

Advisory Council for Aging & Independence Services
Affordability in Aging Subcommittee
 March 9, 2026 | 10:30 AM
 5560 Overland Ave, Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123

COSD CLERK OF THE BOARD
2026 APR 10 AM 11:01

Meeting ID: 821 7872 7193
 Passcode: vp2cF9MP

MINUTES - DRAFT

	Members	Absent Members	Guests
Attendance:	David Milroy, Chair Silvia Martinez Dennis Leggett Mikie Lochner	Ted Kagan	Miriam Plotkin Willie Douglas
	Staff		
	N/A		
Item	Outcome		
1. Call to Order	David Milroy called meeting to order at: 10:30 AM a. Welcome & Guest/Member Introductions b. Confirmation of Quorum = 4 Affordability Members Present		
2. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Council Member	N/A		
3. Standard Business - Names are noted when vote is not unanimous	a. Public Comments/Announcements: Minutes Approval – Motion to approve (Leggett/Lochner) Approved		
4. New Business	Welcomed Nick Martinez, Asst. Dir. Housing and Community Development services and Kelly Salmons to the meeting to make their presentation and answer the questions from the Affordability Committee. Questions asked: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are the housing authorities in San Diego County adjusting to reductions in federal subsidies? Avoid increasing costs. \$18 million per month helps 11,000 people. Public housing, Veterans, 42% seniors, 9% single, 23% children. 2. What efforts are being made by the county's Housing and Community Development Services to increase outreach, improve accessibility, and provide in-person navigation of Section 8 and other affordable house alternatives? Interactive map online. 3. What are the barriers to out station HCDS staff at senior centers, community centers, congregate dining sites, faith communities, libraries, health fairs, etc. – as opposed to only offering in-person help at your Ruffin Road location? Budget concerns. There are printed materials available. 4. What efforts are being made for outreach to landlords who, it seems, are becoming more reluctant to participate in Section 8 Rental Assistance Program? Voluntary. County does not deal with landlords, only funding side. 5. How is the Area Median Income (AMI) formula determined and applied? Why is it different for different neighborhoods? Where can seniors find AMI numbers for various neighborhoods in an easy to access and understand public facing source? 50% of the median income by Zip Code. Tenants pay 30% of income for rent. Wait list closed on Feb 20,'26. HUD sets Fair market and max rent changes per Zip code. Question: Single credit check for all applications? Not controlled by County. Continued discussion of a social media presence for AIS to strengthen its visibility and to increase community participation in AIS activities.		
5. Actions Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Communicate our housing concerns to AIS and the Board of Supervisors 2. Plan future meeting with representative Josh Dunn from Supervisor Montgomery Steppe's office. 		
6. Next Meeting	Date: 04/13/26 Time: 10:30 - 11:45 AM Location: JGR		

Advisory Council for Aging & Independence Services
Healthy Aging Subcommittee
 March 9, 2026, 2:15 PM
 5560 Overland Avenue, 3rd Floor, JG Conference Room

COSD CLERK OF THE BOARD
2026 APR 10 AM 11:23

Meeting ID: 837 6653 8423
 Passcode: 864575

MINUTES - DRAFT

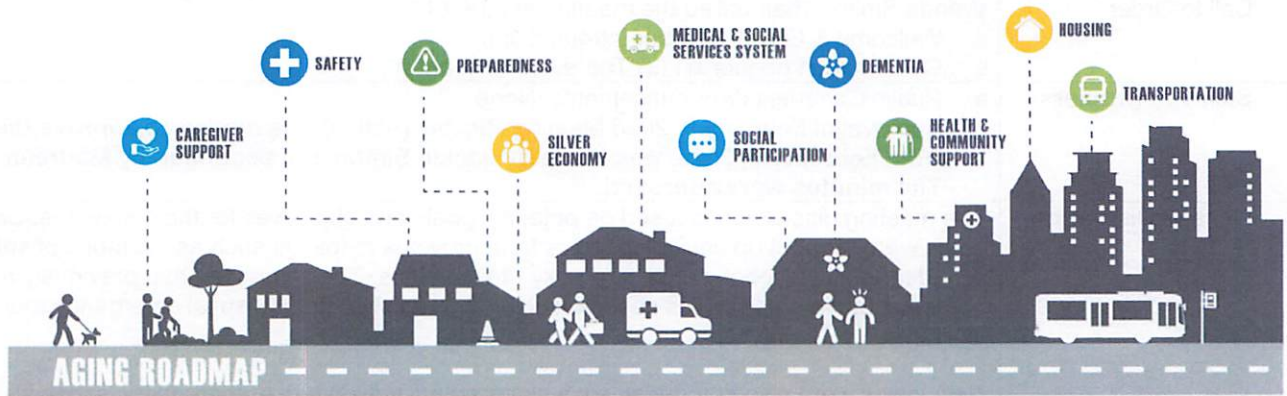
	Members	Absent Members	Guests
Attendance:	Wanda Smith, Chair Paige Colburn-Hargis David Milroy Bradlyn Mulvey Maureen Phillips Jackie Simon	Susan Mallett	
	Staff		
Item	Outcome		
1. Call to Order	Wanda Smith, Chair called the meeting at 2:08 PM a. Welcome & Guest/Member Introductions b. Confirmation of quorum (3) There was a quorum.		
2. Standard Business	a. Public Comments/Announcements: None b. Approval of February 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes (Action) The motion to approve the minutes from February 9, 2026, was made by Jackie Simon and seconded by Maureen Phillips. The minutes were approved.		
3. General Discussion	<p>The meeting discussion focused on potential goals and objectives for the committee. Several goals were brought up, including topics from previous meetings such as multi-use of substances by older adults: alcohol, drugs, and risky prescriptions. The committee had previously received a presentation on these topics based on collected statistics from hospital emergency room incidents.</p> <p>New topics were also introduced such as emergency disasters preparedness especially in the context of San Diego's fire prone environment. Genetic discrimination was raised as another critical issue, referencing the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) and a California bill (AB1798) aimed at preventing insurance companies from using genetic information to discriminate against individuals.</p> <p>The discussion shifted to life planning and how to promote healthy aging. The committee considered potential collaborations such as involving the Hospital Council.</p> <p>The subcommittee also touched on other potential topics such as brain resilience, mindfulness, and chronic and acute care (including diabetes, heart conditions, dementia, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's), sensory deprivation, and potential for participation with biomedical companies. These topics will be further discussed at a future meeting to help focus the committee's attention.</p>		
4. Next Meeting	April 13, 2026 at 2:15 PM at 5560 Overland Avenue, 3 rd Floor, JG Conference Room		
5. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM		

Respectfully submitted by Bradlyn Mulvey, Secretary

AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES (AIS) ADVISORY COUNCIL | GOALS 2025 – 2028

COUNCIL FOCUS: Use or gain expertise to identify, project, and anticipate needs and trends, and advise on AIS operational actions to address the needs of older adults and persons with disabilities.







AGING ROADMAP: County of San Diego’s [regional plan](#) that is implemented and organized by 10 focus areas that collectively represent the County’s comprehensive system of care, including both person-centered and community-wide efforts. Roadmap focus areas are as follows and identified throughout the Council’s Goals:








GOALS 2025 – 2028

#	Goal	Timeline	Lead	Measure	Outcome	Status
1	Advise on Area Plan updates for FY 2025-2026. 	Feb – May 2025	Ad Hoc Area Plan Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting date(s) Discussion Vote and authorization of Council Chair to sign letter of transmittal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ad Hoc Area Plan Subcommittee met on 3/27/25. Area Plan public hearing comment and consideration of acceptance during Advisory Council meeting on 4/14/25. Discussion included: Area Plan 2025-2026 updates and process and content of the Area Plan. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommends continued consultation, input, and monitoring of progress from the Advisory Council. Authorization passed with 20 votes on 4/14/25. 	Completed







AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES (AIS) ADVISORY COUNCIL | GOALS 2025 – 2028

1a	<p>Advise on Area Plan updates for FY 2026-2027.</p> 	Feb – May 2026	Ad Hoc Area Plan Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting date(s) • Discussion • Vote and authorization of Council Chair to sign letter of transmittal 	• Discussion included:	Not yet started
2	<p>Monitor and plan for services for older adults to meet the needs of the growing population.</p> 	Ongoing	Ad Hoc Area Plan Subcommittee and Advisory Council	• Discussion	• Discussion included:	In progress
3	<p>Find engaging speakers for the AIS Advisory Council general meetings.</p> 	Ongoing	Advisory Council	• Speakers	• Speakers’ topics included:	In progress
4	<p>Expand participation in appropriate Auxiliary Subcommittees.</p> 	Ongoing	Advisory Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting date(s) • Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auxiliary Subcommittee met on: • Discussion included: • Authorization passed: 	In progress
5	<p>Participate in appropriate Ancillary Subcommittees.</p> 	Ongoing	Advisory Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting date(s) • Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancillary Subcommittee met on: • Discussion included: • Authorization passed: 	In progress
6	<p>Research and make recommendations for priority areas to support economic security amongst older adults in San Diego County.</p> 	Ongoing	Affordability in Aging Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding(s) • Discussion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics may include, but are not limited to, affordable housing for older adults, transportation for older adults, healthcare programs for older adults, and financial supplemental programs for older adults. 	In progress




AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES (AIS) ADVISORY COUNCIL | GOALS 2025 – 2028

7	Research and make recommendations for priority areas of healthcare and hospital community systems for older adults. 	Ongoing	Healthy Aging Subcommittee	• Finding(s)	• Topics may include, but are not limited to, neurodegenerative diseases of AD, PD, FTD, Dementia, polypharma, and life planning to increase awareness and education within the health care providers' community.	In progress
8	Review how older adults who have the greatest economic or social need are made aware of and utilize nutrition services including CalFresh benefits. 	Ongoing	Nutrition Subcommittee	• Finding(s)	• Topics may include, but not limited to, review of nutrition resources and education through the AIS website, California Association of Food Banks, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and printed materials. • Examine the barriers to CalFresh benefit enrollment with online and phone applications, and how enrollment assistance is promoted through navigation support.	In progress
9	Review the research and implementation efforts of local and national 'food as medicine' initiatives that focus on the integration of food for disease prevention and management. 	Ongoing	Nutrition Subcommittee	• Finding(s)	• Topics may include, but not limited to, enhancing nutritional quality through increased fruit and vegetable consumption and the importance of good nutrition for older adults living with chronic health conditions, and how local health care providers are integrating the 'Food as Medicine' program models for the purpose of reducing food and nutrition insecurity.	In progress
10	Increase awareness about good oral health and dental treatment options through public insurance benefits. 	Ongoing	Nutrition Subcommittee	• Finding(s)	• Topics may include, but not limited to, the barriers to the utilization of Medi-Cal Dental insurance benefits, the outreach efforts by California Smile, and an annual update with Dr. Whyte, County Chief Dental Officer.	In progress
11	Identify disease risk and injury reduction strategies to advocate for educational opportunities for older adults. 	Ongoing	Healthy Aging Subcommittee	• Finding(s)	• Topics may include, but are not limited to, cardiac health, diabetes, oral health, hearing and vision loss, care and nutrition, dementia, and neurodegenerative diseases.	In progress

AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES (AIS) ADVISORY COUNCIL | GOALS 2025 – 2028

12	Monitor and advise on AIS programs through presentations and site visits. 	Ongoing	Nutrition Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting(s) and date(s) attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics may include, but not limited to, the outreach activities to the outlying and rural communities where nutrition resources are limited to distant retail businesses. 	In progress
12a	Congregate Meals (Title III C1) and Transportation to Dining Sites (Title III B). Review nutrition education and in-service requirements for congregate sites. 	Ongoing	Nutrition Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting(s) and date(s) attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics may include, but not limited to, site visits for the purpose of reviewing the social engagement and nutrition education supports and CalFresh outreach. 	In progress
12b	Home-Delivered Meals (Title III C2) 	Ongoing	Nutrition Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting(s) and date(s) attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion included: 	In progress
12c	SNAP (Cal Fresh) 	Ongoing	Nutrition Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting(s) and date(s) attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topics may include, but not limited to, tracking the proposed California legislation to maintain level of CalFresh benefits if the federal investment is decreased. 	In progress
12d	Older Adult Health Promotion (Feeling Fit, Fall Prevention, etc.) and Healthy Aging in life-long learning. 	Ongoing	Healthy Aging Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting(s) and date(s) attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness and Promotion of local programs in lifelong learning to support Healthy Aging. 	In progress
13	Monitor pending legislation in all goal areas and participate with respective committees and AIS staff in analysis of legislation. 	Ongoing	Advisory Council and Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation monitored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion included: Recommendations: 	In progress

AGING & INDEPENDENCE SERVICES (AIS) ADVISORY COUNCIL | GOALS 2025 – 2028

<p>14 Attend <i>Live Well San Diego</i> meetings once a quarter, and monitor AIS programs in support of the <i>Live Well San Diego</i> vision.</p> 	Ongoing	Long-Term Care & Ombudsman Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date(s) of regional meeting(s) attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for improvement, including assessment of effectiveness or additional resources needed. • Discussion included: 	In progress
<p>15 Advise AIS on legislative proposals and changes related to Skilled Nursing Facilities and Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly.</p> 	Ongoing	Long-Term Care & Ombudsman Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation monitored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise and maintain awareness for the AIS Advisory Council surrounding legislation related to skilled nursing facilities and residential care facilities for the elderly. • Discussion included: 	In progress
<p>16 Monitor and advise AIS on the Ombudsman program standard of operations, goals, performance, and increasing the number of volunteers as well as advise on areas of concern related to long-term care.</p> 	Ongoing	Long-Term Care & Ombudsman Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting(s) and date(s) attended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for improvement, including assessment of effectiveness or additional resources needed. • Discussion included: 	In progress

Advisory Council for Aging & Independence Services
Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Facilities Subcommittee
 March 9, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
 5560 Overland Ave, 3rd Floor, MSSP Conference Room
 San Diego, CA 92123

