



# AGENDA ITEM 4

Action

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## Meeting Minutes

### Item Goals

- Review and approve the minutes from the August 21, 2025, and September 18, 2025, Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee meetings.

### Proposed Motions

The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee approves August 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee approves September 18, 2025, meeting minutes.



**August 21, 2025**

## Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting Commissioner Roll Call

	Name	Present In Person	Present Virtual	Absent
1.	<b>Commissioner Rowlett</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<b>Commissioner Contreras</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<b>Commissioner Bunch</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.	<b>Commissioner Carnevale</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<b>Commissioner Gordon</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<b>Commissioner Harabedian (Pulmano designee)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7.	<b>Commissioner Wilkes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

**Four (4) commissioners are needed to establish a quorum.**

**August 21, 2025**  
**Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Agenda Item: 5 Budget Presentation**

**Motion #: 1** (Agenda Item 5 – Budget Presentation)

The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee recommends to the full Commission to adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-26 and its associated contracts, as presented.

Commissioner making motion: **Rowlett**

Commissioner seconding motion: **Carnevale**

Motion carried **X** yes, \_\_\_ no, and \_\_\_ abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

	Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	On Leave
1.	<b>Commissioner Rowlett</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<b>Commissioner Contreras</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<b>Commissioner Bunch</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<b>Commissioner Carnevale</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<b>Commissioner Gordon</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<b>Commissioner Harabedian (Pulmano designee)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	<b>Commissioner Wilkes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>5</b>			<b>2</b>	

**Four (4) commissioners are needed to establish a quorum.**



### Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: August 21, 2025 | Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

BHSOAC

1812 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Sacramento, California 95811

**\*\*DRAFT\*\***

#### Advisory Committee Members:

#### Staff:

Commissioner Alfred Rowlett, Chair	Brenda Grealish
Commissioner Christopher Contreras, Vice Chair*	Krsangi Knickerbocker
Commissioner Steve Carnevale*	Norma Pate
Commissioner Dave Gordon	Lauren Quintero
Commissioner Jevon Wilkes*	Cody Scott

\*Participated remotely.

Advisory Committee Members absent: Commissioner Keyondria Bunch and Assembly Designee Rosielyn Pulmano.

### Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Alfred Rowlett, Advisory Committee Chair, called the California Behavioral Health Commission (CBH or Commission) Budget and Fiscal Advisory (BFA) Committee meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m., welcomed everyone, and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Krsangi Knickerbocker, Deputy Chief Counsel, called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

### Agenda Item 2: Announcements and Updates

Chair Rowlett gave the announcements as follows:

- The next Commission meeting will be held on August 28, 2025.
- The next BFA Committee meeting will be held on September 18, 2025.

### Agenda Item 3: General Public Comment

Stacie Hiramoto (attended remotely via Zoom), Director, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), and Safe Passages, thanked the Committee and staff for reaching out to them to answer their questions. The speaker asked that the meeting materials be posted on the website for public review prior to meetings.

## Agenda Item 4: Overview of Commission Contracts

Chair Rowlett stated the Committee will hear an overview of the Commission's current and proposed contracts. He stated this agenda item aligns with the Committee's commitment to fiscal transparency, as outlined in the Committee charter. He asked staff to present this agenda item.

Norma Pate, Deputy Director of Administration and Performance Management, apologized for not posting the meeting materials sooner. She stated staff has been trying to put together new tools for improved transparency. She demonstrated navigating through a new online dashboard on the Commission's contracts that is in the process of being created and asked for feedback on the look of the display. She stated more detail will be shared on this new dashboard at the September 2025 Committee meeting, when the data entry will have been completed.

### Discussion

Commissioner Carnevale suggested creating an online tool with all contract information for everyone to see.

Deputy Director Pate stated the proposed dashboard will include all 198 Commission contracts with dropdown menus for each local assistance program and operating budget.

Commissioner Carnevale asked if the contract language will also be available for review online.

Deputy Director Pate stated the team can work with IT on making that happen.

Chair Rowlett added that he has seen other agencies post explanations of contracts, including metrics and RFP awardees.

Commissioner Wilkes asked if that includes the scoring of the RFPs to award contracts.

Executive Director Grealish stated staff will look into it.

### Public Comment and Open Dialogue

Laurel Benhamida, Ph.D., (attended remotely via Zoom), Muslim American Society – Social Services Foundation and REMHDCO, thanked Commissioner Carnevale for bringing up the posting of contracts for public review.

