

**TUOLUMNE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Time: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m.
Place: Tuolumne County A.N. Francisco Building - 48 Yaney Ave., 3rd Floor, Committees & Commissions Conference Room, Sonora, CA 95370

This Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting will be available to the public via in-person attendance only at the above physical address. However, written comments may be submitted by the public for inclusion in the meeting through the following methods.

Email: Email your comments to Attn: Pandora Armbruster at behavioralhealth@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

U.S. Mail: Mail your comments to Attn: Behavioral Health Advisory Board, 2 S. Green St., Sonora CA 95370.

Written comments must be received no later than 8:00 a.m. on the morning before the noticed meeting.

Important Public Notice: Under CA Assembly Bill 2449's amendments to the Brown Act, through very limited circumstances, some members of the Tuolumne County Advisory Board may participate by teleconference. If so, additional virtual meeting information will be afforded to the public through publication of an amended agenda.

AGENDA

**BOARD OF
SUPERVISOR'S
REPRESENTATIVE/
CHAIRPERSON**

Ryan Campbell

**ALTERNATE
REPRESENTATIVE/
VICE CHAIR**

Daniel Anaiah Kirk

MEMBERS

Cathie Peacock

Elizabeth Marum

Jenn Salazar

Marshall Romeo

Maureen Woods

Sherry Bradley

Terry Garcia

Valerie Shuemaker

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS**
- 3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT** (3 minutes per person)
Members of the public may be heard on any item, **not** on the Board's Agenda. A person addressing the Board will be limited to three minutes. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - Draft Minutes of the February 5, 2025, Meeting
- 5. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- 6. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF REPORT**
- 7. NEW BUSINESS**
 - Tuolumne County Behavioral Health's Cultural Competency and Inclusiveness standards: Discussion and possible action in support of the Board of Supervisors proposed resolution condemning hate crimes and violence in Tuolumne County.
 - Discussion of Law Enforcement Response to Behavioral Health issues involving the unhoused population.
- 8. CONTINUED BUSINESS**
 - Site Visit @ Aegis on 3/14/2025.
 - Annual Report to BOS May 20, 2025.
- 9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**
- 10. NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday, April 2, 2025 @ 4 pm – Tuolumne County A.N. Francisco Building – 3rd Floor Committees & Commissions Conference Room
- 11. ADJOURNMENT**



Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (Minutes of the meeting of February 5, 2025) **DRAFT**

<u>2024 BHAB Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ryan Campbell - BOS	Meeting Cancelled	✓										
Anaiah Kirk – BOS Alt		E										
Cathie Peacock		✓										
Elizabeth Marum		A										
Jenn Salazar		✓										
Maureen Woods		✓										
Marshall Romeo		✓										
Sherry Bradley		✓										
Terry Ann Garcia		✓										
Valerie Shuemaker		✓										

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E Virtual Attendance = V 9 MHAB Members, 1 BOS Alternate

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>
Tami Mariscal, Director – Behavioral Health Department
Lindsey Lujan, Deputy Director – Behavioral Health Department
Evan Hammond, Supportive Housing Agency Manager – Behavioral Health Department
Betsey Coe, CARE Court Program Specialist – Behavioral Health Department
Pandora Armbruster, Administrative Technician – Behavioral Health Department
<u>Others in Attendance</u>
Morgan Rain, Executive Director – LGBTQ+ Rural Resource Center
Several other community members were also in attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board of Supervisors Behavioral Health Advisory Board Chair, Ryan Campbell, called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS

Eight members were present and accounted for at the time of roll call, completing a quorum for the Board. Those present were Ryan Campbell-District 2 Supervisor, Cathie Peacock, Jenn Salazar, Marshall Romeo, Maureen Woods, Sherry Bradley, Terry Ann Garcia, and Valerie Shuemaker. Elizabeth Marum was not in attendance.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board members introduced themselves to all present.

County staff introduced themselves to the group as well. Community members were present but did not choose to identify themselves at this time.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Members of the public may be heard on any item not on the Board's Agenda. A person addressing the Board will be limited to **three minutes**. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.

Morgan Rain, Executive Director CalPride Sierras expressed concerns about the recent assault of a local LGBTQ+ person and the shock of that alleged hate crime on community members. The Behavioral Health Advisory Board was encouraged to put out a statement in support of a Tuolumne County proclamation condemning hate crimes and violence in the community.

Morgan described current services and programs available at CalPride Sierras and the positive impact their organization has on the local LGBTQ+ community. The group was informed of tomorrow's Harm Reduction Education Night focused on xylazine (Trank) use scheduled from 5 – 7 pm at 134 N. Washington, Suite 3, Sonora.