Meeting ID: 896 0683 8701
 Passcode: 284631

CSDS CLERK OF THE BOARD
2026 APR 10 PM 1:13

MINUTES - DRAFT

	Members	Absent Members	Guests
Attendance:	Elaine Lewis, Chair Faye Detsky-Weil (Zoom) Rhys Jones Bradlyn Mulvey		Julie Hendrick Cristin Whittaker Gifton Cheung
	Staff		
	Lourdes Ramirez, Kristin Rigsbee, Sunita Upchurch, Brittney Willis		
Item	Outcome		
1. Call to Order	Elaine Lewis called the meeting at 10:39 a.m. a. Welcome & Guest/Member Introductions b. Confirmation of quorum (3) There was a quorum.		
2. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Council Member	N/A		
3. Standard Business	Public Comments/Announcements: Julie Hendrickson raised concerns about the Master Plan on Aging's lack of specific acknowledgment of Community Care Licensing's role and the enforcement of regulations in Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly (RCFEs). She emphasized the importance of community care licensing and ensuring enforcement to address safety issues in these facilities, suggesting a system problem that needs analysis. a. Approval of February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes: Approved. M/S: Rhys Jones, Faye Detsky-Weil		
4. General Discussion	<p>The committee then discussed ways to support greater transparency, accountability, and enforcement of regulations in the long-term care industry. A key topic was the review of data on family councils in long-term care facilities, with the goal of understanding how many are functioning effectively. Challenges in establishing and maintaining family councils were discussed, including difficulties in finding a suitable time for meetings and a lack of leadership among family members.</p> <p>The possibility of partnering with the Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman to assist in developing family councils was explored, along with the potential for using Zoom meetings to facilitate participation. The committee also considered the need to educate and raise awareness among families about the existence and importance of family councils.</p> <p>Strategies for increasing the number of Long-Term Care Ombudsman volunteers were discussed, including the possibility of developing public service announcements (PSAs) and addressing issues with the volunteer application process, such as fit-testing requirements. The committee also explored potential avenues for advertising the ombudsman program and recruiting volunteers.</p> <p>Finally, the committee briefly touched on the topic of tracking state and federal regulations, with a mention of an article that was sent out for review. Overall, the meeting focused on identifying challenges and exploring potential solutions for improving transparency, accountability, and enforcement in the long-term care industry, with a particular emphasis on family councils and volunteer recruitment.</p>		
5. Next Meeting	April 13, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at 5560 Overland Avenue, 3rd Floor, MSSP Conference Room		
6. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.		

Respectfully submitted by Bradlyn Mulvey, Secretary

Advisory Council for Aging & Independence Services
Nutrition Subcommittee
 March 4, 2026 | 1:00 PM

Virtual Participation
 Meeting ID: 896 0847 3221
 Passcode: 035415

COSO CLERK OF THE BOARD
 2026 APR 8 PM 6:09

MINUTES - DRAFT

	Members	Absent Members	Guests
Attendance:	Shirley King, Chair Susan Mallett Bradlyn Mulvey Jacqueline Simon	Maureen Phillips	
	Staff		
	Delilah Bisase, RD, Public Health Nutrition Manager Carolyn Kendle, MPH, Community Health Promotion Specialist		
Item	Outcome		
1. Call to Order	Shirley King, Chair, 1 PM a. Welcome & Guest/Member Introductions b. Confirmation of quorum (Three): (Quorum achieved)		
2. Statement of (Just Cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Council member, if applicable	No action taken.		
3. Standard Business	a. Public Comments/Announcements: Members or non-members: Jacqueline Simon reported from an article in the San Diego Union Tribune, Feb 22, 2026, about two UC Davis agriculture graduates who started nonprofit, regenerative, organic farm called Barron Creek Farm on a half-acre at 1501 Kelly Street in Oceanside. Its mission is to distribute fruits and vegetables to give away to community members in need. b. Approval of February 4, 2026, Meeting Minutes (Action) M/S – Bradlyn Mulvey/Jacqueline Simon: Unanimous Vote		
4. General Discussion	Carolyn Kendle joined the subcommittee to review the surveys from six congregate dining sites that for the past month had been using the fall prevention placemats. Guests answered three questions. Though many guests did not offer suggestions for future topics, all did check the methods they use to reduce falls. The notable topics that were suggested are scams nutrition, exercises for balance, home modifications, high blood pressure, physical activity and eye diseases. Carolyn agreed to consult with Roberto Ramirez, her colleague, about the cost of designing and producing additional placemats with new topics, particularly scams and injury prevention. Delilah will continue to query her additional dining site managers for their interest in using the placemats. When those are distributed, she will attach the surveys. Shirley agreed to ask Paige Coburn-Hargis about the grant prospects with the Trauma Research and Education Foundation. Their priority is injury prevention. Carolyn will return next month to give her findings about the cost of producing a new placemat. The members talked about visiting the Oceanside Senior Center in May or June and combining a visit to the Barron Creek Farm.		
5. Next Meeting	April 8, 2026, at 1:00 PM		
6. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 1:54 PM		

Respectfully submitted by Shirley King

..Aging & Independence Services Advisory Council
Monday, March 9, 2026 | 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
5560 Overland Avenue, 3rd Floor, Joaquin Anguera Room, San Diego, CA 92123

Call in: 1 (619) 343-2539
Meeting ID (access code): 224 849 240 117 | Passcode: eq7c5Wr2

..MINUTES

..Members		Absent Members	Guests	
..Attendance:	Antoinette Alioto Brett Bergmann Paige Colburn-Hargis Shelia Coulbourn Faye Detsky-Weil (virtual) Rhys Jones Mina Kerr Shirley King Dennis Leggett Elaine Lewis Mikie Lochner (left @ 12:55 p.m.)	Susan Mallett Silvia Martinez Dan McNamara (left @ 1:31 p.m.) David Milroy Bradlyn Mulvey Maureen Phillips (joined @ 12:19 p.m., left @ 12:52 p.m.) Jacqueline Simon Wanda Smith Cristin Whittaker (left @ 1:15 p.m.)	Sabrina Bishop Stephen Huber Ted Kagan Shirley King Molly Nocon Taryn Patterson	Rasheda Ahmed (virtual) Aisha Aldossari (virtual) Yolanda Cruz (virtual) Junne Esguerra Karl F (virtual) Gifton Cheung (virtual) Mr. & Mrs. Cesar B. Javier Thomas Johnson (virtual) Veronica Mitchell Shantella Slaten (virtual) Reva Subra (virtual) Linda Strohl (virtual)
	Staff			
	Allison Boyer Kendall Bremner Wendy Garcia Samantha Hasler Jana Jordan	Madelyn Ochoa-Wingate Jason Scott Leticia Silva Kristen Smith Jennifer Sovay		
Outcome				
1. Call to Order	Susan Mallett Chair, 12:00 p.m. a. Welcome & Pledge of Allegiance b. Guest/Member Introductions c. Confirmation of Quorum: <u>18 present at this time.</u>			
2. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Council Member, if applicable.				
3. Standard Business	a. Public Comment/Announcements: Members or non-members b. Approval of February 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes (Action)* [M/S – M. Lochner / B. Mulvey (Passed with 19 votes.)]			
4. AIS Director's Items	a. AIS Director's Update b. Legislative Update			
5. Executive & Membership Subcommittee	a. Chair's Report: Susan Mallett, Chair b. Membership Report: Jacqueline Simon, Secretary i. Waive Declaration of Vacancy Requirement – Cristin Whittaker (Action) [M/S – D. Milroy / B. Mulvey (Passed with 14 votes, 2 abstentions.)]			

Report/Other Business	<p>c. Board of Supervisors Annual Visits (Dates posted as confirmed):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. District #1: Aguirre [Vacant/Vacant] 2/12/2026 ii. District #2: Anderson [Phillips/Nocon] 2/26/2025 iii. District #3: Lawson-Remer [King/Colburn-Hargis] 1/28/2026 iv. District #4: Montgomery Steppe [Bishop/Milroy] 10/11/2024 v. District #5: Desmond [Vacant/Vacant]
6. Guest Speaker	<p>a. Public Administrator/Public Guardian Overview <i>Jason Scott, Protective Services Program Manager</i> <i>Leticia Silva, Human Services Program Manager</i> Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Who are we? o PAPG Partners o Authority o Personal Representative o Order of Preference for Appointment o Appointment of a Conservator o Life of a PA Case o Life of a PG Case o PA Story o PA/PG Property Team o PG Story o Public Administrator Data o Public Guardian Data o Property Team Data
7. Ancillary Subcommittee Oral Reports (Possible action)	<p>a. LTC Ombudsman/Facilities (met 03/09/26): Elaine Lewis, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E. Lewis shared that the subcommittee discussed ways to better support the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, with a strong focus on improving family counseling in long-term care facilities. • A key issue identified was delays in onboarding new volunteers. Despite being trained, certification and testing requirements can delay their start by up to two months. • Subcommittee emphasized the need to streamline this process to reduce barriers and get volunteers into facilities more quickly. <p>b. Healthy Aging (met 02/09/26): Wanda Smith, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W. Smith shared that D. McNamara provided an overview of the neurological institute at Sharp, including its development and direction for delivering neurological services to the community. • The presentation was informative and generated strong engagement, with thoughtful questions and feedback from the group. <p>c. Affordability in Aging (met 03/09/26): David Milroy, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D. Milroy shared that the subcommittee held a Zoom meeting with Housing Authority representatives, who addressed key questions and provided additional information on Section 8 and outreach efforts. • The discussion was productive and included helpful follow-up questions, though District 4 representatives were unable to attend and will attend a future meeting. <p>d. Nutrition (met 03/04/26): Shirley King, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Mulvey shared that the group is conducting a pilot study using fall prevention placemats in congregate settings to see if residents engage with and apply the information. • Early feedback is being collected through a feedback loop to understand effectiveness and identify additional topics of interest.
8. Other Announcements	

<p>9. Adjournment & Next Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting adjourned: 2:00 p.m. Next Council Meeting: April 13, 2026, 12:00 p.m.</p> <p>Future Subcommittee Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Healthy Aging: 03/09/26 2:15 p.m. ➤ Executive & Membership: 03/24/26 9:00 a.m. ➤ Nutrition: 04/08/26 1:00 p.m. ➤ Affordability in Aging: 04/13/26 10:30 a.m. ➤ LTC Ombudsman/Facilities: 04/13/26 10:30 a.m.
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Minutes respectfully submitted by Kendall Bremner



December 4, 2025
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

William "Bill" Stewart – District 1
Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Gaurav Mishra – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Julie Hayden – Member-At-Large, District 2
Robin Sales – District 3
Dr. Devesh Vashishtha – District 3
Minola Clark Manson – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Amanda Berry, Member-At-Large, District 4
John Byrom – District 5
Donald Romo – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON

Aaron Byzak – District 5
Supervisor Lawson-Remer – #21

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Jessica Kramer – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair – District 4

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Nadia Privara Brahms, Acting Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator, BHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Robin Sales at 2:30pm in person and via Zoom.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

BHAB approved the following consent calendar item:

1. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the meeting of November 6, 2025.

AYES: 16 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Total of six (6) in-person comments and four (4) e-comments.

In-Person Comments:

- Peggy Walker, representing San Dieguito Alliance for Drug Free Youth, emphasized the importance of evidence-based prevention strategies and suggested continued investment in approaches that support youth and community well-being.
- Mary Jo O'Brien, a community member, recommended BHAB to be included earlier in the development of board letters to allow for input prior to submission to the Board of Supervisors.
- Dean Scaduto, representing Golden Coast Rehab, shared plans to establish a mental health clinic offering intensive outpatient services for the Medi-Cal population and mentioned the potential benefit of housing options to support transitions between inpatient and outpatient care.
- Michal Hodge, on behalf of East Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility Parent Council, expressed concerns about mental health challenges among youth in detention and the availability of recovery programs, noting the importance of supportive resources for this population.
- Robert Alm referenced the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, which permits peace officers to detain individuals with severe mental illness or substance use disorders for up to 72 hours under certain conditions. He suggested consideration of compliance strategies and guidance for County leadership regarding its application.
- K. Marie shared personal experience related to her son's mental health challenges and highlighted the potential value of early intervention and stable housing to prevent repeated hospitalizations and homelessness.

E- Comments:

- Becky Rapp, a public health educator and legal guardian, commented on behavioral health considerations related to marijuana access and referenced research on potential impacts of high-potency THC products, particularly among youth.
- Nathaniel Jackson, a transitioning Marine, described his experience with the SkillBridge program and VetArt, noting the role of arts-based engagement in supporting veterans' mental health and community connection.
- June Dudas expressed support for County efforts regarding involuntary treatment and psychiatric advance directives and noted concerns about implementation challenges within the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) program when individuals decline participation.
- Sandra Robinson, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) member, suggested strengthening CARE Court processes and enhancing board-and-care programs to address needs among individuals experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness.

IV. ACTION ITEM: BHAB 2026 PRIORITIES

Public Comments: Total of one (1) in-person public comment was received.

- Robert Alm, BHAB member, emphasized reviewing implementation of the revised Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act, which includes provisions for involuntary treatment, as part of efforts to address homelessness in 2026. He suggested forming a subcommittee to provide recommendations.

ACTION ITEM: BHAB 2026 PRIORITIES

On motion of Dr. Rosolyn Harper, seconded by Amanda Berry, the BHAB 2026 Priorities were approved.

AYES: 8 NAYS: 5 ABSTENTIONS: 3

V. PRESENTATION: BHS HOUSING INITIATIVES

Total of one (1) in-person public comment was received:

- Mary Jo O'Brien expressed on having the conversion of existing living or independent living spaces into peer respite facilities to support transitions across levels of care, including from acute hospital settings to crisis houses, peer respite, and independent living. She also noted the potential benefit of incorporating the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP).

