Behavioral Health

San Bernardino County
Behavioral Health Commission
Meeting Minutes

Date: October 1, 2026
Time: 12:00pm – 2:00pm

Minutes Recorded and Transcribed by: *John Granado, Clerk of the Commission*

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION/OUTCOME
A. Call to Order	Jonathan Cahow, Chair	• The Behavioral Health Commission (BHC) meeting was called to order at 12:04pm. Attendees were welcomed and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
B. Roll Call	Jonathan Cahow, Chair	• Roll Call took place; there is a quorum.
INFORMATION ITEMS		
C. Review and Approve Minutes From 9/3/2026	Members of the Commission	• Minutes were reviewed and the following revisions were requested: Correct from Linda Hart to Lori Butler under Outside Agencies and Announcement. Minutes were accepted with a motion from Vice Chair Hall and a second by Commissioner Westlake with Commissioners Uptergrove and Mondragon abstaining
D. Public Comment	John Granado, Clerk of the Commission	• **Joanne Genis:** Spoke about her son Cody Genis who was homeless for three years as he was struggling with drug addiction, severe mental illness and neurodivergent issues. She spoke with the BHC in February 2025 regarding Proposition 36 and whether the County was prepared to meet the demands of the treatment mandated portion of that law. As Cody was accepted to the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program a court case was initiated with evaluation at Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) where he was detained and transported by the sheriff's deputy and a DBH representative. As he was discharged, the judge voiced concerns over the process and ARMC was ordered to appear in court to explain. DBH council presented the judge with an outline of nine changes on how future AOT evaluations would be handed between ARMC and DBH. Ms. Genis wondered if these changes came too late as seven days later, he was killed by a hit-and-run driver while crossing the street. As Riverside and San Bernardino recently implemented ordinances addressing the drop off process requiring agencies to provide a 24-hour notice giving the receiving community an opportunity to coordinate services, she has also asked the Board of Supervisors to look and see if this is something that can be implemented countywide. She provided the Riverside ordinance flyer and newspaper article about Cody to the Commission. • **Victor Tordesillas:** Announced Joshua Dugas has been named the permanent Director of DBH. He cited Joshua's collaborative approach and clear focus of helping the community as examples for this appointment.

		• **Maria Hernandez, Desert Stars:** She enjoyed the Recovery Happens event that took place in September. She appreciated all the activities and booths that were available as well as being able to spend time with the other clubhouse members that were in attendance. • **Robert Gross:** At a time when he was hungry and desperate, he called the clubhouse. Although he is now back on track, he appreciates the continued support and is now able to share his experiences with others. • **Kimmy Walker, Serenity Clubhouse:** Earlier this year, she was unexpectedly asked to leave the place she was staying at. As she and those also asked to leave did not know where to go, she was referred to the clubhouse by her daughter. As she was in and out of the hospital her daughter was preparing to graduate high school. Being placed in housing gave them stability to continue moving on and now her daughter has been accepted into Cal State Northridge, moving into her dorm last week. She credited the clubhouse and staff for all their assistance. • **Andrew Onderco, Serenity Clubhouse:** Thanked all the staff at Serenity for helping him become a more accepting and loving person. After serving time in prison, the clubhouse helped him escape his addictive mentality. He is now a Board member and looking forward to growing and facilitating his own group using his life changes as an example. • **Julie Kasarjian, California Bridge:** Announced a new resource, California Bridge, placing 276 new substance-use navigators in hospitals. A free hotline will be established and made available connecting with a substance-use navigator where both calls and texts will be available providing resources. This information will be going out to various smoke shops and other locations. • There are no public comments from the Apple Valley and Yucca Valley locations.
E. Memo of Findings		• **Patient's Rights presentation in September:** The document was reviewed and no revisions were recommended. It was announced by Clerk John Granado that there will be no assignment as there is no October Presentation.

F. Discussion Items		• **The Wellness Conference Recap: Commissioner Lewis highlighted topics that were discussed including:**
		  ○ **Digital detox:** Providing areas where phones are put away allowing students to verbally communicate.
		  ○ **Winning Beyond the Game:** Understanding the unique stressors affecting student athletes and how coaching styles influence youth mental health.
		  ○ **Supporting Youth Mental Health with Notice. Talk. Act.** Best practices for identifying early warning signs

