



Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee Meeting Summary
Date: April 16, 2026 | Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

BHSOAC
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Advisory Committee Members:

Commission Staff:

Commissioner Mark Bontrager, Chair Commissioner Robert Callan, Jr., Vice Chair Commissioner Amy Fairweather* Commissioner Karen Larsen Commissioner Gladys Mitchell	Brenda Grealish Sandra Gallardo Amariani Martinez Lester Robancho Cody Scott Kendra Zoller
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*Participated remotely.

Advisory Committee Members absent: Commissioners Tumboura Hill, Marvin Southard, and Jay'Riah Thomas-Beckett.

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Roll Call – Information

Commissioner Mark Bontrager, Advisory Committee Chair, called the California Behavioral Health Commission (CBH or Commission) Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee (LEX Committee) meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.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 – Information

Chair Bontrager and Commissioner Robert Callan, Jr., LEX Committee Vice Chair, gave the announcements as follows:

- The Advisory 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 include an enhanced public comment segment designed to promote genuine dialogue between the Committee and the community.

[CBH February 2026 Committee Highlights](#)

As part of the Commission's ongoing commitment to transparency and collaboration, information needs to flow seamlessly across all CBH Committees. To support this effort, the Chair of each Committee will review key updates and highlights from the other Committees to keep everyone aligned, streamline communication, and foster a more connected approach to the work.

- The Budget and Fiscal Advisory Committee (BFA Committee) will receive presentations on the Commission's expenditure authorization, a new Creative Services Contract, and an overview of current contracts and grants, providing a snapshot of ongoing funding activity.
- The Program Advisory Committee (PAC Committee) will receive an overview of the Commission's current Mental Health Wellness Act (MHWA) portfolio, including options for investing the previously approved \$10 million in MHWA funds to support Full-Service Partnerships.
- The Strategic Planning Advisory Committee (SPAC Committee) will meet on April 27, 2026, to review and discuss proposed updates to the 2024–27 BHSOAC Strategic Plan to ensure alignment with the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA).

Contracts and Amendments

- In line with the new transparency efforts, the Commission will continue to provide brief updates on recent contracts and amendments approved under the Executive Director's authority. These updates are shared during all Committee announcements for informational purposes only. Please note that all contracts and amendments are negotiated between the Commission and the contractor and must be mutually agreed upon.

There are two agreements to report this month:

- An agreement in the amount of \$88,279 with University Enterprises for student assistant services.
- An agreement in the amount of \$7,500 with LinkedIn for a Marketing Campaign for the Behavioral Health Services Act Stakeholder Toolkit.

Veterans Listening Session

- The Commission will host a Veterans Listening Session on April 23, 2026, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Rancho Cordova Branch of the Sacramento Public Library. This in-person event is a meaningful opportunity for veterans and their families to share their stories and experiences with behavioral health. Everyone is invited to participate in the Listening Session to help shape stronger services in the community. More details will be shared on the website.

LGBTQ Listening Session

- Commissioner Larsen and Commission staff partnered with the Sacramento LGBTQ Community Center to host a listening session with members of the LGBTQ community. Nearly two dozen participants, many advocates and all with lived

experience, shared their perspectives on behavioral health needs to help inform future advocacy.

TAY Advocacy Contract

- The Commission announced at the March Commission meeting that PRO Youth and Families, a Sacramento-based organization, was awarded the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Advocacy Contract. PRO Youth and Families will receive \$670,000 per year for three years to develop a program that strengthens leadership, advocacy, training, education, outreach, and engagement among TAY populations. Under this new contract, they will support TAY advisors in co-creating a Leadership Academy Curriculum focused on leadership, advocacy, behavioral health systems, and communication, equipping youth for long-term impact.

AB 2003

- Assembly Bill (AB) 2003, authored by Assembly Member Berman, on suicide prevention training, has now passed the Assembly Education Committee on consent and is heading next to the Appropriations Committee. Since its introduction, the bill has been amended to narrow the scope of data collection and reporting to the California Department of Education (CDE), and to add an urgency clause so the bill would take effect immediately. The Commission is grateful to the California Youth Empowerment Network (CAYEN) for its partnership in moving this important work forward.

Vibe Check Conference

- Commission staff participated in the Vibe Check Conference organized and held by advocacy grantee Jakara Movement on March 12, 2026, at Chabot College in Hayward, California. The event centered around building awareness, breaking stigma, and connecting with behavioral health resources.
- A fun, social media-friendly video of the event, filmed by Commission staff, was shown to the Committee featuring interactive workshops, breakdancing, and a panel with Bay Area rap superstar LaRussell.

Upcoming Meetings

- The next full Commission meeting will be held in Sacramento on May 28, 2026.
- The next LEX Committee meeting will be held on June 18, 2026.

For more information on any of these items, please visit the website or sign up for the email distribution list.