PRESENTATION: BHS HOUSING INITIATIVES

Dr. Brenda Sarabia, DSW, LCSW, Deputy Director, BHS and Hillary Brown, Assistant Medical Services Administrator, BHS presented on the following:

- BHS supports a continuum of housing initiatives designed to help individuals with serious mental illness or substance use disorders secure and maintain stable housing.
- The Housing Technical Assistance contractor is supporting development of a Five-Year Strategic Housing Plan. For No Place Like Home developments, BHS maintains a 20-year commitment to provide supportive services.
- Funding through Behavioral Health Bridge Housing and Community Care Expansion–Preservation (CCE-P) grant programs has enabled expansion of the Augmented Services Program and stabilization of licensed residential care homes, strengthening housing options for individuals with complex behavioral health needs.
- The Transitional Rent Program will align with BHSA Housing Interventions, scheduled to launch on July 1, 2026. After the six-month Transitional Rent benefit concludes, members may transition to BHSA Housing Interventions or other available supports for continued housing assistance.
- County Behavioral Health programs and community-based organizations will connect eligible members to Managed Care Plans (MCPs) for coverage of Transitional Rent, confirm eligibility, and facilitate transitions from Transitional Rent to BHSA Housing Interventions based on individualized housing support plans.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEM: END OF YEAR SUBCOMMITTEE SUNSETTING AND REPORT OUT

Robin Sales, Chair, BHAB led a discussion on the following:

- Formal end-of-year reporting is scheduled for March 2026. New subcommittees will sunrise in March 2026.
- **Pathways to Continuum of Care for Children, Youth, and Adults Impacted by Alcohol and other Drugs Subcommittee**
 - Julie Hayden, Chair, reported the subcommittee received a presentation from the Access Crisis Line. Members expressed interest in developing a visual roadmap outlining the continuum of care including detoxification, residential treatment, outpatient care, sober living, and crisis stabilization.
- **Re-Entry Support for Justice-Involved Youth and Adults Subcommittee**
 - Robin Sales, Chair, noted the subcommittee did not meet in November and will remain dark in December due to the holidays. The next meeting is scheduled for January 2026, and members were encouraged to attend and provide input for recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nadia Privara, MPA, Acting Director, BHS provided the following updates – 2025 Year in Review:

- Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH-CONNECT) implementation is underway following formal opt-in earlier this year. The initiative focuses on improving care coordination, introducing new medical benefits, and modernizing reimbursement processes.
- The Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT) School Pilot Program is expanding in partnership with the San Diego County Office of Education to provide non-law enforcement crisis intervention for students. Rollout continues across public school districts.
- A new Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) opened increasing inpatient psychiatric capacity and providing a modern therapeutic environment for individuals requiring intensive care.
- The Homekey Program continues to provide capital funding for property acquisition and rehabilitation, enabling integration of onsite behavioral health services to promote housing stability for residents.
- ELEVATE Behavioral Health Workforce Program advances efforts to address workforce shortages through recruitment, training pathways, and innovative reimbursement models in collaboration with community partners.
- New Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) requirements will enhance oversight, transparency, and accountability at the state and local levels. BHSA includes many changes that will impact contracted programs across the County.

VIII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Robin Sales, Chair, BHAB provided the following updates:

- Expressed appreciation to BHAB officers for their service on the Executive Committee during the past year.
- Acknowledged the support of the Behavioral Health Services (BHS) team, including Acting Director Nadia Privara, BHAB Coordinator Maria Molina, and administrative staff for their contributions to the effective coordination of BHAB meetings.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Julie Hayden, BHAB Member-At-Large, provided the following announcement:
 - The East County Transitional Living Center will host guided tours during *The Taste of TLC* event on December 8, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Kat Briggs, BHS Chief, provided the following announcement:
 - Materials from the Stage Prevention Webinar held on November 13, 2025, have been posted and are available for review.
 - The final general session for BHSA Input will be held virtually on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, with two time options: 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

X. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Robin Sales, seconded by Gaurav Mishra and Minola Clark Manson, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.



Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: February 19, 2026

Time: 1:00-2:15pm

Place: Behavioral Health Services, 3255 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108 – La Jolla Room

Virtual Option: Zoom meeting number **812 2416 5499**, password **155480**

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Amanda Berry at 1:02 p.m. Executive Committee members present: Amanda Berry, Chair; Julie Hayden, Member-at-Large; and Robin Sales, Member-at-Large. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) staff present: Nadia Privara Brahms, Director; Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator.

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2026

ON MOTION of Julie Hayden, seconded by Robin Sales, the Executive Committee approved the minutes from January 15, 2026, as written.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Total of one (1) virtual public comment was received.

- June Dudas, community member, expressed appreciation for establishing the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) ad hoc subcommittee and expressed the need for clear standards and symptom-informed support for individuals with serious mental illness.

IV. Chair's Update

Amanda Berry, Chair, BHAB, provided the following update:

- The BHAB quarterly report is being prepared to be presented to the BHAB. The report will summarize BHS system progress, optimal care pathway initiatives, workforce and service expansion needs, and budget priorities. The draft quarterly report will be voted on at the March BHAB meeting.
- The Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP) will be reviewed at the Community Planning Process (CPP) Ad Hoc Subcommittee meeting, with BHAB members invited to attend in a listen-only capacity.

V. Discussion Item: Quarterly Report

The Executive Committee discussed additional elements to be incorporated into the Quarterly Report beyond the Chair's Update. Discussion focused on:

- Ensuring each BHAB ad hoc subcommittees submits a specific recommendation for inclusion in the Quarterly Report.
- Highlighting the Community Planning Ad Hoc Subcommittee meetings and the BHSA IP work as part of ongoing BHAB activities.

VI. Review BHAB Planning Calendar

Members reviewed and discussed the BHAB planning calendar for March 2026 through May 2026. The following items were discussed:

March:

- Discussion Item: BHAB Ad Hoc Subcommittees Report Out
- Presentation Item: Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Legal Overview
- Healthy San Diego, Health Services Advisory Board, and Other State and Local Board Updates
- Action Item: BHAB Quarterly Report (Q1)
- Presentation and Action Item: Youth Optimal Care Pathways (OCP)

April:

- Tentative Item: Presentation and Action Item: Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan (IP)
- Action Item: BHAB Ad Hoc Subcommittees Recommendations
- Subcommittee Report Outs
- Healthy San Diego, Health Services Advisory Board, and Other State and Local Board Updates

May:

- Tentative Item: Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB)
- Healthy San Diego, Health Services Advisory Board, and Other State and Local Board Updates
- Subcommittee Report Outs

VII. Announcements

None.

VIII. Adjournment

ON MOTION of Robin Sales, seconded by Amanda Berry, the meeting adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0



Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 15, 2026

Time: 1:00-3:30pm

Place: Behavioral Health Services, 3255 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108 – La Jolla Room

Virtual Option: Zoom meeting number **812 2416 5499**, password **155480**

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Amanda Berry at 1:03 p.m. Executive Committee members present: Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair; Julie Hayden, Member-at-Large; and Robin Sales, Member-at-Large. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) staff present: Nadia Privara Brahms, Director; Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator.

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2025

ON MOTION of Julie Hayden, seconded by Minola Clark Manson, the Executive Committee approved the minutes from November 20, 2025, as written.

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 2

III. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Total of one (1) in-person public comment was received.

- Robert Alm, BHAB member, highlighted the responsibility placed on Counties to address homelessness. He suggested BHAB consider establishing a subcommittee to review the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act and develop recommendations for the BHAB, the BHS Director, and the Board of Supervisors regarding next steps.

IV. Ice Breaker/Introductions

The executive committee engaged in introductory activities designed to build rapport and gain insight into members' backgrounds and perspectives. This activity was intended to foster collaboration and ensure alignment between member priorities and the board's overarching strategic goals.

V. Director's Update

Nadia Privara, Director, BHS, provided the following updates:

- Recent federal communications regarding Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funding reduction presented challenges for counties and providers. Although the proposed reductions were rescinded, BHS continues to monitor federal appropriations activities for potential future impacts.

- BHS transformation is underway and there is strategic planning underway to define future organizational structure.
- Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) implementation activities continue, including timely notifications to contracted providers regarding program transitions and identified services scheduled to sunset.
- Cross-departmental collaboration is ongoing to identify alternative funding streams and maximize allowable billing mechanisms to support service sustainability and continuity of care.

VI. Chair's Update

Amanda Berry, Chair, BHAB, provided the following Chair goals:

- Outlined leadership priorities focused on strategic agenda setting, accountability, and strengthening the advisory role of BHAB.
- Creating a strengths-based approach to member engagement and the importance of BHAB representation on partner advisory bodies, including Healthy San Diego and the Health Services Advisory Board.
- Develop an ongoing formalization communication to the Board of Supervisors, including the potential for quarterly updates aligned with the BHAB Annual Report.

VII. Review BHAB Planning Calendar

Public Comment: Total of one (1) in-person public comment was received.

- Robert Alm, BHAB member, addressed establishing timelines for full implementation of the LPS Act and develop expertise to provide informed guidance supporting County efforts to address homelessness.

Review BHAB Planning Calendar

Members reviewed and discussed the BHAB planning calendar for February 2026 through April 2026. The following items were discussed:

February:

- Action Item: BHAB Establishment of Ad Hoc Subcommittees

March:

- Tentative: Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Legal Overview
- Tentative: Youth Optimal Care Pathway (OCP) Updates
- Tentative: BHS Budget Cycle Updates

April:

- Tentative: Housing Forum
- Tentative: Health Services Advisory Board (HSAB)

VIII. Announcements

None.

IX. Adjournment

ON MOTION of Amanda Berry, seconded by Julie Hayden, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0



February 5, 2026
Behavioral Health Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON

William “Bill” Stewart – District 1
Gaurav Mishra, 2nd Vice Chair – District 1
Joel San Juan – District 1
Dr. Rosolyn Harper – District 2
Robert Alm – District 2
Robin Sales, Member-At-Large – District 3
Minola Clark Manson, 1st Vice Chair – District 4
Kathy Watkins – District 4
Amanda Berry, Chair – District 4
John Byrom – District 5
Donald Romo – District 5
Aaron Byzak – District 5

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON

Janice Luna-Reynoso – District 1
Julie Hayden, Member-At-Large – District 2
Dr. Devesh – District 3
Stuart Gaiber – District 3
Supervisor Lawson-Remer – #21

MEMBER PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE

Jessica Kramer – District 3, ADA Accommodation

STAFF TO THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

Nadia Privara Brahms, Director, Behavioral Health Services (BHS)
Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator, BHS

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) was called to order by Chair Amanda Berry at 2:29 p.m. in person and via Zoom.

II. CONSENT CALENDAR

BHAB approved the following consent calendar item:

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the meeting of December 4, 2025.

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENT

Total of five (5) in-person comments and five (5) via Zoom comments.

In-Person Comments:

- Jerry Hall, with BHAB Rehab, expressed the importance of BHAB members attending the recent state training in San Diego. He emphasized the importance of addressing this through remote

training and stressed that full engagement and accountability are critical given the urgency of community needs.

- Katie Medlin, a representative of The International Rescue Committee (IRC), shared information on the California Commission for Behavioral Health Project, which focuses on improving outcomes for immigrant and refugee communities through community workshops, organizational capacity building, and advocacy efforts.
- Robert Alm, BHAB member, highlighted the role of involuntary treatment for individuals with severe mental illness and referenced the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act as one mechanism for facilitating access to treatment.
- Jenna Ramsey, Project Manager for Pacific Clinics, discussed the ELEVATE program, a grant-funded initiative offering peer support, training, and job placement. She noted that expanding the list of eligible employers could broaden placement options and strengthen program participation.
- Yusef Miller, with Saving Lives in Custody California, invited BHAB members and the public to a Mental Health Town Hall scheduled for March 2 at the Southeastern Live Well Center. The event will include presenters and families impacted by in-custody deaths.

In-Person Comments via Zoom:

- June Dudas expressed the County and BHAB to utilize provisions of the LPS Act and consider evidence-based approaches used in other counties jurisdiction.
- Mary Jo O'Brien, a community member, reported that the Peer Council Executive Committee announced the formation of a new advocacy group, San Diego Peers, focused on expanding peer support and recovery navigation services.
- Madison expressed distinctions between marijuana and alcohol usage in policy development, referencing differences in psychiatric impacts and potential effects on youth, and emphasized on evidence-based approaches and prevention efforts.
- Robert Forte, CEO of Peer Professionals of California, advocated for expanding peer-led programs and utilizing ELEVATE grant resources to support peer professionalization under Senate Bill 803.
- Becky Rapp discussed on the proposed Socially Equitable Cannabis Program, noting behavioral health considerations for rural areas and requested science-based review and community engagement as the program advances.

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IV. ACTION ITEM: ESTABLISHING THE 2026 SUBCOMMITTEES

Public comments: Total of two (2) in-person public comments were received.

- Jerry Hall, with BHAB Rehab, suggested forming a subcommittee to review crisis care systems, including hotlines, sobering centers, and jail-based interventions, and to use data to inform system planning.
- Robert Alm, BHAB member, suggested forming a subcommittee on involuntary treatment to review applicable laws and develop recommendations.

ACTION ITEM: ESTABLISHING THE 2026 SUBCOMMITTEES

On motion of Gaurav Mishra, seconded by Robin Sales, the action item of establishing the 2026 ad hoc subcommittees was approved.

- Continuum of Care for Children Youth and Adults Impacted by Mental Health and Substance Use
- Involuntary Treatment – Lanterman-Petris-Short

AYES: 13 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

V. ALCOHOL AND DRUG SERVICE PROVIDER ASSOCIATION (ADSPA) UPDATE

Marisa Varond, President, ADSPA and Golby Rahimi Saylor, Mental Health Contractors Association updated on the following:

- An overview on the short-term impacts of the January Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funding rescissions, including immediate notifications, temporary terminations, and rapid reinstatements that created staffing and service disruptions for several local behavioral health agencies.
- San Diego County's behavioral health system services are funded through multiple federal, state, and local sources; therefore, disruptions in one funding stream can affect the broader continuum of care.
- Transparency and coordinated planning across providers and funding partners were highlighted, including understanding the full range of complementary services and funding sources that support access to behavioral health care.