## Agenda Item 5: Budget Presentation

Chair Rowlett stated the BFA Committee will hear an overview of the Commission's proposed fiscal year (FY) 2025-26 budget, emphasizing its critical role in responsible financial management and strategic decision-making. He noted that transparency is not merely a goal; it is the foundation of everything the Commission does. By engaging in open discussions and collaborative efforts, the Commission aims to build trust and create a solid framework for the future. He stated the community's presence and active participation is vital to this process and the work that will be achieved together. He asked staff to present this agenda item.

Deputy Director Pate provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the budget process timeline, CBH funding sources and time constraints, final expenditures for FY 2024-25, and proposed budget for FY 2025-26. She stated, under the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA), the Commission will begin administering the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF) on July 1, 2026, which may be awarded to private, public, and nonprofit partners. With \$20 million per year over five years, the IPF will support

innovative, evidence-based approaches to behavioral health services, with a focus on underserved, low-income populations, and communities impacted by behavioral health disparities. She noted that IPF procurement can be completed this year, and grants can start on July 1, 2026, when these funds become available.

### Discussion

Commissioner Gordon referred to Slide 10 about the planned procurements for FY 2025-26 and asked what the requirements were to do the six listed procurements.

Deputy Director Pate stated they are part of the annual set-aside funding for advocacy contracts or Commission-directed funding through the Mental Health Wellness Act.

Chair Rowlett asked if the six listed procurements align with Proposition 1.

Executive Director Grealish stated she is not sure about all six, specifically the maternal behavioral health technical assistance procurement. Staff will look into this.

Chair Rowlett asked how this Committee should present possible unknown alignment items to the full Commission.

Executive Director Grealish stated staff first must research this question to better understand possible Proposition 1 alignment issues.

Commissioner Gordon stated what prompted his question was that these programs were approved prior to the passage of Proposition 1 and these procurements and priorities might need adjusting to better fit the current landscape and to more fully align with Proposition 1.

Deputy Director Pate stated these grants have already been allocated. The listed procurements are an adjustment to now outsource technical assistance for those grants due to staff capacity issues.

Chair Rowlett noted that the Commission's overall budget was reduced by 7.9 percent or \$1.1 million at the same time that the Commission's size was increased from 16 to 27 Commissioners and the workload changed, due to the passage of Proposition 1. Additional resources may need to be requested from the Legislature.

Commissioners were confused about the number of items to be voted on, the implications for the budget if programs were established prior to the passage of Proposition 1, and the differentiation between the items included on the slides, particularly Slides 11 and 14 on the proposed adjustment to the Mental Health Wellness Act Maternal Behavioral Health Funding Allocation and the staff-recommended motion.

Executive Director Grealish asked staff to remove Slide 11 from the presentation because of the confusion it created among Commissioners about the maternal and child mental health project being already approved by the Commission last year and needing to now outsource the technical assistance component due to staff capacity. She stated the slide shows the methodology for how the technical assistance will change from being done in-house to outsourcing through an RFP process. She noted that, although it is good for the full Commission to know that technical assistance will be done through an RFP rather than in-house, there is nothing for the BFA Committee to approve, since the funding has already been approved by the Commission.

Executive Director Grealish shared that this agenda item had already been vetted at the last Program Advisory (PAC) Committee meeting and that the PAC Committee voted to approve the proposed budget for FY 2025-26.

Chair Rowlett thanked Executive Director Grealish for clearing up the confusion and stated this process illustrates the importance of vetting issues through Committees for greater efficiency, better understanding, and increased public comment and feedback prior to presenting issues to the full Commission for review and approval. He noted that the Committee process today saved the Commission a lot of time and work, which is what the Committees are supposed to do.

Commissioner Gordon referred to Slide 9, on the proposed budget for FY 2025-26, specifically the Behavioral Health Student Services Act (BHSSA) and Community Advocacy Line Items under Local Assistance, and asked if those are newly-funded or continuing projects.

Executive Director Grealish stated they are ongoing programs. She stated staff plans to present at the October Commission meeting about additional future funding for the BHSSA.

Commissioner Wilkes also referred to the Community Advocacy Line Item on Slide 9 and asked if the immigrant and refugee advocacy that will come out of that is already planned.

Executive Director Grealish stated it is planned, but the funding has not yet been encumbered. She stated the Commission will receive an outline for that project at a future Commission meeting.

Commissioner Wilkes noted that Proposition 1 does not include anything specific for the immigrant and refugee community.

Executive Director Grealish stated Proposition 1 includes the BHSA priority populations; however, there is a commitment to equity, which can include the immigrant and refugee community.

