

**Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health
Behavioral Health Advisory Board**

Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2026

5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

Chair Esemann called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Roll Call**

The following members were in attendance: Chair Heather Esemann, Vice Chair Manny Cardoza, Secretary Mary Page, Supervisor Renick House, Bruce Adams, Susan Fleming, David House, Supervisor Mike Ziegenmeyer and Gwen Ziegenmeyer.

Excused: Maggie Walker

Also, in attendance: Rick Bingham, HHS Assistant Director; Betsy Gowan, Branch Director, Adult Services, Jesse Hallford, Staff Services Manager, Adult Services; Darrin Whittaker, Program Manager, Youth & Family Services; and Sue Hopper, Administrative Assistant, Sutter County.

3. **Action Items:**

- a. **Approve November 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes** – Member Cardoza moved to approve the November 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Supervisor House.

Aye votes: Esemann, Cardoza, Adams, Fleming, Page, Supervisor House, D. House, G. Ziegenmeyer and Supervisor Ziegenmeyer.

Nay votes: None

Abstentions: None

- b. **Review and Approve Application from John Floe to fill the Yuba County At-Large seat** – Supervisor Ziegenmeyer moved to approve the application for Mr. Floe to fill the Yuba County At-Large seat for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Member Cardoza.

Aye votes: Esemann, Cardoza, Adams, Fleming, Page, Supervisor House, D. House, G. Ziegenmeyer and Supervisor Ziegenmeyer.

Nay votes: None

Abstentions: None

4. **Program Presentation** – Youth and Family Services, Darrin Whittaker, Program Manager. Mr. Whittaker reported on the following:
 - Youth and Family Services Programs are designed to meet the socio-emotional and behavioral needs of children, youth, and families in both Sutter and Yuba Counties.
 - The program coordinates with community stakeholders including child welfare services, probation, and school systems to provide a continuum of care that promotes positive outcomes for children of all ages. These services include assessment/diagnosis, psychiatric services, psychotherapy, case management, intensive care coordination, intensive home-based services and therapeutic behavioral services and are provided for youth ages 0 – 25 years.
 - Programs within Youth Services include an Open Access Triage Clinic, Youth Outpatient, Urgent Services, Embedded Unit, Children’s System of Care, Augmented Forensic Youth Program, Transition Age Youth, oversight for the Youth for Change contracted vendor providing specialized services and oversight for the Youth for Change contracted vendor providing embedded peer staff.
 - Mr. Whittaker reviewed demographic data, i.e. unduplicated clients served, race and ethnicity served, gender and age groups served by each county.
 - Data presented from January 1, 2023 – April 30, 2023, show a drop in “actionable items” per client indicating that services provided are effective.
 - Mr. Whittaker will provide a report with more recent CANS (Child and Adolescent Needs Strength) data and send to Ms. Hopper who will distribute to the board.

5. **BHSA Program Update** – Jesse Hallford, Staff Services Manager, Adult Services. Ms. Hallford reported on the following:
 - SYBH Client Christmas party – well attended; crafts, food, gifts, everyone had fun. Earlier start time was a plus.

6. **Behavioral Health Director’s Report** – Rick Bingham, Assistant Director of Health & Human Services and Behavioral Health Director. Mr. Bingham reported on the following:
 - BHSA Changes and Proposals:
 - ✓ Distributed graph with MHSA to BHSA Transition Impacts for Fiscal Years 2017/18 through 2024/25. The graph shows highs and lows of revenue received and discrepancies throughout the years.
 - ✓ The state is now withholding 10% of BHSA funds for the State Administration of the program.
 - ✓ The new “buckets” for BHSA now consist of 35% for FSP programs, 35% for BHSS programs and 30% for housing.
 - ✓ Prevention and Early Intervention programs will now be run through the State Department of Public Health. Monies for these programs have been cut from county programs.
 - ✓ Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health will reduce programing at the Latino Outreach Center and serve eligible clients through other venues.
 - ✓ Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health will eliminate their contract with the Sutter County Superintendent of Schools for Workforce Development and Adult Education programs.
 - ✓ Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health will reduce their contract with Youth for Change for peer mentors to facilitate billable groups and provide support to clients.
 - ✓ The Wellness and Recovery programming will be restructured to support clients in community placement with a step-down focus.

- ✓ Sutter-Yuba Behavioral Health will close the Hmong Outreach Center on June 30, 2026. Future discussions may include the possibility of a joint space with the Latino Outreach Center to form an Ethnic Services Center; suggestion was also to include the Sikh Community if this center becomes a reality.
- ✓ Community education activities formally funded by PEI will be eliminated or reduced. This will include Bridging Hope, May is Mental Health Month, Mental Health First Aid Suicide Prevention Training, Suicide Prevention Month, Client Art Calendar and the PEI Mini Grant program.
- ✓ Discussed “Housing” bucket. Counties are required to use 30% of the funds distributed by the state Controller’s Office into their Behavioral Health Services Fund (BHSF) for Housing Interventions. Programs moving into the Housing Category include LPS conservatee placement costs for clients eligible for full-service partnerships and supported by Public Guardians as well as Care Court. Permanent supportive housing supports for New Haven and Cedar Lane housing developments. HEART team (homeless engagement and resolution team). Housing and stabilization team and a portion of new BHSA administrative requirements, safety/site security, and cost plan charges.
- ✓ Community Program Planning Process meetings are being scheduled for early February.
- ✓ Draft integrated plan due 3/31/26 to the State.
- Mobile Crisis – Sutter Yuba Behavioral Health (SYBH) is in the process of changing Mobile Crisis providers. The new provider will most likely begin providing services in April. Limited Mobile Crisis services will be provided by SYBH in the meantime.

7. New Business

- a. Future Agenda Topics
 - ✓ The Community Suicide Prevention Plan will be presented at the February meeting.
- b. Other Discussion Items – none discussed.

8. Old Business

- a. Ad Hoc Committee Update
 - ✓ Committee met with Sutter County Superintendent of Schools.
- b. Site Visits
 - ✓ Encouraged all members who are interested in touring the Hmong Center before its closure to reach out to Ms. Hopper to schedule their site visit.

9. Other Announcements/Correspondence:

- a. Overview Report – 2024 Data notebook Project on California Behavioral Health: Homelessness in the Public Behavioral Health System – this report was informational only.
- b. Brown Act Training
 - ✓ All members should have received a copy of the Brown Act via email.
 - ✓ Will clarify whether the County has approved for members to attend remotely and still be allowed to vote.

10. Adjournment - There being no further business brought forward, Chair Esemann thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.