Sarah Dawe, Deputy Director of Legislative Policy, Economic Development and Government Affairs (EDGA) updated on the following:

- The Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs (EDGA) oversee the County's legislative and government affairs activities, guided by an annual Board-approved legislative program that outlines advocacy priorities and policy direction.
- Key County advocacy priorities include protecting the social safety net and supporting behavioral health services, with ongoing engagement at the state and federal levels and coordination with legislative teams in Washington, D.C., Sacramento, and BHS.
- EDGA monitors rapid policy developments and works to support timely adjustments through coordinated advocacy efforts, expressing readiness to assist County departments as needed.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Nadia Privara, MPA, Director, BHS provided the following updates:

- Announced the appointment of Dorita Sondereker as Hospital Administrator for the San Diego County Psychiatric Hospital, effective January 9, 2026.
- Provided updates on ongoing BHS initiatives, including redesign of Clubhouse programs to align with Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) and BH-CONNECT policy frameworks, and progress on the County's first Children's Crisis Residential facility scheduled for completion in Fall 2026.
- Reported site visits and program development activities, including the new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) substance use residential treatment facility in National City, which will be co-located with recuperative care services.
- Highlighted workforce and community-planning efforts, including the BHSA Community Planning ad hoc subcommittee and the statewide Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Scholarship Program supporting workforce expansion.
- Recognized significant service contributions, including Dr. Piedad Garcia's 40-year milestone.
- Noted recent County budget engagement activities leading into the release of the Recommended Budget and the start of the public comment period.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Amanda Berry, Chair, BHAB, yielded time to Board Supervisor, Vice Chair, Monica Montgomery-Steppe, to provide the following updates:

- Overview of the initiative to optimize the County's specialty behavioral health plan, including the establishment of an ad hoc subcommittee to oversee the BHS transformation.
- The transition of BHS will require comprehensive planning related to fundings, and a consultant has been retained to provide specialized support throughout the forthcoming fiscal year budget process.

Amanda Berry, Chair, BHAB provided the following updates:

- The board aims to strengthen its role as a trusted, strategic partner in shaping a responsive behavioral health system by contributing value through informed discussions, accountability, and meaningful community representation.
- BHAB is actively strengthening its role in county decision-making by engaging directly with the Chief Administrative Officer, Ebony Shelton, and other key offices to ensure our input is meaningfully applied. BHAB is actively strengthening its role in county decision-making by engaging directly with the Chief Administrative Officer, Ebony Shelton, and other key offices to ensure our input is meaningfully applied..
- Volunteers are needed for two committees: Healthy San Diego and Health Services Advisory Board.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jessica Kramer, BHAB member, provided the following announcement:
 - The Committee for Persons with Disabilities meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 3:00–5:00 p.m. and has prioritized advancing disability accommodations within behavioral health services.
- Bill Stewart, BHAB member, provided the following announcement:
 - California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives will be having a Substance Use disorder (SUD) Voice for Change listening session on February 18th.
 - California Association of Local Behavioral health Boards and Commissions (CALBHBC) held its quarterly meeting on January 23rd in San Diego.
 - The CARE Act Work Group is holding their quarterly meeting on February 11, 2026.

IX. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Amanda Berry, seconded by Gaurav Mishra, the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.



Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: November 20, 2025

Time: 1:00-2:15 p.m.

Place: Behavioral Health Services, 3255 Camino del Rio South, San Diego, CA 92108 – Del Mar Room

Virtual Option: Zoom meeting number **812 2416 5499**, password **155480**

AGENDA ITEMS

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Janice Luna Reynoso at 1:00 p.m. Executive Committee members present: Judith Yates, 2nd Vice Chair; Amanda Berry, Member-at-Large; and Julie Hayden Member-at-Large. Behavioral Health Services (BHS) staff present: Nadia Privara Brahms, Acting Director; Maria Molina-Melendez, Behavioral Health Advisory Board Coordinator.

II. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from October 16, 2025

ON MOTION of Julie Hayden, seconded by Amanda Berry, the Executive Committee approved the minutes from October 16, 2025, as written.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

III. Non-Agenda Public Comment

No public comments.

IV. Discussion Item: 2026 BHAB Priorities

The BHAB Executive Committee reviewed the following 2026 BHAB Priorities draft proposed by the BHAB Priorities Committee:

1. Continuum of Care

- BHAB will support efforts to increase a culture of transparency where sharing strengths and challenges is encouraged by service providers and people across the continuum of care and their impact on the system and the people it is designed to serve.

2. Enhancing Communication & Community Voice

- BHAB will strengthen clear, consistent, two-way communication by creating accessible, sustainable communication mechanisms, informed by community-based organizations, contracted partners, and other stakeholders' input, to elevate insights, concerns, and lived experience directly with BHAB, including around challenges navigating the behavioral health system.

- BHAB will focus on improving the flow of timely and accurate information back to the community about initiatives, services, policies, navigation supports, and engagement opportunities to build trust, transparency, and meaningful community influence on system priorities.

V. Review BHAB Planning Calendar

Members reviewed and discussed the BHAB planning calendar for December 2025 through March 2026. The following items were discussed:

December:

- Discussion Item: End of the Year Subcommittee Sunsetting and Report-out
- Action Item: 2026 BHAB Priorities
- BHAB Executive Committee Meeting - Dark

January:

- DARK
- BHAB Executive Committee Meeting –extended meeting
 - Executive Members agreed to extend until 3:30PM

February:

- Subcommittee Report-Outs

March:

- Tentative Item: Presentation: BHS Justice-Involved/Reentry Programs

VI. Adjournment

ON MOTION of Amanda Berry, seconded by Julie Hayden, the meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening
Advisory Board
Minutes of January 23, 2026

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PALOMA AGUIRRE
First District

JOEL ANDERSON
Second District

TERRA LAWSON-REMER
Third District

MONICA MONTGOMERY STEPPE
Fourth District

JIM DESMOND
Fifth District

4.16.26 CFSAB Meeting,
Agenda Item 3

Members Present:

Lauren Welty, District 2 Appointee
Jason Sharpe, District 4 Appointee
AnneElise Goetz, District 3 Appointee
Jeff Wiemann, Foster Family Agency
Stephen Moore, Voices for Children, Inc
Adam Reed, Dependency Legal Services
Patricia Boles, Foster Parent Association
Erin Gospodarec, Congregate Care Provider
Jovanna Aguilera, Protective Services Worker
Diana Venegas, Individual with Lived Experience
Chief Tamika Nelson, San Diego County Probation
Hon. Judge Tilisha Martin, San Diego Superior Court
Beth Ploesch, Children's Legal Services of San Diego
Dr. Gloria Ciriza, San Diego County Office of Education
Dr. Joseph Robinson, Individual with Lived Experience
Alfredo Guardado, Child and Family Well-Being Department
Stephanie Ortega, Polinsky Children's Center/Promises2Kids
Dr. Elizabeth Hernandez, County Health and Human Service Agency

Supervisor Present:

Monica Montgomery Steppe

Members Not Present:

Dr. Patricia Fernandez, District 1 Appointee
Alethea Arguilez, First 5 San Diego
Melissa Villagomez, Individual with Lived Experience

Staff Present:

Sandra McBrayer, The Children's Initiative
Torrey Giaquinta, The Children's Initiative
Kyle Sand, County Counsel

1. Welcome and Introduction to the Board

Judge Martin opened the meeting. New board member Tandy Litt introduced herself as did the rest of the board. Quorum was achieved.

2. Public Comment: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board's jurisdiction, but not an item on today's agenda.

There were no requests to make public comment.

3. Approval for the Statement of Proceeding/Minutes for the meeting of October 10, 2025

Patricia Boles motioned to approve the minutes, Chief Tamika Nelson, seconded; Stephanie Ortega abstained, all other members present voting in favor.

4. CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal)

Heather Summers and Jennifer Hancocl from Medical Care Services presented on CalAIM.

One in three San Diegans receive Medi-Cal. Enhanced Care Management (ECM) and Community Supports (CS) are new services available to support the health and well-being of Medi-Cal members with complex needs.

ECM core services include outreach and engagement, comprehensive assessment and care management plan, enhanced coordination of care, coordination of and referral to community and social support services, member and family support, health promotion, and comprehensive transitional care. ECM focuses on adults, children, and youth who are experiencing homelessness or who are transitioning from incarceration. Children and youth involved with child welfare, or those enrolled in California Children's Services who have additional needs. The presenters shared a few examples of ECM eligibility as well as the link to the universal referral forms. ECM is typically authorized for twelve months but can be extended.

CS are services that help address members' health related social needs. There are fourteen CS services, each has its own eligibility criteria. CS referrals are separate from ECM. CS tend to be short term. There are four managed care plans that provide CS in San Diego County. Those are Community Health Group, Blue Shield, Kaiser Permanente, and Molina.

There is a Healthy San Diego Consumer and Professional Advisory Committee CalAIM Task Force. The Task Force has both consumer and professional seats and are seeking a consumer of child and youth services.

A CFSAB member shared that children adopted from child welfare are being cut off from medical services. Those children need advocacy and additional support.

This program is up for waiver approval on December 31st. ECM has been added onto contracts, but CS is more at risk.

A CFSAB member asked how 'involved in child welfare' is defined. Families with either voluntary or open cases within the past six-twelve months could qualify. CFWB social workers assigned to voluntary cases need to be informed and educated about this resource.

5. San Pasqual Academy Stakeholder Engagement Process

On November 18, 2025, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors voted to initiate efforts to maximize resources at the San Pasqual Academy (SPA). This includes stakeholder engagement to develop recommendations for best serving foster youth and maximizing the use of the SPA campus. Specific stakeholder groups were called out including CFSAB. There will be ten engagement sessions; two of the sessions have already taken place. In April, the recommendations will be drafted and submitted to the Board of Supervisors for the May 2026 meeting.

6. Children's Trust Fund Report

The Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board determines the priorities for Children's Trust Fund (CFT) dollars. New priorities need to be set this Spring. Aimee Zeitz and Rosa Gracian from Child and Family Well-Being discussed the origin of the funds which is the fees from birth certificates issued in San Diego County.

Next, Nathaniel Martinez from SAY San Diego, shared how they have used the CTF dollars at the Family Connection Hub. Concrete supports were identified as a need by families and also has been shown by research to be a protective factor. Between May 2025 and December 2025, over \$73,000 was spent on filling 100 families' essential needs. The primary use of funds was housing assistance, funds also restored utilities or transportation. A client testimonial was included in the meeting materials packet. Board members asked about collaboration with ECM services which is done at the Hub. The goal is for the Family Connection Hub to operate as a no wrong door system, however due to needing the CARES system to be active in order to be able to submit FFPSA claims, at this time, only direct referrals from CFWB staff are accepted.

Then, Melissa Brooks from the YMCA discussed their Kinship Support Program which is partially funded using CTF. The Kinship program serves all caregivers who are currently raising a child either informally (without CFWB involvement) or formally (through CFWB). The majority of clients helped were informal caregivers (74%) and 86% were female. Staff include six kinship navigators, MSW interns, and youth development and engagement specialists. Services provided include needs assessment, support plan, referral, and advocacy. Weekly support groups are also available throughout the County. These meetings include peer support, education, resources, childcare, and meals.

Lastly, Heather Carmody and Christine Hall from the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program talked about the special education and pre-petition legal services funded through CTF. The education rights program was established in 1998 to preserve the right of dependency youth by advocating for special education services, preventing unjust disciplinary action, and holding districts accountable to their obligations under federal and state law. Youth in grades TK-12 with open CFWB cases (including voluntary) are eligible for service. As are nonminor dependents who need transition support. Referrals are received from CFWB, attorneys, and CASAs. In FY25-25, education advocacy was provided to 69 youth. Pre-petition legal services has existed to provide voluntary guardianship services since 1996. In 2025 the program included 1.5 full time staff attorneys, and 2,454 volunteer hours. This program serves parents or caregivers with an open CFWB investigation before a dependency petition is filed. Services include helping caregivers establish or modify a guardianship, helping parents establish, contest, or modify a guardianship, and obtaining Special Immigrant Juvenile status for youth 18-21. Board members asked about conflicts of interest when SDVLP is not able to work on a guardianship because they previously supported the family through the education rights program. SDVLP have conflict attorneys they can refer to including Legal Aid and others.

7. Work Group Updates

Due to time constraints, no verbal updates were provided at the meeting. Meeting summaries for the November and December work group meetings were provided in the meeting materials.

- a) Lived Experts Action Partners Work Group**
- b) Child and Family Well-Being Work Group**
- c) Placement and Caregiver Support Work Group**

8. Child and Family Well-Being Department, Director's Report

- a) Polinsky Children's Center**

The PCC population is staying on track. This year the average number of children at PCC was 21, last year it was 19. There has been a decline in youth leaving campus without permission.

b) Board Letter: Appointment of San Diego Child Care and Development Planning Council Members

A letter is going to the Board of Supervisors to appoint nine new members and reappoint eight members.

c) California Child and Family Services Review, County Self-Assessment

CFWB has begun the county self-assessment process of the California Child and Family Services Review. An email will go out inviting CFSAB members to take part in the process.

9. Advisory Board Member Updates: Members may make brief announcements or report on their activities that are relevant to the Advisory Board

Straight from the Heart has many cribs and bikes available.

The family support liaison program is currently being assessed to determine if families' needs are being met and if the program is the right size.