		and strengthening trauma response conversations and referrals in schools. ○ **Networking Opportunities:** Engaged with school and district leaders, mental health providers, and policymakers from across the US and international communities, facilitating collaboration on student wellness initiatives. ○ **Additional Insights:** Preferred Vendor: Oxilium Corp. (Sensory Zones), create a high-performance environment that seamlessly blends next-generation technology, flexible design, and unified infrastructure to adapt intuitively to the diverse cognitive and operational needs of users. Partnering across sectors, they transform standard spaces into dynamic ecosystems that foster equity, well-being, and organizational excellence. ○ Commissioner Brown-Summers added that Dr. Weber spoke on the topics of her work with college students providing emotional support. She also mentioned a conversation with Stephanie, a creator of the movie Inside Out. Music therapy was also a point of conversation during the conference. • **December Event Ad Hoc Committee Update:** The following locations are being considered for the event: DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario and San Bernardino. Costs are still being considered, and a location will be selected at the next Ad Hoc Committee and announced at the November meeting along with any additional information by the Ad Hoc Chair. • **2027 May Event:** Clerk Granado asked the Commission to begin thinking about how they would like to celebrate the May Mental Health Month meeting and an Ad Hoc Committee would be formed at a future meeting, possibly in January. • **Review Process for the Election of Officers and Creation of Ad Hoc Committee:** Went over the election process with the commissioners reciting the process from the bylaws. Established the Ad Hoc Committee that consists of the following: Commissioners Uptergrove (Chair), Shoup, Mondragon, Westlake and Supervisor Armendarez. Clerk John Granado advised the Ad Hoc Committee to schedule a meeting to put together a nominees list, obtain acceptance of the nominations and present the names at the November meeting.
G. Chair's Report	Jonathan Cahow, Chair	• Applauded the appointment of Joshua Dugas as Director of DBH. He cited leadership as being important and appreciated Joshua for providing this and looks forward to the continued conversations and partnership with DBH • Noted the month of October is Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Awareness Month, World Day of Bullying

		Prevention is October 5th and Mental Health Day is October 10th. • Attended the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) that is attended by all deputy sheriffs. There is a bi-monthly meeting where they discuss curriculum, scenarios and videos showcasing certain situations on how to de-escalate without unnecessary use of force. Also discussed were the resources available 24 hours a day.
H. Director's Report	John Granado, Clerk of the Commission	• **Announced the following:** o National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Conference taking place October 8-9, 2026. Confirmed the attendees: Vice Chair Hall and Commissioners Saldaña, Westlake and Mink. Physical binders handed out prior to the meeting. o Dates for the 2027 California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth (CMHACY) Conference will take place May 5-7, 2027, in Sacramento, CA. More information to follow when made available. o Reminder to submit any travel expenses for conferences attended.
	Joshua Dugas, Director	• Thanked everyone for their congratulations and support during his time as Acting Director. • Announced the approval of the Fiscal Year (FY) 26/27 Operational Strategic Plan. In January we will begin developing measures for the next Plan. He welcomed any feedback. • Appreciated Chair Cahow mentioning how the partnership between DBH and BHC allows us to accomplish many goals. We will continue working towards making this partnership stronger.
	DBH Departments	• **Legislative, Megan Kidwell:** o Federally, the Senate adjourned last night. o The election will be held November 3, 2026. o Stopgap funding measure extending the current Federal funding levels through December 11, 2026. o On the state level, the California Legislature concluded it's work for the 2026 legislative session on August 31, 2026. o Yesterday was the final day for the Governor to sign his bills. In total this year, there were 1,160 bills sent. Over the course of his tenure, he acted on over 7,800 bills from 2019. • **Public Relations and Outreach (PRO), Miranda Canseco:** o Thanked those for supporting September events. o The Fall Wellness Extravaganza will be taking place at the end of October, flyers available in the lobby. • **Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), Sonia Navarrao:** o Asian and Pacific Islander Subcommittee will be holding an in-person meeting on October 9, 2026,

		10:00am-12:00pm at the Workforce Education and Training (WET) Center in recognition of Filipino American History Month. ○ On October 17, 2026, 1:00pm-3:00pm there will be a Day of Prayer at Clay Counseling. ○ The Teen 311 Pilot Project app is now posted for view, and feedback is being accepted through October 28, 2026. ○ The Peer and Family Advocate position is now open for recruitment. This will be open for the month of October. ○ October 15, 2026, is Global Peer Support Celebration Day.
I. Outside Agencies and Announcements		• **Lori Butler, NAMI:** ○ 24 families were in attendance for the in-person family to family class in Redlands. ○ She will attend next week's NAMI Conference. ○ The NAMI quarterly meeting will go over understanding youth mantal health services in San Bernardino County and wrap around program. ○ The Chipping in for Mental Health event will be at the San Bernardino El Torito, flyers are available in the lobby. • **Stephanie, Serenity Clubhouse:** Members attended the Recovery Happens event. They enjoyed the food, booth, games and spending the day together outside the clubhouse.
J. Commissioners Report	Members of the Commission	• **Amanda Uptergrove:** ○ Congratulated Joshua Dugas on his appointment. ○ Attended the Children's Network Conference. ○ The City of Adelanto will be having their National Night Out on October 6, 2026. • **Supervisor Jesse Armendarez:** ○ No events to report. • **Dakota Westlake** ○ Attended the December Event Ad Hoc Committee meeting. ○ Participated in Bisexual Visibility Day in Redlands. ○ Held her own Evermore Fantasy Ball in Redlands. • **Allie Mink:** ○ Appreciated the posters that are on display in the auditorium. ○ Attended the Children's Network Conference. ○ Attended the December Event Ad Hoc Committee meeting. ○ Attended the Resilient and Real event. ○ Attended the online Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) population prevention plan. ○ Attended the Sound of Recovery event.