### Public Comment and Open Dialogue

Theresa Comstock (attended remotely via Zoom), Executive Director, California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C), stated appreciation for the work of this Committee and asked for the Committee's support in approving their contract to provide training and support to local behavioral health boards and commissions.

Stacie Hiramoto spoke in support of the CALBHB/C contract funding.

Stacie Hiramoto stated the PAC Committee should have forwarded a message to the BFA Committee about this presentation and why they approved the proposed budget. Also, this Committee should have reviewed the minutes from the PAC Committee for better understanding and communication between Committees. The speaker noted that Committees do not have to agree with the recommendations of the other Committees, but they should at least know what happened in all Committee meetings.

Dr. Benhamida stated Proposition 1 is not perfect so the Commission, although trying to align with it, should not worry about perfect alignment. The speaker cautioned that seeking perfection may be the enemy of the good.

Dr. Benhamida stated the advocacy contracts are important, particularly for refugees and immigrants, because it is a way to teach that community about how to have a voice in their new country. The speaker gave the example of a young Somali immigrant who had just graduated from Stanford University. Her first job used part of this funding to teach her how to be an advocate for mental health. Advocacy contracts have huge impacts. The speaker asked the Committee to support advocacy contracts.

Action: Ms. Knickerbocker asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget. Chair Rowlett made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carnevale, that:

- *The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee recommends to the full Commission to adopt the proposed budget for fiscal year 2025-26 and its associated contracts, as presented.*

Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted “Yes”: Commissioners Carnevale, Gordon, and Wilkes, Vice Chair Contreras, and Chair Rowlett.

## **Agenda Item 6: Overview of the Behavioral Health Student Services Act (BHSSA) Grant Program**

Chair Rowlett stated the BFA Committee will hear a presentation on the fiscal aspects of the BHSSA Grant Program. The BHSSA Grant Program has a budget of \$280 million and focuses on fostering partnerships between county behavioral health departments, local education agencies, and community organizations. Its goal is to provide comprehensive behavioral health services to K-12 students across California.

Chair Rowlett stated the program had expanded to 57 of 58 counties by August 2024, covering 45 percent of public school districts and 25 percent of public schools. The program aims to ensure equitable access to behavioral health care for students statewide. He asked staff to present this agenda item.

Deputy Director Pate and Melissa Martin-Mollard, Ph.D., Acting Deputy Director of Research, Evaluation, and Program Operations, provided a slide presentation of the background, legislative foundation, allocations, partnerships, and implementation successes during the four phases of the BHSSA Grant Program. They reviewed the concept of schools as centers of wellness, tiered support, and a comprehensive school mental health system. The Phase 4 grants, which provide direct assistance for sustainability, technical assistance, aligned portfolio efforts, grant monitoring, and quarterly learning collaboratives, will continue until 2027.

Dr. Martin-Mollard reviewed the lessons learned, recommendations, and next steps of the BHSSA Grant Program. Recommendations include establishing a shared leadership structure that includes both education and behavioral health leadership, ensuring adequate and reliable funding, and establishing a set of standards and related metrics to review the progress statewide year-over-year. She stated WestEd, the Commission’s external evaluation partner, has launched Phase 2 of the evaluation and will provide periodic updates at future BFA and PAC Committee meetings.

Dr. Martin-Mollard stated staff will give a presentation at the next Commission meeting to begin the planning process for the next round of grants with \$7.6 million of ongoing funding for local assistance, which will begin July 1, 2027. Staff will also present at the October Commission meeting on the plan to encumber the remaining one-time administrative and evaluation funding.



## Discussion

Commissioner Gordon stated much progress has been made in school behavioral health due to the Governor's initiatives. One of the key strategies in the Schools and Mental Health Report that came out earlier this year is bringing the overall health system much closer together with the school systems. It should not just be focused on behavioral health, but on health in general starting in the 0-5 space, because many of the things that affect behavioral health begin in earlier childhood.

Commissioner Gordon stated health systems and school systems are currently not taking enough advantage of the access that they have with behavioral health. Putting clinicians in schools breaks down stigma. It is important to keep the BHSSA Grant Program moving because the synergy between the two systems is amazing and can be capitalized upon, particularly for prevention and early intervention.

Commissioner Carnevale agreed. He stated it appears that much of these funds come from the federal government. He stated concern about this important program being attacked or withdrawn from federal funding.

Deputy Director Pate stated there are no federal funds associated with this program. The \$280 million is all BHSA funds.

Commissioner Carnevale stated other funding that goes to these kinds of programs is at risk.

