retired effective this past Monday. He was our grievance coordinator. In our organization, we coordinate all grievances, so this is now a vacant position. We are doing our best to post the position by this Friday or early next week. Person must have lived experience as well as skills and qualifications.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	This meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m. by Chair Jean Perry.

<b>Next BHC Meeting:</b>	Wednesday, May 6, 2026, from 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Atrium, San Mateo, CA 94403 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, May 6, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. 2000 Alameda de las Pulgas, Atrium, San Mateo, CA 94403 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.