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting of the Advisory Board: Thursday, April 16, 2026



Child and Family Well-Being 2025-2026 Legislation Updates

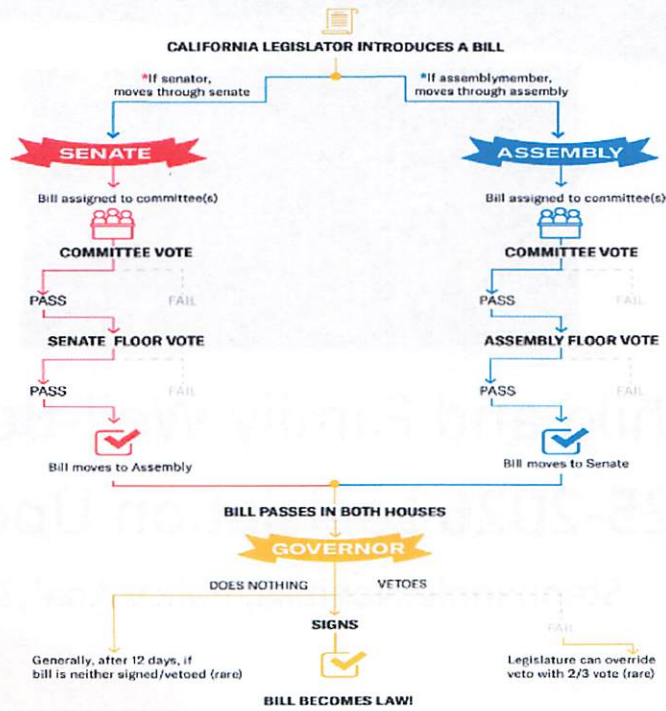
Stephannie Novitski, Policy Analyst

4.16.26 CFSAB Meeting,
Agenda Item 4



Becoming Law

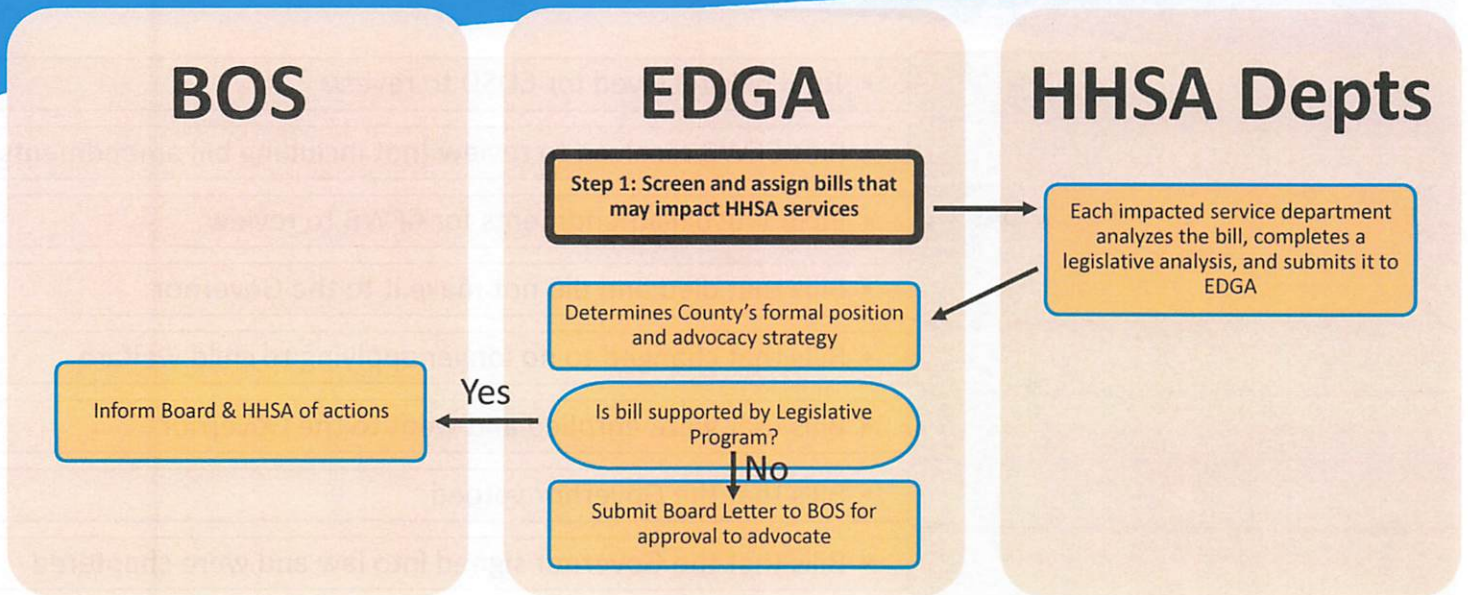
HOW A BILL BECOMES LAW



*Bills that start with "SB" are introduced in the senate
 *Bills that start with "AB" are introduced in the assembly



HHSA Legislative Process



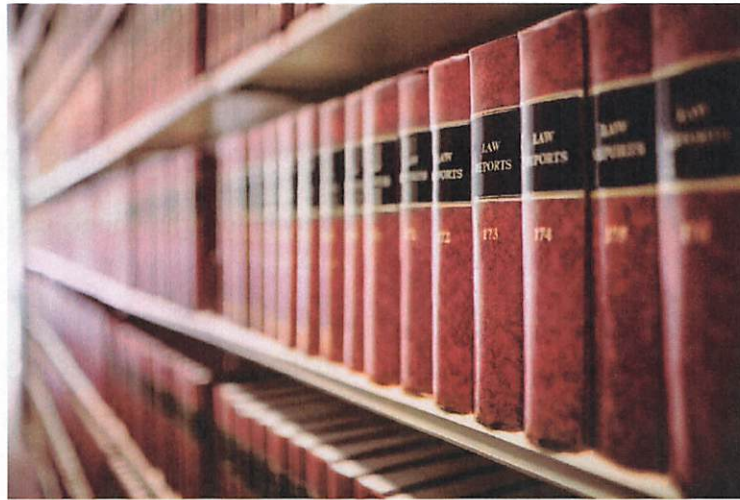
Highlights of the 2025 Legislative Year

1400+	• Total bills received for COSD to review
106	• Bills CFWB received to review (not including bill amendments)
314	• Including bill amendments for CFWB to review
57	• Bills that died and did not make it to the Governor
3	• Bills that changed to no longer applying to child welfare
48	• Bills that were enrolled and went to the Governor
6	• Bills that the Governor vetoed
42	• Bills that the Governor signed into law and were chaptered



Current Law

CFWB Related Laws Passed in 2025



Adoptions Assistance Program (AAP)

AB 118 – AAP Payments to Out-of-State Out-of-Home Placements

- Effective 7-1-25.
- AAP can only be paid for out-of-state residential treatment facility placements if:
 - At least one caregiver must reside in the state the youth will be placed in, and
 - The County must determine whether the placement is necessary for the youth's mental, emotional, and/or behavioral health, and
 - That the placement will be temporary (not to exceed 12 months of cumulative time), and
 - That the youth's need was present prior to adoption.
- Adoptive family must provide the following proof to the County before the County can authorize AAP benefits:
 - Licensed or otherwise approved by the applicable state or tribal authority.
 - In good standing.
 - Eligible as a Title IV-E funded placement.
 - A qualified residential treatment program, as defined in the federal Social Security Act (same as CA STRTP requirements).



Child & Family Teams (CFTs) & Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)

AB 118 – CFT Meeting (CFTM)	SB 119 – Attaching CFT Summary & Action Plans to Court Reports	SB 119 – CANS Timelines
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CFTs are required to be held for Family Maintenance (FM) cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A copy of the CFWB CFT Summary and Action Plan must be attached to court reports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CANS are to be completed timely for every youth and NMD in foster care.



Placement Transitions

AB 896 – Foster Care Placement Transition Planning

- Adds that a resource family (RF) is to work cooperatively with a birth family and other resource families to support transitions in placement settings or permanency.
- Clarifies that as part of RF training that RFs are to work cooperatively with child welfare, the birth family, other RFs, or other service providers implementing the case plan to support case plan goals and objective, including placement transition planning to reduce trauma during transitions to reunification or other placement settings.



Court Hearings

AB 651 – Court Hearings with Incarcerated Parents

- Requires notice and the opportunity for an incarcerated parent to be physically present at dependency hearings related to their child.
- Requires the incarcerated parent who has waived their right to be physically present to be given the opportunity to participate by videoconference.
 - If videoconference isn't available, then using teleconferencing is required.
 - A WIC 366.26 court hearing cannot take place unless the court has the physical signed waiver from the parent.

AB 651 – NMD Court Entitlements

- Expands NMD court hearing rights to include:
 - Being present at hearings.
 - Being represented by counsel of their own choice.
 - Addressing the court and participating in court if they desire.
 - Being properly notified of court hearings.



Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs)

SB 624 – NMD Tax Guidance

- Requires CDSS by 7-30-26 to issue guidance with information to support best practices for NMDs to file state and federal income tax returns and access the foster youth tax credit.
- Child welfare departments are to then mail that information to NMDs every year.

AB 890 – NMD Intercounty Transfers (ICT)

- Authorizes an NMD's residence to be changed to another county where they are living if the NMD requests the jurisdiction transfer and the court finds it in the NMD's best interest.
 - The court will need to consider all relevant information.
- Requires the court to issue the order within 30 calendar days of the NMD's request.



Transitional Housing Placement (THP) Providers

AB 1314 – THP Providers

- Requires all county and THP provider contracts to make sure that decisions about sharing bedrooms, bathrooms, and units together are led by the program participant and agreed upon with the provider.



Postsecondary Education

AB 243 – Verifying Juvenile Dependency Status

- Authorizes a county child welfare department, to provide upon request, the following information, to a financial aid administrator for youth who are attending or applying to attend a postsecondary school:
 - The information necessary to verify that the person is or was previously a dependent, a ward, or was in the custody of the juvenile court, is limited to:
 - The applicant's name and DOB.
 - The dates the applicant was within juvenile court jurisdiction, placed in foster care or on probation, or taken into custody of the county probation department, or a statement that the applicant was not within the juvenile court's jurisdiction if that applies.
 - A statement that the applicant is or was a foster youth or juvenile court ward.



Family Court Adoptions

AB 450 – Family Court Adoptions

- Expands a Family Court’s jurisdiction to include adoption proceedings for CA-born minors.
- Clarifies that the above does not limit jurisdiction that is permitted under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).
- Requires a petitioner to be responsible for providing any additional documentation or information necessary to complete the investigation described above if the out-of-state home study report does not match CA standards or is missing required information.



Childcare

SB 120 – Childcare Eligibility Extension

- If a family adds an additional child to their family size and the family already has childcare for a child that receives protective services or is/at risk of being neglected, abused, exploited, then the family can extend their childcare eligibility redetermination for at least 12 months if they request childcare for the new child.



Minor's Attorneys

AB 373 – Minor's Attorneys

- Requires a minor's attorney to advocate for an NMD's wishes even if those wishes conflict with the NMD's protection or safety.
- Removes the requirement that the primary responsibility of a minor's attorney is to advocate for the protection, safety, and physical and emotional well-being of an NMD.



Family Finding State Average

AB 562 – Meeting Family Finding State Average

- Starting on 1-1-27, each county is required to review publicly available data comparing the statewide average rate of placing children with relatives in the prior year for comparison with the county's placement rate during the same period.
 - In ICWA cases, comparing statewide average rate to the federal ICWA placement preferences.
- If a county's placement rate is less than the statewide average, then the county welfare director (or designee) is required to consult with the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement, and Support to identify best practices that may be adopted by the county to improve its placement rate.



Pending Legislation

CFWB Related Bills in 2026



2026 Legislation

Current Bills

- AB 1566 – Expanding the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act definition of Severe Neglect
- AB 1579 – Extending the use of allocated Children’s Crisis Continuum Pilot Program funds
- AB 1628 – Expanding the ability to safely surrender a baby from one who is no more than 3 days old to one who is no more than 30 days old
- AB 1688 – Noticing parents and attorneys when there is a report of abuse or neglect in a placement
- AB 1846 – Clarifies when relatives are to be assessed for placement to support relative placements for youth
- AB 1967 – Expanding the criteria for a nonminor to file a petition to resume dependency jurisdiction after exiting foster care
- AB 2478 – Adopting a kinship family approval process for relatives, NREFMs, and extended family of an Indian child
- AB 2684 – Defining out-of-state monthly SW visits for NMDs
- SB 1143 – Allowing child welfare agencies to access forensic interview videos from CACs when investigating child abuse or neglect



Legislation Websites

- [CA Bill & Legislative Information \(1999 - present\)](#)
- [Federal Legislation Information](#)



Thank you!



Contact information: Stephannie.Novitski@sdcounty.ca.gov





ELIZABETH A. HERNANDEZ, Ph.D.
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING DEPARTMENT
8965 BALBOA AVENUE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1507
MAIL STOP W-473
(858) 616-5811 • FAX (858) 616-5908

ALFREDO GUARDADO, MSW
DIRECTOR

December 26, 2025

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING SPECIAL NOTICE

TO: All Social Work Staff
Child and Family Well-Being

FROM: Alfredo Guardado, MSW
Director
Child and Family Well-Being

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

Purpose

This Special Notice introduces staff to new laws that change how the Health and Human Services Agency provides child welfare services. This is not a complete list of all legislative changes, but highlights the main bills that impact Child and Family Well-Being (CFWB) staff.

Italics indicate new policy that is to be followed by all CFWB staff. More detailed requirements of some of these new laws will be addressed separately in forthcoming policy updates.

Background

During every legislative session, Senators and Assembly members introduce thousands of bills to create new laws, or amend existing ones, and CFWB Office of Administration/Policy staff track and analyze the bills that are related to child welfare.

Bills that are passed by both the Senate and the Assembly are sent to the Governor's desk for signature. If the Governor signs a bill, then it is "enacted" or "chaptered" and becomes law; if they decline to sign it, then it is "vetoed" and does not become law.

Effective Date

All new laws are effective January 1, 2026, unless noted otherwise.

