



San Bernardino County
Behavioral Health Commission
Meeting Minutes

Date: September 3, 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 5/7/2026, 6/4/2026 and 7/2/2026	Members of the Commission	Minutes were reviewed and the following revisions were requested for 7/2/2026: Commissioner Brown-Summers absence be corrected to excused and Commissioner Westlake be corrected to Present (after further discussion with County Council Jolena Grider, the initial attendance was correct). Minutes were accepted with a motion from Commissioner Shoup and a second by Supervisor Armendarez with Commissioners Lewis, Brown-Summers and Contreras abstaining. County Council Jolena Grider advised the commission that they are not required to abstain if they are not in attendance for a meeting.
D. Public Comment	John Granado, Clerk of the Commission	Sylvia Zuniga Mendoza: Advocating for her granddaughter who suffers from mental illness and was in attendance two years and six months ago. At that time, her granddaughter who was 17 was admitted to Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (ARMC) in the adult psychiatric unit after 38 attempts to take her own life. After which she was admitted to San Diego Center of Discovery where she graduated both the program and high school. That November of the same year after suffering what was thought to be a stroke, it turned out to be complex migraines. As of May, she has become manic, and although not hurting anyone, began destroying things. In June ARMC admitted her to the state program on Gilbert St. After an attempt to run out in the street, she was discharged and admitted to Pacific Grove Mental Health. She was then discharged and sent back to ARMC. As an adult, it is becoming more difficult to have her admitted into many facilities. When she is admitted, it takes longer than 24 hours to be seen by a social worker. The situation is becoming overwhelming for Sylvia who is also looking over her grandson who has been battling mental illness for 14 years but has been stable for the last four. She is asking for help from anyone, in state or out, as her granddaughter can function as a normal 19-year-old who just needs the resources. Cathy Dye, Amazing Place: Attending the clubhouse Comin-Con as Jiggly Puff, she mentioned the great costumes and winning third place. She is hoping this will turn into an annual

		event as it helped with her self-esteem, receiving many compliments from other attendees. • Sky Pedroza: Thanked the Club Houses for the recent trips, including a Tower Buzzers baseball game that allowed the members to escape from their daily life by providing the opportunity to enjoy the various public events. These opportunities also allow them to grow and adopt a culture of activities, uplifting their spirits and striving for more in life. • Jason (no last name provided), Serenity Clubhouse: Introduced attendees to his emotional support animal, Millie. He wanted to thank Serenity Clubhouse and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Ten years ago, he had to surrender his Registered Nurse (RN) license. Now, in November he will go back before the Board and attempt to regain it. The clubhouse provided him with support, their commitment and a place to live that also allowed Millie to stay with him. After a trip to Lake Silverwood, he considers clubhouse members his brothers and sisters. • Darnell Johnson, Executive Director Divine Justice Pathway Housing: He has a transitional home in San Bernardino with eight beds and three meals a day. Working with a prison ministry he was able to meet with inmates about opportunities for growth using his own experiences with higher education and human resources. The facility will also ensure those enrolled attend mandatory classes and are able to reintegrate back into society. • WandaLyn Love, Insight Professional Clinical Counselors: Wanted to thank the commissioners who attended the Just Breathe Conference. • Satellite Locations: There are no public comments from the Apple Valley and Yucca Valley locations.
E. Chair's Report	Jonathan Cahow, Chair	• Participated in the following: ○ Leadership conference in Boston. This made him feel more grateful in his role as Chair of the BHC, being able to connect these responsibilities as an officer with the goal of providing the necessary services to the community. As it was encouraging to hear certain things are getting better, he recognized news can still be negative. ○ Visited the Fontana Clubhouse commenting on the cleanliness and how welcoming everyone was. ○ Attended the Seed and Shelter event in Barstow where they held a food and clothing drive. He was encouraged by the presence of medical services and the mobile van. He spoke with a former methamphetamine addict who spoke positively about what was going on at the clinic ○ Attended the clubhouse Comic-Con event.