Commissioner Gordon agreed. He stated Sacramento County has tapped into Medicare funding, which is accessible to families in Managed Care, and has placed clinicians in all schools. Potential cuts in funding remain to be seen. Much progress has been made by building positive relationships between education and county partners. Collaborative relationships are important to encourage because counties and schools are state-funded.

Commissioner Gordon stated smaller rural counties need particular attention because they have a very different problem in delivering health care. He suggested putting grant funding toward helping rural health care delivery be more effective.

Commissioner Carnevale stated federal funding withdrawal appears to be almost inevitable. This program is foundationally important for prevention and early intervention. He stated he is happy to hear that this program does not seem to be at risk, but suggested that this Committee track that with other programs. The purpose of the Commission and this Committee is not just to approve what is flowing through, but to locate areas where the Commission should be advocating for expansion of programs and not just accepting federal government reduction of these important programs. The state should be looking at ways to step in and replace that funding. He suggested that this Committee recommend that the Commission leans heavily in that direction.

## Public Comment and Open Dialogue

Dr. Benhamida thanked Commissioners for their courage in speaking frankly and addressing difficult issues today. The speaker suggested soliciting funding from private foundations and private industry.

## **Agenda Item 7: Adjournment**

Chair Rowlett thanked everyone for their participation, thoughtful engagement, and support. He stated, as this is the second meeting of the BFA Committee, he wanted to take a moment to recognize the progress made since the inaugural session. This Committee was created in response

to a need for greater transparency and strategic focus in managing the Commission's budget. Today marks the continuation of that work, and Commission, staff, and community participation remains vital to shaping the foundation of what this Committee can achieve.

Chair Rowlett stated the next BFA Committee meeting will be held on September 18, 2025. He encouraged everyone to monitor the website and sign up for the Commission's email updates to stay informed about upcoming meetings and opportunities to get involved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.



**September 18, 2025**

## Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting Commissioner Roll Call

	Name	Present In Person	Present Virtual	Absent
8.	<b>Commissioner Rowlett</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	<b>Commissioner Contreras</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	<b>Commissioner Bunch</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11.	<b>Commissioner Carnevale</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	<b>Commissioner Gordon</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	<b>Commissioner Harabedian (Pulmano designee)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	<b>Commissioner Wilkes</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**Four (4) commissioners are needed to establish a quorum.**

**September 18, 2025**  
**Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Agenda Item: 4 July 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion #: 1** (Agenda Item 4 – July 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes)

The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee approves the July 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented.

Commissioner making motion: **Carnevale**

Commissioner seconding motion: **Wilkes**

Motion carried **X** yes, \_\_\_ no, and \_\_\_ abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

	Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	On Leave
8.	<b>Commissioner Rowlett</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	<b>Commissioner Contreras</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	<b>Commissioner Bunch</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11.	<b>Commissioner Carnevale</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12.	<b>Commissioner Gordon</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13.	<b>Commissioner Harabedian (Pulmano designee)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14.	<b>Commissioner Wilkes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>	

**Four (4) commissioners are needed to establish a quorum.**

**September 18, 2025**  
**Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Agenda Item: 5 Consent Process for Commission Contracts**

**Motion #: 2** (Agenda Item 5 – Consent Process for Commission Contracts)

The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission adopt the proposed procedure permitting contracts previously recommended for approval by the Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee, the Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee, and/or the Program Advisory Committee to be placed on the consent agenda for full Commission meetings.

Commissioner making motion: **Wilkes**

Commissioner seconding motion: **Carnevale**

Motion carried **X** yes, \_\_\_ no, and \_\_\_ abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

	Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	On Leave
1.	<b>Commissioner Rowlett</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<b>Commissioner Contreras</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<b>Commissioner Bunch</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<b>Commissioner Carnevale</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<b>Commissioner Gordon</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<b>Commissioner Harabedian (Pulmano designee)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	<b>Commissioner Wilkes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>	

**Four (4) commissioners are needed to establish a quorum.**

**September 18, 2025**  
**Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Agenda Item: 6 Expenditure Authorization**

**Motion #: 2** (Agenda Item 6 Expenditure Authorization)

The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee recommends to the full Commission to approve the up to \$150,000 three-year contract with Crusade for website maintenance and hosting.