		○ 40 people graduated from the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist class. ○ Attending next week's NAMI Conference. • **Troy Mondragon:** ○ Congratulated Joshua Dugas on his appointment. ○ Presented at The Wellness Conference. ○ Participated in a program visit in Barstow. ○ Recognized Native American Day. ○ Recognized the work done by Fuerza Regida who has provided scholarships and developed a youth center with music and sports. Recommendation for a formal declaration. • **Dr. Valerie Samuel, Secretary:** ○ Recognized Mark from Pathways for completing his program. ○ Attended the Second District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting. ○ Attended the Recovery Happens event. ○ Attended the Rancho Cucamonga Steering Committee meeting. ○ Attended the Resilient and Real event. ○ High schools in Rancho Cucamonga and Ontario will be holding health fairs throughout November. • **Mike Hall, Vice Chair:** ○ Attended the Recovery Happens event. ○ Praised the posters posted around the auditorium recognizing the artists in attendance. • **Delinia Lewis:** ○ Congratulated Joshua Dugas on his appointment. • **Ashley Saldaña:** ○ Attended the Recovery Happens event. ○ Attended the Sound of Recovery event. • **Lynn Brown-Summers:** ○ Recognized Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Asked attendees to talk to their health care providers and families. ○ Attended a District round table. ○ Spoke at the Fifth DAC on community empowerment and food assistance. ○ Visited Cal State San Bernardino's Black Student Union regarding a race incident involving 50 students that were arrested. ○ Inland Empire Care Giver Expo will be held October 3rd, from 10:00am-3:00pm at the Clover Center in Riverside. • **Kelvin Moore:** ○ Attended the Children's Network Conference. ○ Attended the Recovery Happens event.

		○ Attended a District round table. ○ Attended the Sound of Recovery event. ○ Attended a special needs fair. ○ Thanked those who shared their stories today.
Adjournment	Jonathan Cahow, Chair	• With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 1:42pm.
Next Meeting		**DATE/TIME:** Thursday, November 5, 2026 | 12:00pm – 2:00pm **LOCATION:** 850 East Foothill Boulevard F120 Rialto, CA 92376

ATTENDANCE

FIRST DISTRICT	SECOND DISTRICT	THIRD DISTRICT	FOURTH DISTRICT	FIFTH DISTRICT	Board Representative
Jonathan C. Cahow *Present*	Dr. Jennifer Oglesby *Excused Absence*	Allie Mink *Present*	Delinia Lewis *Present*	Lynn Brown-Summers *Present*	Supervisor Jesse Armendarez *Present*
Amanda Uptergrove *Present*	Dr. Valerie Samuel *Present*	Troy Mondragon *Present*	John T. Chapman *Excused Absence*	Eloisa Contreras *Excused Absence*	
Samuel Shoup *Excused Absence*	Michael A. Hall *Present*	Dakota I. Westlake *Present*	Ashley Saldaña *Present*	Kelvin D. Moore *Present*	

GUESTS

Rialto: John Granado, Jolena Grider, Marybel Valadez, Javier Artiega, Emanuel Perez, Julie Kasarjian, Emily Jernigan, Kellie Bougard Jordan, Mariam Aldaz, Keisha Curry, Jose Villagranna, Ashley S., Eduardo Juarez, La Keisha Mosley, Wanda Lynn Love, Carla Embers, Aimee Enriquez, Triniece Simpson, Heather Lauer, Jenna Tennyson, Sitara Lobato, Maria Aceves, Candace Armijo, Lori Butler, Sonia Navarro, Tray, Ivory Brown, Leonard Guerra, Lilly Ayala, Lisa Gentry, Maria Henning, Jonathan Serrano, Andrew Ondereo, Francisco Martinez, Marcia Diaz, Brittany Moore, William Ukpong, David Williams, Pam Gerey, Beth Fishell, Cristina Palmer, Megan Kidwell, Everett Poser, Christopher Schreur, Derrick Cannon, Dustin Anderson, Breanna Curiel, Desiree Gatica, Jennifer Esparza, Lehanna Grimaldi, Mark Frank, Dino Buccie, Kobe Williams, Bryan Clark, Kristen Mungcal, Richard Myatt, Jason Hill, Kimmy Walker, Chris Cutory, Robert Gross, Bismarck Olivas, Stephanie Hedrick-Harwell, Nidia Canello and Liset Castaneda
Apple Valley: Jennifer Barracks and Elisa Braggins
Yucca Valley: Sally Dauphinais