		○ Conversations with Acting Director Joshua Dugas regarding the role and mission of the BHC when it comes to DBH. These meetings will continue to determine some actionable goals.
F. Commissioners Report	Members of the Commission	• Samuel Shoup: ○ Attended the Drug Overdose Prevention Coalition's monthly meeting in Apple Valley attended by nonprofits, hospital staff and government officials. ○ Attended the High Desert Chamber of Commerce state of the county. ○ Toured the High Desert Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) facility in Victorville to celebrate its two-year anniversary. The state-of-the-art facility assists older adults in getting the care they need with health and safe, independent living • Supervisor Jesse Armendarez: ○ Thanked DBH and county partners for attending both his Fourth Annual open house and the Second District Family Fun Day. He stressed the importance of events like these to demonstrate everything the county has to offer. ○ Attended the 40th Annual Children's Network Conference as a keynote speaker. ○ Announced the investment of \$35,000.00 to the Wellness Ranch. • Allie Mink: ○ Announced the beginning of Suicide Awareness and National Recovery Month along with 988 Day on September 8, 2026. Reminded those in attendance that 988 is a good alternative to 911 for those going through a crisis. ○ Continues to lead the Medi-Cal peer support specialist training for National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) California, as this helps her understand the needs of the community and share resources. ○ Attended The Wellness Conference. ○ Attended the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Integrated Care Conference. ○ Attended the Third District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting in July. The DAC was dark in August. ○ Attended the December Event Ad Hoc Committee meeting. • Dakota Westlake: ○ Attended the December Event Ad Hoc Committee meeting. ○ Attended the SUD Integrated Care Conference.

		○ Mentioned that after looking at some data, it appears they have not reached half a percent for targeted SUD services and are hoping to do a better job than this 2025 data shows. ○ Will be attending the 7th Annual Human Trafficking Symposium, presented by the Coalition Against Sexual Exploitation (CASE), at the DoubleTree Hotel in Ontario. ○ Asked to investigate the possibility of allowing commissioners to check into their hotel rooms the night before a conference to help avoid them having to leave their residence early on the day of the conference. ● Dr. Valerie Samuel: ○ Attended the Second DAC meeting in July where Kristen Mungal spoke regarding the direction of the clubhouses. ○ Attended the Community Policy Advisory Committee (CPAC) meeting on Fontana where the transition from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) was discussed. ○ Attended The Wellness Conference. ○ Attended an ice cream social event held by Supervisor Armendarez. ○ Attended the clubhouse Comic-Con. The event helped members take ownership of their mental health, what their needs are and how to make it better. ● Mike Hall, Vice Chair: ○ Asked those in attendance if there is a facility or a program, they would like to be visited by the commissioners to please let them know, reminding them their contact information is on the rosters available in the lobby. ○ Attended the Multi-Dimensional Anti-Recidivism Partnership Program (MAP) graduation ceremony where six individuals earned their welding diplomas. ○ Toured the InnoVage facility. ○ Attended the Seed and Shelter event in Barstow. ○ Attended the clubhouse Comic-Con and presented some of the artwork that was on display and commended the Yucaipa clubhouse on making stigma tangible by developing it as a villain named Stigmata. ● John Chapman: ○ As Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of San Antonio Regional Hospital and Chair of the Hospital
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		Associates of Southern California (HASC), he joined the commission asking how he can make a difference. He knew nothing about the available programs unless he went to the websites, as do those who are directly suffering. ○ While asking for more of a presence on social media to get the message out, he invited DBH to an event that was listened to by 800,000 people. They also invited Kristen Mungal and John Michael Williams, who previously gave a review of his life and how the clubhouse made a difference, that was listened to by 850,000 people. ○ His board would like to donate \$10,000.00 to the clubhouse in his District. ○ Promoting advocacy for HASC, they have a group called Communities Lifting Communities where they have access to \$1,000,000.00 that can be used in all Southern California counties. He was able to influence them that for San Bernardino County a focus will be on behavioral health and collaboration asking Miranda Canseco and Supervisor Armendarez to attend some of the upcoming meetings. Location being considered is the First Acute SUD Center in San Bernardino. ● Delinia Lewis: ○ Attended The Wellness Ranch Inaugural Wellness Session at the California Institution for Woman where incarcerated individuals had the opportunity to pursue mental wellness through the therapy that can come with interaction of live animals, some experiencing this with a horse for the first time. As 98% of incarcerated people will be transferring into the communities, events like these are beneficial to their well-being. ○ As an adjunct professor at Cal Poly Pomona University, she is teaching a master's program in Public Administration and had the opportunity to teach some young people aspiring to be human resource managers in the public sector and teaching how to frame their benefits for their staff and focus their mental wellness and health. ○ Attending The Wellness Together Conference. ● Ashley Saldaña: ○ Visited the Clearview Treatment Center in Ontario, mentioning they accept most insurances and are a Partial Hospitalization Program (PHP) and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) generally referred to by other therapists in the community.
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		○ Echoed Commissioner Chapman's call to put more effort into social media as having an autistic child, this has become a crucial service to her and others in the same situation. • Eloisa Contreras: ○ Attended the Muscoy Neighborhood Association meeting listening to the concerns of citizens regarding homelessness and mental health. ○ Toured the InnoVage facility. • Lynn Brown-Summers: ○ Attended the Archstone Collective Action Group Conference concentrating on the senior demographic where collaboration to defend and transform our communities is discussed. It was recommended to partner with local unions. ○ Sat down with members of the San Bernardino Police Department regarding an incident at a local church. While the individual was released, he was still in crisis continuing to appear and disrupt staff. This will be an ongoing conversation. ○ Commented on the stress and workloads of individuals seem to be getting out of hand and more needs to be done to address this. ○ Attended the SUD Integrated Care Conference.
G. Memo of Findings	Members of the Commission	• Behavioral Health Services Delivery and Transitions of Care/Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) presentations in July: The document was reviewed and no revisions were recommended. It was announced by Clerk John Granado that the Memo for today's presentation on Patient's Rights is assigned to Commissioner Brown-Summers.
H. Discussion Items	Members of the Commission	• The Wellness Conference Recap: ○ Requested to see more data ○ Looking forward to collaboration with DBH to spread the word on what is currently being done throughout the county. ○ Looking for more focus on family involvement in mental health services offered through the school system. ○ There was a focus on student support and ensuring they are in a good space • Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Integrated Conference Recap: ○ Many presentations highlighted the topic of street medicine and how it works in the Los Angeles area. ○ Featured a documentary on the causes of homelessness, and what is working in cities to address this in a comprehensive matter.