Commissioner making motion: **Carnevale**

Commissioner seconding motion: **Pulmano**

Motion carried **X** yes, \_\_\_ no, and \_\_\_ abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

	Name	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	On Leave
1.	<b>Commissioner Rowlett</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<b>Commissioner Contreras</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<b>Commissioner Bunch</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<b>Commissioner Carnevale</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<b>Commissioner Gordon</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<b>Commissioner Harabedian (Pulmano designee)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	<b>Commissioner Wilkes</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>	

**Four (4) commissioners are needed to establish a quorum.**



### Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

Date: September 18, 2025 | Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BHSOAC

1812 9<sup>th</sup> Street

Sacramento, California 95811

#### Advisory Committee Members:

#### Staff:

Commissioner Alfred Rowlett, Chair	Brenda Grealish
Commissioner Chris Contreras, Vice Chair*	Sandra Gallardo
Commissioner Steve Carnevale	Lauren Quintero
Commissioner Dave Gordon	Cody Scott
Commissioner Assemblymember John Harabedian (Designee Rosielyn Pulmano)*	
Commissioner Jevon Wilkes*	

\*Participated remotely.

Advisory Committee Member absent: Commissioner Keyondria Bunch.

### Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call

Commissioner Alfred Rowlett, Commission Vice Chair and Advisory Committee Chair, called the California Behavioral Health Commission (CBH or Commission) Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee (BFA Committee) meeting to order at approximately 10:00 a.m., welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Sandra Gallardo, Chief Counsel, called the roll and confirmed the presence of a quorum.

### Agenda Item 2: Announcements and Updates

Chair Rowlett gave the announcements as follows:

- The BFA Committee will abide by Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act requirements; additionally, as part of the Commission's commitment to deeper public involvement and open governance, all Advisory Committee meetings feature an enhanced public comment segment designed to promote genuine dialogue between the Committee and the community.
- The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee (LEX Committee) will convene today at 12:45 p.m., followed by the Program Advisory Committee (PAC Committee) at 3:00 p.m. The Commission's goal is to have all three Advisory Committees meet on the same day, staggered throughout the day, on the third Thursday of the month, in between full Commission meetings.

Agendas and materials for these meetings are available on the Commission's website at [www.bhsoac.ca.gov](http://www.bhsoac.ca.gov).

- The Commission approved a temporary merger of the Client and Family Leadership Committee (CFLC) and the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Committee (CLCC) into a new advisory body: the Client, Family, and Community Inclusion, Lived Experience, and Diversity Advisory Committee (CFC Committee), chaired by Commissioner Chambers. This temporary merger will enable members to collaborate on the development of the Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF), which is operating under a tight timeline.

The CFC Committee will meet regularly on the fourth Thursday of months when there is no full Commission meeting. The first meeting of the CFC Committee is scheduled for September 25, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

- The PAC Committee recently held a listening session for the IPF on September 7, 2025. At the upcoming October full Commission meeting, the Commission will review and discuss the preliminary decision-making framework for the grant program.
- In line with the new transparency efforts, the Commission will begin providing brief updates on recent contract amendments during all Committee announcements, for informational purposes only. Please note that contract amendments are negotiated between the Commission and the contractor and must be mutually agreed upon.
  - There is one amendment to report this month: an update to the Commission's Program 11 contract for creative services. This amendment increases the existing agreement allocation by up to \$95,000, bringing the total from \$444,726 to \$539,726. As of now, \$137,963 of the current agreement remains unexpended. The additional funds will support the design and publication of a Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Stakeholder Toolkit.
  - The funds for this amendment are drawn from the Commission's annual \$100,000 allocation for BHSA implementation, provided over three fiscal years (FYs) beginning in FY 2024-25. These funds must be used specifically for BHSA implementation; otherwise, they will be forfeited. This amendment is being executed under the delegated authority of the Executive Director. The LEX Committee will be discussing the advocacy contracts and the toolkit in more detail during their meeting this afternoon at 12:45 p.m.
- The next full Commission meeting will be held on October 23, 2025.
- The next BFA Committee meeting will be held on November 20, 2025. (Note: Meeting cancelled and rescheduled for December 16, 2025)

### **Agenda Item 3: General Public Comment**

Stacie Hiramoto (attended in person), Director, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), commended the Commission and this Committee for their commitment to transparency. The speaker noted that the staff for the contractor for the BHSA Stakeholder Toolkit do not appear to represent the diverse communities in California.



## Agenda Item 4: July 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Action: Chair Rowlett asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Carnevale made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wilkes, that:

- *The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee approves the July 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes as presented.*

Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted “Yes”: Commissioners Carnevale, Gordon, Assembly Designee Pulmano, and Wilkes, Vice Chair Contreras, and Chair Rowlett.