Chairman Campbell closed the public comment period at 4:09 pm.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cathie Peacock moved, and Maureen Woods seconded to approve the October 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes with minor noted spelling corrections. Motion passed.

(Ayes: 8 – Supervisor Campbell, Cathie Peacock, Jenn Salazar, Marshall Romeo, Maureen Woods, Sherry Bradley, Terry Ann Garcia, and Valerie Shuemaker. Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0 Members Absent: 1 – Elizabeth Marum)

A motion was made by Sherry Bradley and seconded by Valerie Shuemaker to approve the November 6, 2024, Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed.

(Ayes: 8 – Supervisor Campbell, Cathie Peacock, Jenn Salazar, Marshall Romeo, Maureen Woods, Sherry Bradley, Terry Ann Garcia, and Valerie Shuemaker. Abstentions: 0 Nays: 0 Members Absent: 1 – Elizabeth Marum)

5. UPDATE ON GENERAL FUND

Supervisor Campbell updated the group on the Board of Supervisors recent direction to the County Administrators Office to implement budget cuts to the county's general fund. Behavioral Health funding is not a part of the general fund, so direct reductions are not being looked at. There have been federal talks about the elimination of potential grant funding which could impact Behavioral Health in that way, but confusion surrounds recent communications received from the federal government.

The group discussed County budget concerns as well as federal impacts to services and programming.

6. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director reported as follows:

BH Financial Status

As Supervisor Campbell just reported on the County's General Fund Update, Behavioral Health finances are not general fund supported thus no cuts or budgetary issues are anticipated from a local view.

Since the posting of this agenda, the Trump Administration issued a directive on January 27th to temporarily suspend federal assistance effective January 28, 2025. This freeze

was then rescinded on January 29, 2025. Although rescinded, the department continues to work to understand the full scope and impact through our advocacy allies. Legal counsel is seeking clarity from the directive to properly assess the potential impact if this suspension were to be reinstated. I believe it is likely to cause many legal and political waves. A breakdown of our funding that could be at risk:

- Approx. \$260,000 Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUBG)
- Approx \$108,000 Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG)
- Zero Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) or LBGTQ+ dedicated funds

Although recent Executive Orders to freeze federal assistance have not included the federal revenue resulting from Behavioral Health services claims, if such funding were to be included, the total financial risk—encompassing all federal assistance and claims revenue—would be approximately \$4 million.

The group discussed the political climate and conflicting information being shared. Many expressed apprehensions over rapidly implemented changes at the federal level and the impact of potential funding cuts to Behavioral Health programming.

Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) Permanent Program

The Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial Permanent Program is designed to address the backlog of individuals deemed Incompetent to Stand Trial (IST) on felony charges. The department ran a pilot program which sunset in 2024. Several counties contracted beginning in January of 2025 with the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) to provide community-based treatment and competency restoration services, rather than placing individuals in state hospitals. Some of the key aspects of the County Contract for Felony IST are:

- Funding & Reimbursement - Counties receive state funding to establish and maintain local IST treatment programs.
- Risk Assessment to assist the Judge in determining safety for the community.
- Community-Based Services - Includes mental health treatment, housing, and competency training to restore individuals to stand trial.
- Diversion & Alternative Placements - Some counties focus on diversion programs, placing IST individuals in outpatient or residential care instead of jail or state hospitals.
- Performance Metrics - Counties must track and report treatment outcomes, restoration rates, and cost-effectiveness to maintain contracts.

Betsey Coe, Behavioral Health Program Specialist, shared her experiences and the connections made with participants through the pilot program. Her impressions have been positive and impactful to those participating. She explained that this permanent intensive program is a two-year commitment which, upon successful completion, allows for the potential dismissal of the participant's charges.

Camp Justice Outreach

Tuolumne County Behavioral Health provides outreach to Camp Justice on a weekly basis, Thursdays beginning at 1:00 P.M. Just some of the outreach benefits provided are:

- Offer Resources, e.g., partner flyers, or other community-based resources.
- Solar Charges for cell phones.

- Screenings and assessment appointments upon our departure.
- Offer transportation to assessments.
- Duration of our outreach varies depending on encounters.

Many successes have been noted through referrals for services and resources. Jennifer Salazar thanked Behavioral Health for their outreach and engagement efforts. She reported that conditions at Camp Justice have improved, and more people are getting the help they need.

A discussion ensued regarding the department's and law enforcement's response to safety concerns during a mental health crisis. This topic will be considered for a potential future agenda item.

7. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH STAFF REPORT

Evan Hammond, Agency Manager provided an update on supportive housing. He reported out as follows:

Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Supportive Housing Programs

Tuolumne County Behavioral Health (TCBH) continues to provide stable housing and support for individuals in need through our various supportive housing programs. Each of our housing sites plays a vital role in helping clients achieve stability while working toward long-term housing solutions.

Washington House remains at full capacity, providing a home for six tenants in our permanent supportive housing program. This site offers stability and services tailored to help residents maintain housing and improve their well-being.

Cabrini House is also at full capacity with six tenants. Historically, Cabrini housed five tenants, but a recent decision to utilize one of the larger bedrooms for an additional resident has proven successful. This change has expanded our capacity while maintaining a comfortable and supportive living environment for all tenants.

In Jamestown, both of our supportive housing trailers are currently occupied, serving as a crucial resource for parents with minor children. These units provide temporary, stable housing while families work toward securing permanent housing solutions.

At our Parrotts Ferry property, four tenants are currently housed. The site experienced a transition in recent months, with one tenant voluntarily exiting the program in October and another successfully moving into permanent supportive housing at Washington House. While four additional clients are prepared to move into the large house at Parrotts Ferry, their move-in was delayed due to storm damage to the property's propane tank. Once repairs are complete and the tank is refilled, the total number of tenants at this location will increase to eight.

Beyond our housing sites, our rental assistance program has helped five clients secure or maintain housing this fiscal year, ensuring that they can remain stably housed with financial support tailored to their needs. Additionally, our emergency housing program has provided short-term housing assistance to eight clients over the past fiscal year, offering immediate relief for those facing housing crises.

Together, these programs reflect our commitment to expanding housing opportunities and providing critical support to individuals and families in Tuolumne County. Through strategic growth and responsive service delivery, we continue to address the community's needs and help our clients work toward long-term housing stability.

8. NEW BUSINESS

PATH III In-Reach Jail Program Planning – Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director:

The PATH III (Pre-Arrestment Treatment for Health) Jail Program is a state-funded initiative aimed at reducing the number of individuals with serious mental illness cycling through jails. It focuses on providing mental health treatment and support services to eligible individuals before their criminal cases progress further. Behavioral Health became contracted with Department of State Hospitals (DSH) on January 1, 2025, for a seven-year contract.

Some of the key features of PATH III Jail Programs:

- Pre-Arrestment Diversion - Identifies individuals with serious mental illness early in the judicial process to provide treatment instead of incarceration.
- Collaboration with Counties - Counties receive funding to implement jail-based competency restoration, mental health treatment, and diversion programs.
- Alternative Placements - May include community-based treatment, crisis stabilization units, or psychiatric care instead of prolonged jail stays.
- Goal - Reduce recidivism, improve mental health outcomes, and alleviate pressure on county jails and the state hospital system.

Programming from Behavioral Health is steadily increasing. In addition to our crisis coverage at the Jail, we now provide outpatient services. All inmates are offered services at time of booking or within 24 hours, and a referral to Behavioral Health is issued if medical detects the need through health screenings. Individuals receive services three times a week – therapy, group, and case management. Our program began to expand in 2022-23, to address a recognized lack of engagement upon release, gaps in care, and to foster collaboration between the Jail and Behavioral Health to ensure service delivery and align with the State Initiative to provide In-Reach Services—ensuring continuity of care.

9. CONTINUED BUSINESS

Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc

Maureen Woods reported that she and Pandora Armbruster met to start the process of streamlining the presentation, working towards bringing focus on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board's accomplishments. Pandora will schedule two in-person meetings with the Ad Hoc workgroup so that this project can be moved forward in time to bring back to the April meeting for the Behavioral Health Advisory Board's final approval in preparation of presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the third Tuesday in May.

10. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS:

Supervisor Campbell requested that the LGBTQ+ concerns discussed at today's meeting be agendaized as a topic for the next meeting. He would like the Behavioral Health Advisory Board's support on a potential Resolution coming soon before the Board of Supervisors condemning hate crimes and violence within Tuolumne County.

Sherry Bradley shared her ideas surrounding anti-stigma initiatives and anti-bullying programs which could be funded through the Behavioral Health Services Act, developing programming through focus groups of those from vulnerable populations.

Jenn Salazar announced that she was a recent recipient of the Laurie Bailey Social Justice award at the Martin Luther King event in Sonora. Jenn shared her history of long-term commitment to the local mental health community and unhoused population. Members thanked Jenn for her tireless efforts of advocacy for those in need.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular Tuolumne County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2025, at 4:00 pm. Detailed meeting information will be provided on the April Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting Agenda.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The February 5, 2025, Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 5:38 pm.