		○ It was detailed how much Medi-Care peer support specialists were involved in most of the programs. ○ Opportunity to work with the research and development team. ● December Event Ad Hoc Committee Update: ○ At the August meeting, locations were discussed and the committee is currently in the preliminary stage. ○ Next meetings take place September 8th from 2:00pm-2:30pm, October 22nd 1:00pm-1:30pm and November 24th 1:00pm-2:00pm with Commissioners Mink, Westlake, Mondragon and Vice Chair Hall the current committee members with an invitation for others to join.
I. Subject Matter Presentation	Emily Jernigan and Erica Ochoa	● Presentation on Patient's Rights can be found here 3. Patients Rights Commission Meeting Presentation approved by PIO.pptx ● Q&A: ○ Commissioner Mink: What is the ratio of a patient's rights advocate to patient look like? Erica Ochoa: The current ratio is 6 advocates total, not including the Chief Patient's Rights Advocate, Miriam Aldez and the Office Assistant. Regarding requirements, there is the Behavioral Health Council, instituted by the Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 5572, that has determined the ratio of advocates for a county should be 1 per 500,000 population in California. San Bernardino County has 2.2 million per the 2025 census. Resources are expanding as Loma Linda is opening a facility and are looking to get them Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) designated. ○ Commissioner Mink: How would someone who is in a facility connect with a Patient's Rights advocate? Erica Ochoa: When admitted, every patient receives a handbook that explains their rights, along with posters displayed. When the advocate goes for a hearing or monthly monitoring, there is a re-designation process that each facility must be evaluated. ○ Commissioner Mink: Are rights on hold or on conditions such as dietary issues? Erica Ochoa: It is a variety of conditions. For example, the right to wear their own clothing, right to dignity and respect, right to access a phone to contact loved ones, right to utensils and more. ○ Commissioner Mink: Can this be presented at a DAC meeting? Erica Ochoa: Yes, absolutely.

	Dr. Bethanne Fishell	- Flyer on Proposal for Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) presentation can be found here 3a. LPS Involuntary Grave Disability Holds Draft.pptx - Q&A: Commissioner Chapman: Does the lack of inpatient behavioral beds create more of a negative impact where many of the people needing LPS are stuck in the emergency rooms and hospitals? Dr. Fishell: The process is done in a gradual, thoughtful manner. Ideally, there is no negative impact as this is an alternative to conservatorship where they would have stayed in the hospital anyways. With this alternative, it may open additional beds allowing individuals to stay longer without impact to a local emergency room. Commissioner Brown-Summers: Does this offer an alternative to allow stabilization so there is no recidivism or rehospitalization for those that may be discharged before being 100% stable to go back into the community? Dr. Fishell: Allowing the time in the hospital to further stabilize would hopefully mean that when they are ready to discharge, they can maintain their mental stability without going back to the emergency room. - For additional context and clarification, Erica Ochoa added implementation of the 5270 will apply only to those facilities that are LPS designated and noted 45% of people on 5150 holds in the emergency department transfer to an LPS. - Commissioner Brown-Summers recommended visiting emergency rooms throughout the county to better understand the impact on these individuals who deal with full beds, long wait times and under staffing. - Commissioner Chapman noted the extensive meetings with LPS hospitals who are strongly in support of implementation. - Supervisor Armendarez asked for more dialog with other hospitals in the area when it takes up to 77 days for a bed. - Dr. Parikh noted they are fortunate in Los Angeles County already implementing this information. - Erica mentioned there is a hospital collaborative that meets on a regular basis, chaired by Dr. Taylor, and includes hospital emergency departments and hospital representatives
J. Director's Report	John Granado, Clerk of the Commission	Announced the following: - We have received Board of Supervisors approval for the remaining conferences of 2026.