**Changes Affecting the
Adoptions Assistance
Program (AAP)**

AB 118 – AAP Payments to Out-of-State Out-of-Home Placements

- *In order to pay AAP for out-of-state residential treatment facility placements:*
 - *At least one caregiver has to reside in the state the youth will be placed in, and*
 - *the County has to determine the placement is necessary for the youth's mental, emotional, and/or behavioral health, and*
 - *that the placement will be temporary (not to exceed 12 months of cumulative time), and*
 - *that the youth's need was present prior to the adoption.*
 - *The adoptive family must provide the following to the County before the County can authorize AAP benefits for the out-of-state residential treatment facility, including proof that the facility is:*
 - *Licensed or otherwise approved by the applicable state or tribal authority.*
 - *In good standing.*
 - *Eligible as a Title IV-E funded placement.*
 - *A qualified residential treatment program, as defined in the federal Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Sec. 672(k)(4)), which is akin to CA STRTP requirements.*
 - *The documentation required above must originate from the government agency or tribal authority that licenses or approves the out-of-state residential treatment facility, or the appropriate state or tribal Title IV-E agency.*
 - *The County is responsible for designating which residential treatment facility the youth will go to, after consultation with the adoptive family and receiving the above documentation.*
 - *Placement can only be made with the intent for the youth to return to the adoptive family, and*
 - *the adoptive parents must actively participate in the reunification plan.*
 - *The AAP rate paid for an out-of-state residential treatment facility is not to exceed the lesser amount of the following:*
 - *The rate paid for an STRTP in CA, or*
 - *The rate determined by the state where the facility is located.*
 - *If a child was placed in an out-of-state residential treatment facility before 6-30-25 and remained there as of 6-30-25, payment must not exceed the timeframe that was already authorized in the AAP agreement that was in effect as of 6-30-25, unless CFWB and the adoptive parents have negotiated and agreed on up to an additional 60 days for the purpose of transitioning the child home.*
-

**Changes Affecting
Resource Family
Approval (RFA) and
Placement**

[AB 896](#) – Foster Care Placement Transition Planning

- *Adds that a resource family (RF) is to work cooperatively with a birth family and other resource families to support transitions in placement settings or permanency.*
- *Clarifies that as part of RF training that RFs are to work cooperatively with child welfare, the birth family, other RFs, or other service providers implementing the case plan to support case plan goals and objective, including placement transition planning to reduce trauma during transitions to reunification or other placement settings.*

**Changes Affecting
Family Maintenance
(FM) Cases and Child
and Family Teams
(CFT)**

[AB 118](#) – Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTM)

- *CFTMs are required to be held for Family Maintenance (FM) cases.*

**Changes Affecting
Court Reports and CFTs**

[SB 119](#) – Attaching CFT Summary and Action Plans to Court Reports

- *A copy of the CFWB CFT Summary and Action Plan must be attached to court reports.*
- *Effective once a final form is released by CDSS, in 2026, SWs are to document the CFT occurrence and its summary on the CFT Summary and Action Plan developed by CDSS.*
 - *The CDSS CFT Summary and Action Plan is to then be attached to court reports with any necessary redactions.*

**Changes Affecting
Child and Adolescent
Needs and Strengths
(CANS)**

[SB 119](#) – CANS Timelines

- *CANS are to be completed timely for every youth and NMD in foster care.*
 - *These timelines can be found in the [CANS \(Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths\)](#) policy.*

**Changes Affecting
Court Hearings with
Incarcerated Parents,
Nonminor Dependents
(NMDs), and
Adoptions**

[AB 651](#) – Dependency Hearings with Incarcerated Parents and NMD Court Entitlements

- *Requires notice of, and the opportunity for, an incarcerated parent to be physically present in dependency hearings related to their child.*
 - *Requires an incarcerated parent who has waived their right to be physically present to be given the opportunity to participate by videoconference.*
 - *If videoconference technology isn't available, then using teleconferencing is required.*
 - *A WIC 366.26 court hearing cannot take place unless the court has the physical signed waiver from the parent.*
-

Changes Affecting Court Hearings with Incarcerated Parents, Nonminor Dependents (NMDs), and Adoptions (cont.)

- *Expands NMD court hearing rights to include:*
 - *Being present at hearings.*
 - *Being represented by counsel of their own choice.*
 - *Addressing the court and participating in court if they desire.*
 - *Being properly notified of court hearings.*
-

Changes Affecting NMDs

SB 624 – NMD Tax Guidance

- Requires CDSS, by 7-30-26, to issue guidance with information to support best practices for NMDs to file state and federal income tax returns and access the foster youth tax credit.
 - Requires the guidance to be updated as needed and reissued no less than every 2 years.
 - The information is to include, but is not limited to:
 - Eligibility requirements for the foster youth tax credit.
 - The maximum foster youth tax credit available pursuant to Section 17052.2 of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
 - Outreach strategies to increase awareness among NMDs and former foster youth about the foster youth tax credit.
 - Resources from the Internal Revenue Services (IRS) website for identifying local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance providers.
 - *Requires county child welfare departments and juvenile probation departments to annually mail the above CDSS information to every NMD.*
 - *Mailing is to happen between every November 1 and January 31.*
-

Changes Affecting NMDs, Court Hearings, and Intercounty Transfers

AB 890 – Changing an NMD’s County of Residence

- *Authorizes an NMD’s residence to be changed to another county where they are living if the NMD requests the transfer of jurisdiction to the new county and the court finds that the transfer is in the best interest of the NMD.*
 - *The court will need to consider all relevant information, including the following, when making its determination:*
 - *Whether the transfer would increase the NMD’s access to services.*
 - *The SW’s, including tribal SW’s, position and, if applicable, the probation officer.*
 - *Whether the NMD would qualify as a resident in the new county.*
-

**Changes Affecting
NMDs, Court Hearings,
and Intercountry
Transfers (cont.)**

- *Whether the NMD has made significant connections to the new county through:*
 - *Employment or independent contracting,*
 - *Enrollment in an educational or vocational program,*
 - *Obtaining housing, or*
 - *Establishing family or other supportive connections in the new county, including relationships that provide emotional or social support to the NMD, such as relationships with family members, mentors, close friends, or community ties, such as being a member of a religious congregation or nonprofit organization*
 - *Whether the NMD is involved in a separate dependency case as a parent in the new county.*
 - *Requires the court to issue the order within 30 calendar days of the NMD's request.*
 - *And deem the new county to have jurisdiction over the NMD within 10 calendar days of the order to transfer.*
 - *Requires the court to consider whether the youth asked for a transfer of jurisdiction at the last hearing before the youth turns 18 and at hearings as an NMD.*
-

**Changes Affecting
Institutions Evaluation
Unit (IEU) and
Extended Foster Care
(EFC)**

- [AB 1314](#) – Transitional Housing Placement (THP) Providers
- *Requires all county and THP provider contracts to make sure that decisions about sharing bedrooms, bathrooms, and units together are led by the program participant and agreed upon with the provider.*
-

**Changes Affecting
Voluntary Services and
Prevention**

- [SB 119](#) – Voluntary and Stabilization Support Services
- *Voluntary services and stabilization support (prevention services), do not require:*
 - *Allegations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation*
 - *Substantiated abuse, neglect, or exploitation*
-

**Changes Affecting
Education,
Confidentiality,
EFC/NMD, Adoptions,
Guardianship, and
Ongoing**

- [AB 243](#) – Verification of Juvenile Dependency Status for Postsecondary School
- *A CFWB policy will be forthcoming with guidance and forms regarding this new legislation.*
 - *Requires a CA financial aid administrator to accept a sworn statement with information signed under penalty of perjury by an authorized representative from the local education agency, county child welfare department, or probation department.*
-

**Changes Affecting
Education,
Confidentiality,
EFC/NMD, Adoptions,
Guardianship, and
Ongoing (cont.)**

- A financial aid administrator would still be able to accept other types of acceptable documentation to verify a student's circumstances in lieu of a sworn statement.
 - *Authorizes a county child welfare department, county probation department, or local educational agency, to provide, upon request, the following information, to a financial aid administrator for youth who are attending or applying to attend:*
 - *The above sworn statement.*
 - *The information necessary to verify that the person is or was previously a dependent, a ward, or was in the custody of the juvenile court, with that information limited to:*
 - *The applicant's name and DOB.*
 - *The dates the applicant was within juvenile court jurisdiction, placed in foster care or on probation, or taken into custody of the county probation department, or a statement that the applicant was not within the juvenile court's jurisdiction if that applies.*
 - *A statement that the applicant is or was a foster youth or juvenile court ward.*
-

**Changes Affecting
Independent
Adoptions**

SB 450 – Family Court Adoptions

- Expands a Family Court's jurisdiction to include adoption proceedings for CA-born minors when:
 - Proceedings to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents are not required to make the minor available for adoption, and
 - The proceedings to free the minor from the custody and control of one or both parents to make the minor available for adoption are being brought into CA.
 - Clarifies that the above does not limit jurisdiction that is permitted under the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children (ICPC).
 - Requires an adoption order issued for unmarried minors to include the names of the adoptive parent(s) and any existing parent(s) who will maintain their parental rights after the adoption finalizes.
 - A failure to do this does not mean parental rights and responsibilities are terminated.
 - Requires a petitioner to be responsible for providing any additional documentation or information necessary to complete the investigation described above if the out-of-state home study report does not match CA standards or is missing required information.
-

**Changes Affecting
Childcare**

SB 120 – Childcare Eligibility Extension

- Families that are already receiving childcare services because a child is a recipient of protective services, is being neglected, abused, or exploited, or at risk of neglect, abuse or exploitation, and then adds an additional child to the family size and the family requests services for that additional child during the current eligibility period will have their eligibility period extended, as necessary, for at least 12 months to make sure the additional child receives services before a redetermination of eligibility is needed.
-

Legislative FYI

AB 137 - California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account

- Changes the definition of an “eligible child” to mean either:
 - A resident of CA who is under 18 years old, is not emancipated from their parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian, and meets one of the COVID-19 qualifications, or
 - A resident of CA who is at least 18 years old and who, prior to turning 18, was not emancipated from their parent, Indian custodian, or legal guardian and met one of the COVID-19 qualifications.

AB 144 – Updating Medi-Cal Eligibility for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)

- Effective on 9-17-25.
- Clarifies that current and former foster youth with unsatisfactory immigration status are exempt from freezes on Medi-Cal enrollment, payment of premiums, and other provisions adopted in the 2025 Budget Act (AB 116).

AB 373 – Minor’s Attorneys

- Requires a minor’s attorney to advocate for an NMD’s wishes even if those wishes conflict with the NMD’s protection or safety.
- Removes the requirement that the primary responsibility of a minor’s attorney is to advocate for the protection, safety, and physical and emotional well-being of an NMD.

AB 495 – Family Preparedness Plan Act of 2025

- Expands the type of relative who is authorized to carry out a caregiver’s authorization affidavit and give that person the same rights to authorize school-related medical care for the minor that are given to guardians.
 - Authorizes Family Court, if a custodial parent is subjected to an immigration-related matter where the parent may be temporarily unable to care for their child, to appoint the custodial parent and a person nominated by the custodial parent as joint guardians of the minor.
 - All records, petitions, orders, and documents related to these proceedings are to be confidential.
-

Legislative FYI (cont.)

- Prohibits licensed child day care facilities, employees of licensed child daycare facilities, and license-exempt CA state preschool program facilities from collecting information or documents about a child or their family's citizenship or immigration status, except as required by state or federal law or as required to administer a state or federally supported educational program.
 - Requires a licensed child daycare facility and a license-exempt CA state preschool program facility to first follow any parent instruction relating to the child's care as documented in the child's emergency contact information if the facility's employee is aware that a child's parent or authorized representative is not available to care for the child.
 - These facilities are required to request that parents or authorized representatives update their emergency contact information.

AB 561 – Restraining Orders

- Requires a court, or court facility, that accepts petitions for domestic violence restraining orders to accept electronic filings at no charge to the person filing the petition.
 - Including protective order petitions and any related filings for elder or dependent adults.
 - Requires the following to be provided electronically to the requestor unless they request to pick the documents up at court:
 - The request
 - Notice of the court date
 - Copies of the request to serve on the respondent,
 - The temporary restraining order, if granted
 - Allows a party or witness to appear remotely at the protective order petition hearing, and prohibits the court from charging a fee for the remote appearance.
 - Prohibits a court from charging a fee for a party, support person, or witness to appear remotely at a domestic violence restraining order hearing.
 - Requires information about electronic filing and access to the court's self-help center to be prominently displayed on each court's home page, and requires each self-help center to have information related to elder abuse restraining orders.
 - Authorizes court to allow an alternative method of personal service if the petitioner made diligent efforts to serve the restrained party but there is reason to believe that the restrained party is evading being served.
-

Legislative FYI (cont.)

[AB 562](#) – Meeting Family Finding State Average

- Starting on 1-1-27, each county is required to review publicly available data comparing the statewide average rate of placing children with relatives in the prior year for comparison with the county’s placement rate during the same period.
 - In ICWA cases, comparing statewide average rate to the federal ICWA placement preferences.
- If a county’s placement rate is less than the statewide average, then the county welfare director (or designee) is required to consult with the Center for Excellence in Family Finding, Engagement, and Support to identify best practices that may be adopted by the county to improve its placement rate.

[AB 607](#) – CalWORKs Home Visiting Program

- Clarifies that the time on the CalWORKs Home Visiting Program is not to exceed the timeframe of the applicable home visiting program model.
- Authorizes, for a voluntary participant who has been removed from the assistance unit or exits the CalWORKs program, to continue receiving home visiting services until the home visiting program is completed or for up to 12 months, whichever is sooner.

[SB 132](#) – CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, and AAP

A Chiquita Canyon elevated temperature landfill event payment cannot be considered income for the purposes of CalWORKs, Kin-GAP, or AAP.

Alignment with SET

New legislation and subsequent policies support all SET values and expectations by enhancing:

- Communication and inclusion of children and families in decisions made throughout the CFWB process ([Value 1](#)).
 - Coordination with resource families to support what they need in order to provide optimal care to the youth in their homes ([Value 2](#)).
 - Supports and services available to youth in care to help them achieve permanency or transition to adulthood successfully ([Value 3](#)).
 - Coordination with BHS and Probation partners to provide quality services for youth and families ([Value 4](#)).
 - Streamlined processes with our court partners to meet the needs of youth and families while enhancing efficiency for both the court and CFWB systems ([Value 5](#)).
 - SW trainings to continue our learning about how to partner with youth and families ([Value 6](#)).
-

ORC Statement

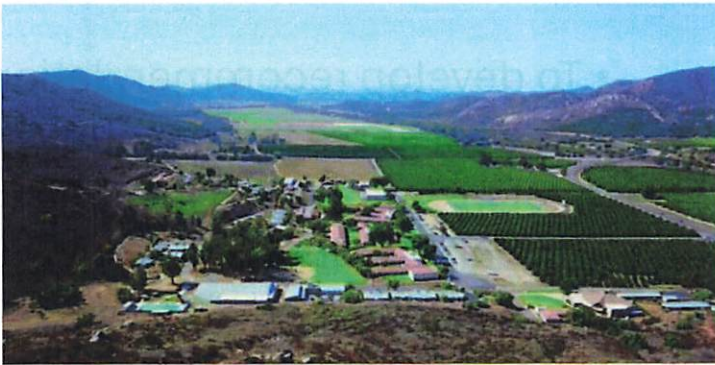
This Special Notice was reviewed by ORC members Rachel Swaykos, Omar Avila, Denise Bahen, Peggy Ceballos-Lopez, Miriam Curiel, Fanita Durham-McLennan, Nancy Elizarraraz-Lopez, Amanda Garcia, April Griffiths, Jennifer Hancock, Leonard Hopper, Tanya Ramirez, Peggy Ruefer, Linda Schulte, and Aubrey Sheetz.

