



# County of Fresno

## ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

### FRESNO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD

Wednesday, **December 17, 2025**  
 at 3:30pm  
 142 E. Cesar Chavez Blvd., Fresno, CA 93706

### Minutes

<p><u>MEMBERS PRESENT</u>          Brooke Frost          Angel Lopez          Elizabeth Kus          Carolyn Evans          David Thorne          Debbie Xiong          Kyle Pennington          Blanca Meyer          Samira Maldonado</p> <p><u>MEMBERS ABSENT</u>          Mary Lou Brauti-Minkler          Marcus Fuller          Gobinder Pandher</p> <p><u>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS</u>          Supervisor Luis Chavez – absent</p> <p>Chief of Staff Yahaira Figueroa</p>	<p><u>DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u>          Director Susan Holt          Alicia Corona          Jeannette Dominguez</p>	<p><u>Community Members</u>          Inthone Milly          Jaswant Binder          Balwinder Kaur          Estelle Dailey          Ana Monreal          Aurora Rigon          Rudy Rigon          Felix Rodriguez          Angela Hernandez          Blanca Meyer          Amor Alegre</p>
---	--	---

**I. Welcome**

Vice Chair Angel Lopez called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m., Chair Brooke Frost stepped in shortly after to lead the meeting.

**II. Review of meeting agenda**

**III. Approval of draft minutes from the November 19<sup>th</sup> Behavioral Health Board (BHB) meeting**

The draft of the November 19<sup>th</sup> BHB meeting minutes was approved.

#### IV. Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) Update; Director Susan Holt, LMFT

Director Holt began the Department Update presentation by expressing gratitude to all for the understanding and adapting to the meeting location changes.

##### A. General Update: DBH Events, Board of Supervisors (BOS) items and legislation

###### December 9<sup>th</sup> Agreements approved by the Board of Supervisors

- Funding Agreement - Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program (BHCIP) Bond Act Round 1 - Olive Campus
- Agreement with Managed Care Plans - CalAIM Transitional Rent and Housing Deposit Community Supports
- Amendment - to Master Leasing Program increasing 68 units to 78 and implement transitional rent

###### January 6<sup>th</sup>

- Program Funding Agreement BHCIP Bond Act Round 1 - Heritage Centre
- Amendment to Agreement with California Department of Health Care Services and Advocates for Human Potential, increase flex pool allocation

##### • Legislative Updates

- January 10<sup>th</sup> - Governors Budget Proposal due
- February 1<sup>st</sup> - Trailer Bills Due
- February (typically)- detailed analysis of Governors budget released
- The Legislative Review follows next and may occur through mid-May
- May 14<sup>th</sup> - Governors May Revision is released
- By June 15<sup>th</sup> - Budget Bill must be passed

##### State Legislation 2-Year Bills Update

- January 31<sup>st</sup> - last day for 2-year bill to be passed out of house of origin
- AB 96 Community Health Workers - new information of bill expected to change to a Peer Support Specialist bill, removing the requirement of a high school diploma
- AB 37 Street Medicine - new information of expanding access of needles for harm reduction in street medicine by including a person delegated by a physician or pharmacist

##### State Legislation - New Bills Update

- February 20<sup>th</sup> - Last day for bills to be introduced
- Anticipate Focus on - LPS, Murphy Conservatorship, CARE Court, BHSA, Housing and Homelessness, SUD Counselors certification entities consolidation

##### Other Updates

- A Response to the Public Comment made during the November BHB meeting regarding Board and Care Facilities- As Public Comment is always welcomed providing opportunity to reflect on work that is being done well and identify areas that may need improvement. All the articulated points made on record during the public comment period of the November BHB meeting are being fully reviewed by

the Department. The Department values the long-standing relationship with community partners and Director Holt assured us that all Board and Care Operators may raise concerns to herself or Deputy Director Dr. Rasmussen at any time. Reminding us that they encourage communication regarding concerns early on so that they can elevate and address quickly within the process to support resolving efficiently. Director Holt concluded by extending an invitation welcoming all contracted providers in the community to attend their contractors' meetings.

- Some Changes to DBH Website have been made after a thorough scan due to receiving information of findings in a recent Grand Jury report regarding having outdated content on the website. Moving forward there won't be anything posted that is not statutory required until vetted by proper department personnel. Patience is appreciated as the project has not been totally completed.
- CARE Act Year 1 Data –  
As of last week, 50 Petitions and referrals have been received  
9 individuals accepted voluntary treatment  
1 CARE Plan and 2 CARE Agreements  
30 individuals in the Outreach and Engagement Phase  
Continuous quality improvement and working on new workflows for expanded diagnostic population and SB 27 changes
- SB – 43 Expansion of Grave Disability  
January 1, 2026  
Treatment facility final regulations are still pending, and DBH will continue working on strong collaboration with hospitals, law enforcement and clinical partners

## **V. Public Comment**

Ana Monreal, who is an Administrator at Exodus recovery, which operates the inpatient psychiatric health facility and the crisis stabilization center, commented in reference to the public comment from the November meeting. She mentioned taking the information back to her team and thoroughly analyzing processes and searching for possible areas in their work that may need addressing. After review they did notice that clients they have received lately have been at a higher acuity level and not able to step down to a lower level of care. As a community partner she wanted to share that insight and assure everyone that her facility will continue to work on making sure clients are referred to the appropriate level of care.

One last public comment from the Board and Care Homeowner that presented concerns during the November meeting followed up with providing more details from a situation causing concern. He mentioned that Board and Care providers have a challenging position, and he doesn't intend to make a negative impact with his comments as the work can also be rewarding. He asked for continued help in making change for the better.

## **VI. Board Member Announcements**

- BHB Annual Training date is set for January 31, 2026, at 9:30 -3:00 PM, at the Fresno Pacific AIMs Center, which has excellent technology for interaction with a remote speaker.

- Theresa Comstock of the California Association of Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) will provide training for new BHB members and reminders/update current Board members.

## VII. Old Business

- **Election on Behavioral Health Board Officers for 2026**

The slate of Officers for 2026 included the following BHB members nominated:

- Brooke Frost as Chair, Angel Lopez as Vice Chair and Elizabeth Kus as Secretary

**Motion** – Debbie Xiong moved to approve the slate of officers above for 2026

**Second** – Carolyn Evans

**Vote** – Nine votes in Favor

**Motion Passes**

## VIII. New Business

- B. **Reminder to BHB Sub-Committee Chairs on Committee Reports for the Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors** – Please submit your committee report in early February so that the BHB Annual Report is completed and ready to submit to the BOS presenting the BHB recommendations prior to the budget cycle.

## IX. Subcommittee Updates

- Adult Services Committee – last meeting they heard from the DBH Older Adult Team. For the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting information on rural behavioral health services availability will be addressed.
- Children’s Services Committee – Meets tomorrow December 18<sup>th</sup> at Hands on Central California and will hear from Breaking the Chains.
- Forensics Services Committee – December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting has been cancelled and rescheduled for January. Wellpath, the service provider in the Adult Jail, was invited.
- Substance Use Disorder Committee –December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will receive information about SB 43

## X. Public Comment

None received

## XI. Adjournment

4:27 p.m.

This meeting is open to the public under the Ralph M. Brown Act.