	Dr. Rishi Parikh Department Updates	○ Advised attendees that box lunches are available as they head into the lobby. • Thanked everyone for allowing him to sit in for Acting Director Joshus Dugas and thanked the leadership of the BHC. • Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI), Maribel Gutierrez: ○ According to the survey regarding an increase in community programs, there is now a dedicated set of staff with the focus on program planning. La Mika Lydia will be the Program Manager with two additional staff coordinating with OEI and Public Relations and Outreach (PRO) to expand efforts. ○ The Native American Subcommittee along with Suicide Prevention Awareness Subcommittee are holding an event on September 15, 2026, at Cal State San Bernardino. The panel will be discussing prevention in the Native American community. • Public Relations and Outreach (PRO), Brittny Rodriguez: ○ Fliers for all events and resources are available in the lobby. ○ Sound of Recovery is taking place September 24, 2026, at San Bernardino Valley College starting at 7:00pm. ○ The Resilient and Real Summit is taking place September 30, 2026, at San Bernardino International Airport from 9:00am-12:00pm. •
K. Outside Agencies and Announcements		• Lori Butler, NAMI: ○ Participated in a Share Your Story with Law Enforcement (SYSLE) event in Lake Arrowhead. It was a two-day suicide prevention workshop attended by approximately 20 individuals; most were first responders. There has been a request for additional training. ○ Attending the NAMI quarterly meeting. ○ Attending a fundraiser with El Torito on October 7, 2026.
Adjournment	Jonathan Cahow, Chair	• With no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11pm.
Next Meeting		DATE/TIME: Thursday, October 1, 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 <i>Present</i>	Jennifer Oglesby <i>Excused Absence</i>	Allie Mink <i>Present</i>	Delinia Lewis <i>Present</i>	Lynn Brown-Summers <i>Present</i>	Supervisor Jesse Armendarez <i>Present</i>



Behavioral Health

Amanda Uptergrove <i>Excused Absence</i>	Dr. Valerie Samuel <i>Present</i>	Troy Mondragon <i>Unexcused Absence</i>	John T. Chapman <i>Present</i>	Eloisa Contreras <i>Present</i>	
Samuel Shoup <i>Present</i>	Michael A. Hall <i>Present</i>	Dakota I. Westlake <i>Present</i>	Ashley Saldaña <i>Present</i>	Kelvin D. Moore <i>Excused Absence</i>	
GUESTS					
Rialto: John Granado, Dr. Rishi Parikh, Jolena Grider, Marina Esponiza, Marybel Valadez, Neymi Membreno, Jennifer Weaver, Angelica Rea, Derrick Cannon, Gabriel Horne, Jonathan Serrano, Bethanne Fishell, Maria Hernandez, Casey McPheron, Monica Chacon, Lori Butler, Michelle Silas, Dr. Alyce Belford, Jeanne Wymer, Jennifer Pacheco, Liset Castaneda, Kristen Mungcal, Alicia Rodriguez, Kristana Pimental, Stephanie DeFrance, Javier Arteaga, Jason Hill, Lena Frausto, Bismarck Olivas, Eric G. Gibbs, Nicole Jennings, Yvonne Morgan, Cathy Dye, Bryan Clark, Danny Johnson, Erica Ochoa, Miranda Canseco, Amber Carpenter, Trina West, Dr. Rishi Parikh, Matthew Pondo, Marcellus Everett, Lehanna Grimaldi, Lilly Ayala, Leo Guzman, Everett Posey, Nichelle Edelman, Rodolfo Esparanza, Emanuel Perez, Marcus Belado, Kellie Bougard Jordan, Miriam Aldaz, Jose Orrostieta, Stella Grosso, Chris Summers, Corrie McCall, William Ukpong, David Williams, Sky Pedroza, Carlos Roque, Jenna Tennyson, Kobe Williams, Ayriel Sereno, Natalie Sanders, Catrina Figueroa, Marvin Blanco, Misty Steffen, Leobardo Sonido, Wandalyn Love, Maria Aceves, Reginald Allen, Briceida Tompkins, Kinshasa Hamilton, Zakiya Otis, Nidia Canello, Valeria Cervantes, Apple Valley: Cristina Rangel, Elisa Braggins, Yvette Alsna and Jennifer Barracks Yucca Valley: Sally Dauphinais					