Contact

Staff with questions about this Special Notice may contact Stephannie Novitski, CFWB Policy Analyst, at 619-964-6260 or email at Stephannie.Novitski@sdcounty.ca.gov.

Alfredo Guardado, MSW
Director
Child and Family Well-Being

AG/sn



4.16.26 CFSAB Meeting,
Agenda Item 7

SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY

Update

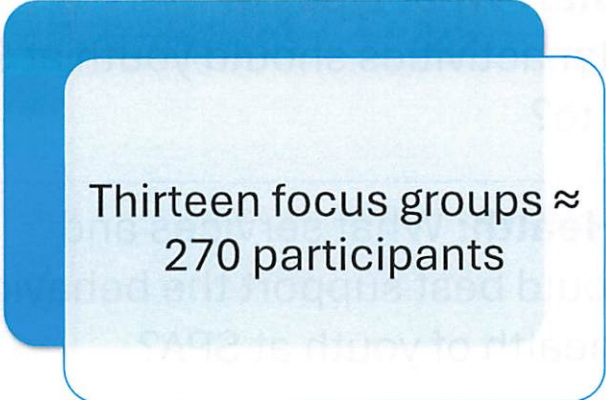


Initiate Efforts to Maximize Resources at the San Pasqual Academy

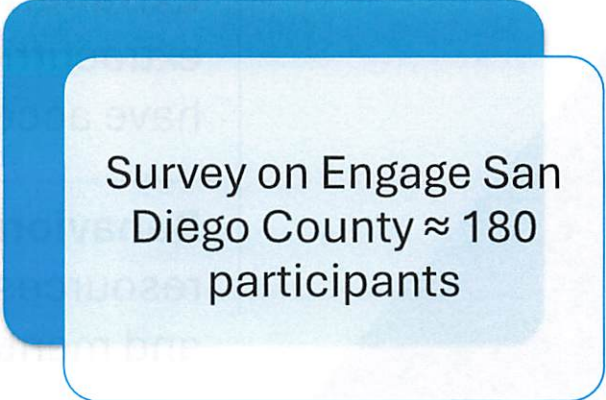
- To develop recommendations
 - Best serve foster youth
 - Maximize the use of the San Pasqual Academy campus



Community Engagement



Thirteen focus groups \approx
270 participants



Survey on Engage San
Diego County \approx 180
participants



Questions

Education: What educational options should youth at SPA have access to?

Extracurricular: What types of extracurricular activities should youth at SPA have access to?

Behavioral Health: What services and resources would best support the behavioral and mental health of youth at SPA?

Questions

Environment: What are the most important conditions for creating an optimal living environment?

Transportation: What transportation options would make it easier for foster youth at SPA to access extracurricular activities, employment, internships, and family visits?



Questions

Connection to Families and Communities: How can we strengthen the connection between foster youth and their families and communities?

Location: The SPA campus is 238 acres, how could that space be used to meet other needs or serve other populations?



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board
Implementation of Family Risk Group
Testing Strategy

Timeline



Nov. 2025

Board Letter



Dec. 2025

Preparation
and planning



Jan.-Mar. 2026

Engagement
sessions



April 2026

Draft report
submitted



May 2026

Report
presented to
Board of
Supervisors



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, February 19, 2026

Chair: Joseph Robinson

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 29. Board member present: Joseph Robinson

1. Welcome and Introductions

Participants introduced themselves.

2. Transitional Youth Housing and Employment

CFWB staff presented on the different Transitional Youth Housing plans. THPP, otherwise known as extended foster care, is federally funded and falls under community care licensing. There are 440 beds with 8 providers.

After extended foster care, THP+ aftercare housing is available. This program is state and county funded. There are 162 beds among 7 providers. Once the court's jurisdiction has been terminated, Transitional Youth Housing (TYH) is available for youth 18-25. These 60 beds with 3 providers are county funded. Non-Minor Dependents (NMDs) can have 36 months of service (cumulative) or until the age of 25. Ideally, when extended foster care closes at 21, NMD can switch over to TYH for another three years.

TYH programs require NMDs to have 32 hours per week of productivity such as work or school, to follow the rules and expectations, to allow monthly housing inspections, and to not be away from the housing for more than 14 days.

Then the youth broke into groups for discussion.

- **Discussion/Break out groups** (notes were obtained from only one of the groups)

The following suggestions were made:

- o More information about and help with college applications and possible athletic scholarships
- o Private training opportunities and coaching for athletes
- o Ability to vet roommates prior to moving in together
- o Help with part time jobs while in school
- o Tutoring help for school
- o Transportation – suggestions were a car program, setting money aside for car ownership, bus passes and uber, lyft accounts that are easily accessible (Additional opportunity was suggested to see if County cars instead of being auctioned could be used for a car program)
- o Ability to get electric bikes and scooters
- o Help with bank accounts and IRA type vehicles for money put aside
- o More money for shoes/clothes
- o Living with partners
 - i. What were requirements for living with a partner
 - ii. Discussed what type of interviews would be needed for a partner
 - iii. Discussed the importance of vetting the partners
 - iv. Discussed a plan if partnership ends

3. Adjournment. Date of Next Meeting – March 19, 2026, 6:00pm.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening
Advisory Board

Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026

Chair: Joseph Robinson

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: ≈25; board member present: Joseph Robinson

1. Welcome and Introductions (6:00-6:30pm)

- **Refreshments**
- **Group Agreements**

Joseph opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. The purpose of LEAP was explained.

2. Topic of the Month: Employment (6:30-7:20pm)

- **Break Out Groups**

All of the youth participated in one group discussion. Some of the youth present were currently employed, a few were in the process of applying for jobs, and a couple were not interested in employment. Youth noted that a lack of experience made it hard to get hired. Youth were asked what CFWB has done to help make them employment ready and whether those services were sufficient.

Some providers suggested that youth could use their participation in these focus groups on their resumes. Other providers suggested adding any sports youth participate in to their resume. Although not employment, being on a sports team can show potential employers that youth are dedicated, can work as a part of a group, have good communication, and are goal oriented.

Providers encouraged youth to think about what type of environment they would like

to work in, sitting at a desk vs being up and about vs a job outside. Youth were also asked to consider if they liked the consistency of repetitive work or want a job that is different day to day.

Most youth cited high school staff or behavioral health program staff as the biggest help to getting employment. It was suggested that CFWB could help youth in foster care prepare for employment through transportation, volunteer events, County internship rotation, resume writing clinics, test interview panels, and career mentorships. Some participants mentioned needing a driver's license and high school diploma in order to be eligible for some jobs. Providers mentioned that if they put on job or volunteer fairs, youth need to show up and participate.

3. Closing Remarks (7:20-7:30pm)

Date of Next Meeting – March 19, 2026, 6:00pm.



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Child and Family Well-Being Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Chair: Stephanie Ortega

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Attendees: 19, board members present: Stephanie Ortega, Tandy Litt, Jovanna Aguilera, Beth Polesch.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Stephanie Ortega opened the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Announcements

3. Review of 2024-2026 Action Plan

In fall of 2023, the Children's Initiative brought on a consultant to assist in the development of two-year action plans. Over about six months, each work group had brainstorming sessions that then led to themes, and lastly action plans. The co-chairs from the three work groups met to ensure alignment across all groups. The goals for the Child and Family Well-Being Work Group were:

- Goal 1: Increase Equitable Access to High-Quality Well-Being Services and Coordination of Care.
- Goal 2: Prioritize Lived Experts (Child, Youth, Family, and Caregiver).
- Goal 3: Align 211, the Community Information Exchange (CIE), the Family Connection Hub, and Community Based Referrals through Improved Referral Pathways.

The majority of the work group's time was spent on goal one. After presentations from SBCS, Your Safe Place, 211, San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program, and others, the two main areas of unmet need were domestic violence services and concrete needs. The Family Connection Hub has been supporting families in strengthening their foundation.

Each work group had a goal related to increasing and compensating lived experts.

A plan for the Care and Compensation of Lived Experts was created and is being piloted by the Lived Expert Action Partners Work Group.

In fall, 211 San Diego discussed the process for updating records in their system.

4. Begin 2026-2028 Action Plan Process

Attendees were asked to brainstorm potential topics for the next action plan. Behavioral health was frequently named. That includes the County's no wrong door approach, wait times, and referrals per [All County Letter 24-35](#). The waitlists of term versus non term providers were brought up as was difficulties when multiple children in the same family are not eligible for service from the same provider. Questions came up about the relationship between behavioral health and CFWB once behavioral health is no longer part of HHSA.

Torrey will invite someone from behavioral health to present at the next meeting.

5. Date of Next Meeting – March 18, 2026. 11am-12:30pm

The statewide Collaborative Prevention Convening is on March 18 and 19. The next work group meeting was moved to March 25 to allow attendees to attend both.

6. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Child and Family Well-Being Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026

Chair: Stephanie Ortega

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Attendees: 19, board members present: Stephanie Ortega, Tandy Litt, Jovanna Aguilera, Patty Boles.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative

Kristin Garrett Montgomery from the Policy and Innovation Center presented on the Strategic Behavioral Health Initiative which looked at children's behavioral services in San Diego. The Statement of Need includes: the current system of care is not effective for meeting children's mental health needs, and resources are disproportionately allocated to adult mental health services. 94% of CA youth ages 14-25 report mental health concerns in an average month. There is only 4.6% utilization (medical youth on MediCal who receive specialty mental health services) in San Diego. The SBHI started in July 2023 and consisted of a needs assessment which resulted in 51 recommendations and 9 interconnect strategies.

1. Facilitate access to care for all youth in need regardless of insurance coverage or payer.
2. Advocate for appropriate compensation for services to ensure San Diego maintains a full continuum of accessible clinical services for all youth.
3. Expand school-based services and supports by implementing the school based multi-payer fee schedule in partnerships with CBOs.
4. Develop, expand and retain the pediatric behavioral health workforce to meet growing demand.

5. Promote prevention and early intervention to improve long-term behavioral and developmental well-being for our children.
6. Enhance access to screening and clinical services for those with substance use disorders.
7. Improve coordination and access to behavioral health services for youth in special populations.
8. Strengthen care coordination and interoperability in youth behavioral health by implementing electronic information exchange and clinical care pathways.
9. Establish an ongoing coordination and advocacy platform to ensure cohesive efforts in improving children's behavioral health in San Diego.

Currently those with mild behavioral health needs can be seen on Managed Care Medi-Cal, however, once those needs become complex, the youth needs to switch to a Mental Health Plan. As the condition improves and worsens, the youth keeps changing insurance plans. Coordination typically fails between crisis discharge and school re-entry, between mild/moderate care and specialty mental health, between commercial insurance and Medi-Cal coverage, and between school services and sustainable reimbursement.

The need to share information on [SB 855](#) was highlighted as that bill requires a right to timely treatment among commercial insurance companies.

SDCOE is working on a fee schedule and infrastructure grant for school-based behavioral health.

Attendees discussed the importance of prevention/early intervention programs such as Home Visiting. Organizations need to treat the child and caregivers/family as a unit. About a third of families working with the Family Connection Hub have private insurance. Services geared toward this population need to include private insurance in addition to Medi-Cal.

There is an Advisory Board as well as a Constituency Council. CFSAB has a representative on the Constituency Council which is hoped to be a bi-directional exchange of information with groups working with, serving, and supporting children's behavioral health. Those interested in attending a meeting can email: kgarrett@thinkpic.org.

3. Announcements

Behavioral Health Services was presenting to the Board of Supervisors meeting today but will be at the May work group meeting.

4. Date of Next Meeting – May 20, 2026. 11am-12:30pm

5. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board
Placement & Caregiver Support Work Group
Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026

Co-Chairs: Jeff Wiemann and Patty Boles

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 21, Board Members present: Beth Ploesch, Stephanie Ortega, Adam Reed, Jeff Wiemann, Patty Boles

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jeff opened the meeting.

2. Update on MediCal and Adoptions

Patty provided an update on medical coverage for young adults adopted from foster care. In one case, the benefits were ordered to be reinstated by the court. Children who are adopted from foster care are cut off from MediCal when they reach age 18, even though other children can stay on their parents' plans until age 26. Since the young adults are over the age of 18, parents are running into issues with confidentiality when dealing with the insurance information.

3. Review of 2024-2026 Action Plan

Participants reviewed the three goals from the 2024-2026 Action Plan:

1. Implement Kin-First Model

This goal centered on transition plans for when children move to or from a kin placement. A draft was created which included all of the information partners felt

needed to be exchanged. CFWB staff, Rachel, cross walked that information with current CFWB forms. Rachel is no longer with CFWB. CFWB will give an update at the next meeting.

2. Increase Placement Options for Children and Youth in Specific Populations

3. Increase Retention, Support, and Services for Caregivers

For this goal, caregivers were asked what information they should have had access to but did not. USD staff researched laws and regulations that govern what information can be shared with caregivers.

QPO conducted three surveys with caregivers and caseworkers. Participation went down for each survey. The fourth survey will be on the new transition plans (see 1) and will go out after that has been implemented, probably in the fall.

The State does surveys of Resource Family Agencies and CFWB has access to the information for San Diego County.