## Agenda Item 5: Consent Process for Commission Contracts

Chair Rowlett stated the Committee will hear a presentation on a process for approving Commission contracts via the Consent Calendar after Committee review. He asked staff to present this agenda item. Executive Director Grealish announced that Norma Pate, Deputy Director of Administration and Program Operations, has retired. She thanked Deputy Director Pate for her years of dedicated service and her important contributions to the work of the Commission. Commissioners expressed their thanks and appreciation for her service over the years and wished her all the best in her retirement.

Executive Director Grealish provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the Welfare and Institutions Code, rules of procedure, current consent process, and newly-developed consent process for the BFA Committee. She reviewed the Consent Calendar eligibility criteria, Committee coordination requirements, and staff and Commission meeting procedures. She stated the purpose of this agenda item is to establish criteria and procedures for placing contracts on the full Commission's consent agenda, when such contracts have been previously reviewed and recommended by the BFA, LEX, and PAC Committees.

### Discussion

Commissioners were confused about the Committee Review Requirements slide, the Committee contract approval and recommendation process to the full Commission, and when a contract can be put on the Commission's Consent Calendar, as recommended by the Committees.

Executive Director Grealish and Ms. Gallardo clarified that a contract will be put on the BFA, and LEX or PAC, Committee agendas for review and approval. The BFA Committee must approve the funding of every contract for it to be moved forward. In addition, either the LEX or PAC must approve the programmatic aspects of the contract presented, depending on which Committee has jurisdiction over the contract. If only one of the two relevant Committees approves the contract, it will not be put on the Commission's Consent Calendar, but instead will be presented as a regular agenda item to the full Commission for review and approval. All relevant Committees must approve the contract, as presented, in order for it to be on the full Commission's Consent Calendar.

Assembly Designee Pulmano asked if a contract is voted on at the same meeting it is presented to each Committee.

Executive Director Grealish stated contracts are typically reviewed, discussed, and voted on at the same meeting.

Chair Rowlett asked if modifications on a new contract requested by the BFA Committee would come back to the BFA Committee or go to the PAC or LEX Committees so they could then go to the Commission, noting that the BFA Committee made these recommendations.

Executive Director Grealish stated the BFA Committee's responsibility is to ensure that the funding is available and appropriate.

Chair Rowlett stated contracts typically fall under programming, but there are fiscal components associated with it. He gave the example of contracts with no sustainability plan. The BFA Committee can recommend modifying the contract to include a funding allocation for a sustainability plan.

Executive Director Grealish agreed that there should be interaction between the Committees and stated staff will need to consider how to best coordinate Committee interactions.

Commissioner Carnevale added that there may be other times when the Committees will authorize something and ask staff to work out the details on how to present it to the full Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Gordon referred to Slide 22, Commission Meeting Procedures, and suggested moving the second bullet point under Public Participation – staff shall note during public comment that items have previously received public input during Committee reviews – as the second bullet under the Consent Agenda Presentation heading, so it is built into the process of the Committee review in the first place.

Chair Rowlett stated the need to bring concerns raised during public comment to the full Commission for discussion.

Commissioner Carnevale asked if the proposed modifications to the consent process are a radical change from the current process.

Executive Director Grealish stated the proposed process will be more efficient in the Committee structure. Proposed contracts will be thoroughly discussed through the three relevant Committee lenses so Commissioners will have a better understanding of each contract for the full Commission meeting vote.

Commissioner Carnevale stated this Commission is unique in its dedication to full transparency and open dialogue with the community. That is to be celebrated; however, the Commission should not get to the point where it asks public input on buying pencils. There needs to be a balance between reaching the Commission's objective to solve problems where people are suffering today and trying to address those as quickly as possible versus having the open transparency.

Chair Rowlett asked for a motion to approve the proposed consent process for Commission contracts. Commissioner Wilkes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carnevale.

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## Public Comment and Open Dialogue

Larisa Owen (attended remotely via Zoom), Director, Children and Family Futures, and Member of the CBH CFC Committee, stated they have emailed staff several times over the past year but have not received a response.

Larisa Owen suggested asking three questions when approving contracts:

- Is this contract funding going toward all California organizations?
- Does this contract funding include women-owned, minority-owned, or veteran-owned businesses in California, and for micro-businesses as the prime or subcontractor?
- Is this contract being awarded by non-competitive bid, either as the prime or a subcontractor, to an organization that is an incumbent with several CBH contracts and therefore excluding non-incumbents or small businesses?

Larisa Owen stated the need for Commissioners to know the percentage of yearly contract funding made to large organizations, repeated incumbents, and agencies outside of California as a prime or subcontractor and the percentage of women-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned, and micro-businesses.