Past research has shown that relatives are more likely to stop being caregivers once permanency has been achieved.

4. Begin 2026-2028 Action Plan Process

Participants mentioned current challenges:

- There have been some reports of youth in ECM having difficulties getting an extension on services. Other providers have youth on ECM who have not yet reached the one year termination and will ask if any of them have difficulty getting an extension. ECM is only available on managed care plans. Some former foster youth have found their children are not eligible. Once adoption assistance closes, the (former) youth must qualify for the HMO.
- Just in Time is conducting a pilot program with former foster youth to see if they have different needs.
- The impact of Behavioral Health Services moving out of the Health and Human Services Agency is unknown.
- Accessing behavioral health services for all ages can be difficult.

5. Updates/Announcements

This is Jeff's last meeting as co-chair. As Angels closed, he had to resign his seat on the Board. The foster care system has made a lot of changes during his fourteen years in this role. For instance, the child he fostered would not be brought into care today under the same circumstances. There are many FFA closing across the State and County. There should be efforts made to keep that knowledge and those staff in this field.

6. Date of Next Meeting –March 26, 2026 at 11:00 am

7. Adjournment



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Child and Family Strengthening Advisory Board

Placement & Caregiver Support Work Group

Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Co-Chairs: Patty Boles

Meeting Staff: Torrey Giaquinta

Participants: 22, Board Members present: Tandy Litt, Stephanie Ortega, Jovanna Aguilera, Patty Boles

1. Welcome and Introductions

Patty opened the meeting. Participants introduced themselves. Tania Jimenez was introduced as the new Peggy Ruefer.

2. Update on Transition Plans

The transition plan is being operationalized and will then be brought back to this work group. Beth Ploesch shared the transition plan documents from a few other counties. These documents can be found in the [work group shared folder](#). CFWB is working with other counties in developing our transition plan documents, however, as San Diego is one of the largest counties in the state, what works for smaller counties may not work here. CFWB has met with their internal workgroup, and is incorporating their feedback into the document.

Participants suggested sharing the new transition process with caregiving families at TIPS. At the last meeting caregivers were asked "what questions would you want to ask the prior caregiver about the child?". CFWB needs to make sure there are ways for that

information to be shared even when the prior caregiver does not want to be involved (perhaps because of animosity or an allegation). When caregivers all not given all the information about a child (such as known diagnoses or behaviors) more placement changes happen. All transitions need to be made thoughtfully, even those that are a return to parent.

CFWB staff from Polinsky shared that it is often a part of a transition between placements and staff there act as caregivers. There is one social worker whose entire job is to help with transitions. Any caregivers caring for a child that has been at Polinsky can contact them for information.

3. Review of QPO 2025 Surveys

There were three QPO surveys over the last year. Torrey shared the results from the latest survey on transition meetings (child and family team meetings). As well as a document that discusses all three surveys (these are also available in the [work group shared folder](#)).

The next set of surveys will be pre and post surveys on the effect of the new transition plan. It is up to supervisors to make sure that the policy change is actually being implemented.

4. 2026-2028 Action Plan Process

Participants mentioned information sharing as a possible action area. An easier way for caregivers to share information with the case worker is needed.

There are also a lot of changes coming with MediCal and the possibility of the state continuing to cover adopted children until the age of 26.

Torrey will add the notes from the 23-25 action plan brainstorming to the shared folder.

Participants can review which items are still relevant.

5. Updates/Announcements

The Children's Crisis Continuum Program (CCCP) is a program for children in care who have higher needs but are not yet at the level of needing an short term residential therapeutic program. Children are identified by the level of care assessment and caregivers are contacted for intensive foster care services (IFCS) which at minimum include two wrap sessions a week. There is also a higher monthly reimbursement rate based on the child's needs for caregivers that are RFA approved. FFA programs are providing this support to County families. Level of care assessments are done for each new placement or when there has been a change in circumstances. Caregivers can request a new assessment from their caseworker. For caregivers to participate in IFCS they need to undergo additional training which can be provided by FFAs. Caregivers who do not want to be IFCS certified must still make the child available for the intensive services.

Straight from the Heart has many items for children and youth in foster care.

There are approximately \$400,000 in flexible funds that need to be used by June. Please encourage caregivers to submit requests.

6. Date of Next Meeting –May 28, 2026 at 11:00 am

7. Adjournment

Community Service Area 128

COSCO CLERK OF THE BOARD
2026 APR 3 PM 1:38:11

Meeting Minutes: 2/3/2026

- I. Attending: Rolland Slade, Carl Kasimatis, Tina Carlson, Joe Diehl, Kelly Daniels, Chris Pierson, Kellie Surgeon, Helena Villegas and Jakayla Daniels
- II. Absent: none
- III. Remote participation: none
- IV. Guests: none
- V. The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm by Chair Rolland Slade
- VI. Public Communication: None
- VII. Minutes of 1/6/26 M: Chris P. S: Carl K. Approved
- VIII. Park and Recreation Staff reports:
 - a. Kelly:
 - i. Budget: we are on track.
 - ii. One wall at the community center closet has mold and will be fixed.
 - iii. Some flooring in the Kitchen area will be repaired.
 - iv. Gym floor will be repaired in the low and dense areas.
 - v. Banquet tables will be purchased to replace the outdated ones for our rentals.
 - vi. Fence repair at Spring Valley Park will be done closest to the park and ride.
 - vii. CSA fund is doing well.
 - viii. Green Tree give away is this Saturday.
 - ix. DHOSA meeting went well, Women in the Wild hike is 2/21/26.
 - x. Calavo Park is on track.
 - b. Joe:
 - i. Date Palms in all parks are being looked at and trimmed as needed.
 - ii. Cleaning out the storm drains.
 - iii. Irrigation repairs at Lamar and Sweetwater Lane.
 - iv. We have a new tree contractor for maintenance/service on all trees.
 - v. Each tree is taken down, we plant 5.
 - vi. We are searching for a new park host at Sweetwater Lane.
 - c. Jakayla:
 - i. All programs have started.
 - ii. Pee Wee classes are all filled.
 - iii. Basketball skills 5-8 and 9-13 are six-week classes.
 - iv. Open gym continues.
 - v. Rentals are continuing.
 - vi. MMHS is using our gym for tow weeks while their gym is being repaired.
 - vii. March 13th is the County wide Basketball tournament.
 - d. Helena:
 - i. We had our first camping trip to Sweetwater Summit.

- ii. We visited SDSU and will be visiting Southwestern College next.
 - iii. We will be going snowboarding with SD Nights this month.
 - e. Kellie:
 - i. We took the Seniors to La Jolla, visited the cove and surrounding areas.
 - ii. Our Urban Sol classes are maxed out.
 - iii. Athletes for life SDSU partnership, meetings starting in March.
 - iv. Spring Event egg hunt March 28th.
 - v. April – pages in the park focusing on reading, SV and RSD Libraries will be there giving out free books.
 - vi. Volunteers needed on the 14th and 21st for beautification projects at the center.
 - vii. Garden plot rentals are still available at Ildica Park.
- IX. PLDO – no update, balance is the same.
- X. Old Business –
 - a. Fence at Bancroft Park/Bancroft Ranch House – * Not being funded, we will leave under old business so we can follow to see if funding will become available no update.
 - Lighting at Lamar Park, Parks will be applying for CDBG for more lighting in the park.
 - PLDO Priority List, was submitted by Rolland S. on 1/31/2026
- XI. New Business: none
- XII. Announcements: Join us for the Changemaker mixer on 2/10/2026 from 6-8pm at the Steam Academy next door.
- XIII. Adjournment at 7:21 pm. M: Tina C. S: Carl K. All in Favor.



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND QUALITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**January 21, 2026
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Hybrid
Virtual Meeting/In-person**

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Others Present
Quinton Austin Zohir Chowdhury Jesse Conner Cliff Hanna Scott Snyder Toby Roy Laurie Walsh LaRosa Watson	Jared Wilson Mike Vizzier	Ana Becker, DEHQ Heather Buonomo, DEHQ Joseph Chan, DEHQ JoAnn Cruz, DEHQ Jessica Geiszler, DEHQ John-Ross Glueck, DEHQ Saran Grewal, DEHQ Amy Harbert, DEHQ Vivian He, DEHQ Ryan Johnson, DEHQ Joann Lee, DEHQ Greg Luistiana, DEHQ Deb Mosley, DEHQ Sharon Preece, DEHQ Rita Raphael, DEHQ Larry Valenzuela, DEHQ Joey Wyatt, DEHQ	Liana Mao, UCSD Student

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m., with seven active EHQAB members present.

II. STATEMENT (JUST CAUSE) AND/OR CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY (EMERGENCY CIRCUMSTANCES) BY A BOARD MEMBER (POSSIBLE ACTION, IF APPLICABLE)

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Liana Mao, a third-year student at UC San Diego, attended the public meeting and took minutes as part of her Global Health and Climate Change course.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES – ACTION ITEM

MOTION TO APPROVE THE December 17, 2025, MINUTES – Board member Watson, 2nd Board member, Roy.
ALL IN FAVOR – 6-0-0

V. 2025 EHQAB ANNUAL REPORT - ACTION ITEM

Amy Harbert, Director of Environmental Health and Quality and Deborah Mosley, Deputy Director, presented revisions to the draft 2025 EHQAB Annual Report that incorporate feedback provided by the Board at the December EHQAB meeting.

The Board approved the 2025 EHQAB Annual Report. The report was finalized and signed by the Chair and will be emailed to all members and subsequently distributed to the Board of Supervisors.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2025 EHQAB Annual Report – Board member Snyder 2nd Board member, Watson.

ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-0

VI. NEW STATE LAW PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS PRESENTATION – INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Ryan Johnson, Chief of Operations, Food, Water, Housing Division (FWHD), reviewed AB 592, which authorizes bona fide public eating places to operate with open windows, folding doors, or non-fixed storefronts during hours of operation, under specified requirements. He also reviewed AB 671, which establishes a new mandated timeline requiring restaurant plan check resubmittals with corrections to be reviewed within 10 business days. As a result of these requirements, additional staffing was needed for the Plan Check Unit.

Sharon Preece, Program Coordinator, Hazardous Materials Division (HMD), reviewed Senate Bill 445, which became effective September 25, 2014, and requires the permanent closure of Single-Walled Underground Storage Tanks (SWUSTs) by December 31, 2025. SWUSTs are an older technology that poses a risk of hazardous material leaks. As the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for the San Diego region, DEHQ is mandated by the State to pursue enforcement actions for facilities that fail to meet the closure deadline, which may include red tagging and/or monetary penalties.

Jessica Geiszler, Group Program Manager, Policy Outreach Data (POD)

The California State Legislature passed Senate Bill 707 (SB 707), which implemented significant changes to the Brown Act and allows certain local legislative bodies to hold hybrid meetings. The law became effective January 1, 2026. Approval from the Board of Supervisors is required and must be renewed every six months.

VII. UPDATES FROM THE DEHQ EXECUTIVE OFFICE – INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Amy Harbert, Director of Environmental Health and Quality

- **Request Board of Supervisors to hold EHQAB teleconference meetings**
EHQAB members requesting approval from the Board of Supervisors to allow EHQAB to conduct teleconference meetings. Discussion included more flexible teleconferencing options may help fill existing vacancies and increase public participation. Board members also discussed the benefits of participating in person for increased engagement and dialogue.
- **2026 EHQAB Draft Meeting Topic Calendar Updates**
Updated 2026 EHQAB presentation topics were presented.
- **May 20, 2026, Meeting Date**
DEHQ staff have a San Diego County Board of Supervisors meeting conflict with the May 20, 2026, EHQAB Board meeting date for the month of May will be scheduled for May 13, 2026.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 9:27 A.M.

MOTION TO ADJOURN – Board member Hanna, 2nd Board member Watson.

ALL IN FAVOR – 8-0-0

Next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

5530 Overland Avenue
2nd Floor, Conference Rooms 241 & 242
San Diego, CA 92123



PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COSD CLERK OF THE BOARD
2026 APR 8 PM 1:30

February 13, 2026

Members Present	Members Absent	Staff Present	Public Present
<u>In-Person</u> Doug Goad, Chair, District 3 Rob Hutsel, Vice-Chair, District 3 Susan Hector, District 4 Paul Davis, District 5 Brian Morales, District 5 Jeffry Jones, District 2 Nicole Honstead, District 2		Jason Hemmens, Administration Cynthia Robles, Administration Elisa Jazo(virtual), PODS Renee Hilton, Administration Sean Hill, Operations Emily Hubbard, Development	Ed Stovin

MEETING MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:05 AM

2. REMOTE PARTICIPATION DISCLOSURE
 - None

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK
 - None

4. APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES
 - MOTION TO APPROVE the January 9, 2026, meeting minutes – the Chair presented the minutes for review. Upon motion, duly made by Chair Goad and seconded by Vice-Chair Hutsel.
 AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 1

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS ON ANY ITEM NOT ON TODAY'S AGENDA
 - The Board followed up with the Chair sending a letter to Clerk of the Board in support to continue the efforts on the Off-Road Vehicle Park Feasibility Study committee member Honstead presented the board with a draft of the letter.
 - New board member, Brian Morales from District 5, was introduced and welcomed to the Parks Advisory Committee.
 - Vice-Chair, Hutsel shared that the San Diego River Park Foundation went into escrow on a 163-acre property in District 2.
 - Committee member Honstead expressed her concern with the lighting at Lindo Lake County Park.
 - Chair Goad shared that he attended the Community Input on Budget Priorities held by the Board of Supervisors on January 27, 2026 at the County Administration Center.

6. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jason Hemmens, Director, gave a department report which included notifications about the following items related to Parks:

- CINA update

7. DPR ITEM PRESENTATIONS

- CAPRA Re-Accreditation – Renne Hilton, Assistant Director, Emily Hubbard, Chief of Development and Sean Hill, Chief of East County Operations Division gave a presentation on the re-accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies. The presentation included detailed information on the re-accreditation process.

8. ADJOURNMENT – 10:16 AM

- MOTION TO ADJOURN - Committee member Davis seconded by member Morales.
AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0