Executive Director Grealish agreed that those are good things to consider during the consent process.

Commissioner Carnevale agreed with Larisa Owen's comments. He stated small business is the economic engine of California. He stated, with the Commission contracts being posted online in the near future, he hopes and expects that all those factors will be highly visible to everyone.

Action: Commissioner Wilkes made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Carnevale, that:

- *The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission adopt the proposed procedure permitting contracts previously recommended for approval by the Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee, the Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee, and/or the Program Advisory Committee to be placed on the consent agenda for full Commission meetings.*

Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted "Yes": Commissioners Carnevale, Gordon, Assembly Designee Pulmano, and Wilkes, Vice Chair Contreras, and Chair Rowlett.

## **Agenda Item 6: Expenditure Authorization**

Chair Rowlett stated the Committee will hear an overview of pending contracts and consider making a recommendation to the full Commission for approval. He asked staff to present this agenda item.

Executive Director Grealish provided an overview of the background, competitive bid and application selection process, and timeline of two contracts for Committee review; one with Crusade, and another with a yet-to-be-determined vendor to update the Commission's Strategic Plan.

She stated the amounts were allocated in the budget and funds are available. Unused funds will revert at the end of the contracts.

## Committee Discussion

Commissioner Gordon asked for the name of the contractor for the second contract.

Executive Director Grealish stated it has yet to be determined.

Commissioner Carnevale asked for additional detail on the second contract.

Executive Director Grealish stated many strategic planning companies also offer leadership trainings. One process would be to update the strategic plan from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) to the BHSA. The other process would be for that contractor to help strengthen the CBH leadership team.

Commissioner Carnevale asked to be involved in the development of the strategic plan. Since he led the last strategic planning effort at the end of 2024, he stated he wanted to ensure that it addresses all the things that were considered previously, and anything new that needs to be considered.

Assembly Designee Pulmano asked if Crusade is a new contractor, who the previous contractor was, and how much the previous contractor was paid for website maintenance and hosting.

Lauren Quintero, Acting Deputy Director of Administration and Performance Management, stated Crusade is the current contractor. Staff put out a bid to ensure that the Commission was getting the best services available.

Assembly Designee Pulmano asked if \$150,000 for a three-year contract is reasonable for the service provided.

Riann Kopchak, Assistant Deputy Director, Legislative and External Affairs, stated it is reasonable. She noted that there will likely be unused funds that will revert at the end of the three years.

Commissioner Wilkes asked when the contractor for the second contract will be selected.

Executive Director Grealish stated they will be announced at the October 2025 or January 2026 Commission meetings.

Commissioner Chris Contreras, Advisory Committee Vice Chair, asked if the contractor for the strategic plan will be reassessing and updating the priorities in the current 2024-27 Strategic Plan to include BHSA priorities.

Executive Director Grealish stated the current strategic plan will be revisited and updated, as needed.

Chair Rowlett suggested that the strategic plan development and staff leadership training be two separate contractors. He suggested a different timeline for the updated strategic plan, such as 2026-30.

Commissioner Carnevale questioned the \$250,000 contract. He stated the current strategic plan is broad. Proposition 1 may not change anything except that it has a different funding source. He asked how the specific \$250,000 figure was determined. He suggested, rather than a specific figure, sending out a concept development Request for Proposals (RFP) that allows applicants to offer recommendations for the strategic plan. He asked to be involved in the new process.

Executive Director Grealish stated the specific funding amount was about being fiscally conservative and keeping it within a certain range, hopefully within the executive director's authority.

Commissioner Carnevale agreed with being fiscally conservative but stated, at the same time, the strategic plan is everything the Commission does, and it is important to spend whatever it requires to do it right.

Commissioner Gordon agreed. He also agreed with having two separate entities for strategic planning and leadership training.

Vice Chair Contreras asked if the last strategic plan went to an outside consultant.

Commissioner Carnevale stated the Commission solicited a variety of proposals from a variety of vendors that went through a selection process.

### Public Comment and Open Dialogue

Larisa Owen stated one CBH staff member chose to keep the strategic plan contract under the Executive Director's authority and not require putting out an RFP, thereby effectively choosing the eleven agencies and one incumbent out of thousands of possible agencies and small businesses in California that can apply. The speaker stated this connects with their public comment given in the previous agenda item. The speaker stated small businesses may cost more, but they also can provide value that larger agencies cannot provide.

### Committee Discussion, continued

Chair Rowlett asked staff to present on the procurement process for each selected vendor at both the full Commission and Committee meetings going forward.

Assembly Designee Pulmano requested voting on each contract separately.

Commissioner Carnevale agreed, since there are concerns with the second contract.

Action: Chief Counsel Gallardo asked for a motion that the BFA Committee recommends to the full Commission to approve the up to \$150,000 three-year contract with Crusade for website maintenance and hosting. Commissioner Carnevale made a motion, seconded by Assembly Designee Pulmano, that:

- *The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee recommends to the full Commission to approve the up to \$150,000 three-year contract with Crusade for website maintenance and hosting.*

Motion passed 6 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following Commissioners voted "Yes": Commissioners Carnevale, Gordon, Assembly Designee Pulmano, and Wilkes, Vice Chair Contreras, and Chair Rowlett.

Vice Chair Contreras asked if the second contract will still go to the other Committees if the BFA Committee does not vote on it.

Executive Director Grealish stated this agenda item has only been put on the BFA Committee agenda for spending authority approval. If it is not approved, staff will rework it incorporating today's feedback and bring it back at a future BFA Committee meeting. Chair Rowlett tabled the strategic planning and leadership training contracts to the next meeting.

## Agenda Item 7: Commission Grants and Contracts

Chair Rowlett stated the Committee will hear an overview of the Commission's active grants and contracts for current initiatives and administrative operations and will see a demonstration of the ongoing project to develop an interactive dashboard designed to present detailed fiscal information in a more accessible and user-friendly format. He asked staff to present this agenda item.

Executive Director Grealish stated she will offer a comprehensive overview of the fiscal aspects of CBH's grants and contracts, ensuring accountability and informed decision-making. She stated this agenda item supports the Committee in its advisory role and aids in assessing the financial health and effectiveness of the CBH's programs. She provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the current fiscal practices, executive director's delegated authority, budget presentations to the full Commission, and current grants and contracts.

Executive Director Grealish reviewed the Grants and Contracts Expenditure List, which was included in the meeting packet. She stated information on grants or contracts that were previously approved under the MHSA and not displayed online may be requested via email.

Deputy Director Quintero gave a demonstration of the Tableau dashboard on the BHSSA budget by category, allocations by fiscal year, and remaining funding.

### Committee Discussion

Commissioner Gordon stated this useful information connects with what the strategic plan is intended to do in closing down the Commission's old roles and projects and looking ahead to the IPF projects. These need to be connected not only to innovation, but to the task of helping agencies to work closely together and thereby improve the quality and delivery of, and access to, services. Continuing the great progress being made will depend on agencies working much more closely together.

Assembly Designee Pulmano asked if grantees are allowed to request an extension prior to their reversion year.

Executive Director Grealish stated a reappropriation must be requested.

Chair Rowlett recommended identifying the key measurables from the MHSA to incorporate them into the BHSA strategic plan.

Commissioner Carnevale spoke in support of the Tableau demonstration and suggested adding more breakout over time to help understand Commission investments.

Commissioner Gordon agreed and suggested doing a crosswalk into the Children and Youth Behavioral Health Initiative (CYBHI) and the California Community Schools Initiative, which are both short-term projects that will end soon. The next challenge is intergovernmental cooperation to secure a successor through project or program bonding or agencies in a different way.

### Public Comment and Open Dialogue

Tiffany Murphy (attended in person), Chief Operations Officer, Mental Health America of California, stated Mental Health America of California is listed in the materials packet as holding the Commission's Diverse Communities community advocacy contract; the speaker clarified that it actually holds the LGBTQIA+ contract.

Tiffany Murphy asked if revision dates will be available so that the public can see the progress the contracts are making.

Stacie Hiramoto congratulated the Commission on recently increasing transparency.

Commissioner Carnevale stated the Commission is trying to report thoroughly and spend money wisely.

Laurel Benhamida, Ph.D., (attended remotely via Zoom), Muslim American Society – Social Services Foundation and REMHDCO, stated relief that the Committee is not going ahead with the \$250,000 today. The speaker cautioned against falling back on stereotypes when discussing public and private partnerships.

Dr. Benhamida suggested that community-based organizations could give leadership training to CBH management, particularly in outreach and managing relationships with diverse communities.

### **Agenda Item 8: Adjournment**

Chair Rowlett stated the next BFA Committee meeting will be held on November 20, 2025 (Note: meeting cancelled and rescheduled to December 20, 2025). He thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 p.m.



# Meeting Minutes



# Motion

- ✓ The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee approves August 21, 2025, meeting minutes.

# Motion

- ✓ The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee approves September 18, 2025, meeting minutes.