Agenda Item 3: General Public Comment – Information

Stacie Hiramoto (attended remotely via Zoom) stated: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Stacie Hiramoto with REMHDCO and Safe Passages. This is just an announcement to invite all of you and the general public to this extravaganza. In the end of May, a week before your Commission meeting in Sacramento, the California Reducing Disparities

Project will conduct an exposition. It'll be in Sacramento at the Holiday Inn. I don't want to make it sound juvenile, but it'll be like a science fair where people will have their displays at booths where you can walk around and, if you were ever interested in what a Community-Defined Evidence Practice was, there'll be over 30 organizations with exhibits so you can ask questions and talk to the people that are actually providing services. We're very excited about this and we really hope the Commission staff and of course the Commissioners will visit. And I did forward the invitation to Brenda and I know she'll get it to everybody. And it's Thursday, May 21st, again, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Thank you.

Agenda Item 4: Meeting Minutes – Action

Chair Bontrager stated the Committee will consider approval of the minutes from the February 19, 2026, LEX Committee Meeting.

There were no questions from Committee Members and no public comment.

Action: Chair Bontrager asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Larsen made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Callan, that:

- *The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee approves the February 19, 2026, Meeting Minutes, as presented.*

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

The following LEX Committee Members voted “Yes”: Commissioners Fairweather, Larsen, and Mitchell, Vice Chair Callan, and Chair Bontrager.

Agenda Item 5: 2026 Legislation – Action

Chair Bontrager stated the Committee will consider five bills for Commission support or opposition in the 2026 legislative session:

- Assembly Bill (AB) 2150 – Employment: training requirements: opioid overdose reversals by Assembly Member Haney.
- AB 1586 – Opioid overdose reversal medication: school resource officers by Assembly Member Ramos.
- AB 1626 – Interscholastic athletics: youth sports: coaches: behavioral and mental health training by Assembly Member Gabriel.
- AB 2011 – Nonquantitative treatment limitations by Assembly Member Hart.
- AB 2138 – Medi-Cal: enhanced care management: peer support specialists by Assembly Member Krell.

Chair Bontrager stated representatives of the author's office and sponsors will be available to answer questions after the presentation. He asked staff to present this agenda item.

Kendra Zoller, Deputy Director, Legislative and External Affairs, stated the bills discussed at the last meeting were introduced early in the legislative process, suggested for Commission consideration by members of the community, and were put through the CBH Advisory Committee Decision-Making Framework prior to being presented to the LEX Committee.

Deputy Director Zoller stated, now that all the bills have been introduced, more behavioral-health-related legislation has been suggested for Commission consideration by members of the community. She thanked the organizations that submitted requests. She noted that all the requested bills cannot be presented and discussed in one Committee or Commission meeting due to time constraints. She stated the five bills being presented today should be considered as Round 1. Round 2 will be presented at the next LEX Committee meeting.

Deputy Director Zoller stated the Commission will be prioritizing four core areas that align with the BHSA in the strategic plan refresh: meeting the needs of people with the highest behavioral health needs, ensuring substance use disorder (SUD) is incorporated throughout the Commission's work, expanding peer behavioral health services, and building the evidence base for the effectiveness of new and innovative statewide strategies. She stated today's requested bills emphasize these priorities – three are related to SUD, one is related to peers, and one is related to mental health training.

AB 2150

Deputy Director Zoller stated AB 2150 requires employers who require CPR training of their employees to also require those employees to be trained in naloxone. She stated this bill directly aligns with the Commission's strategic plan refresh, BHSA priorities, and the MHWA grant focus on expanding Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). In terms of impact and equity, increasing the number of trained and informed bystanders saves more lives and increases the potential for more people to connect to services. AB 2150 is sponsored by the California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives (CAADPE).

Megan Lee, from Assembly Member Haney's Office, stated the opioid overdose crisis impacts many marginalized groups. She stated there is an existing California law, which mandates CPR-certified employees to receive Narcan training. AB 2150 requires individuals who are already required to maintain a CPR certification for their jobs to also take a mandatory naloxone training module that is offered by the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross. Creating a standardized training that is accessible will increase the number and the rate of bystander effectiveness and intervention when overdoses occur. She stated AB 2150 is a straightforward approach to addressing the opioid overdose crisis and helping marginalized communities.

Trent Murphy, Legislative Policy Analyst, CAADPE, stated one of the biggest challenges in the opioid overdose crisis is not just access to treatment, but is the need for trained and informed bystanders on the use of naloxone. This bill should be low or no cost to the state, while greatly impacting the state's preparedness to respond to an overdose.

He stated the overdose awareness training module will also address stigma and misconceptions, especially in those outside the behavioral health field.

Committee Discussion

Chair Bontrager asked if there is mandatory distribution or the presence of Narcan at employer sites, along with the mandatory training.

Ms. Lee stated Assembly Member Haney's Office introduced AB 1976 last year that required health care workplaces to carry naloxone in their safety kit. The tool is already accessible to the public; there is just no standardized training on recognizing first signs of overdose and how to administer naloxone. AB 2150 builds on AB 1976, which passed last year, to ensure that occupational spaces that now have naloxone administer it correctly.

Chair Bontrager asked about types of employers that are mandated to carry naloxone.

Ms. Lee stated health care, teachers, and educators in that space are mandated to have naloxone in their safety and first aid kits.

Commissioner Mitchell asked about the naloxone cost per unit.

Ms. Lee stated she will research offline to provide the cost per unit.

Commissioner Mitchell asked who provides the training to administer naloxone and who pays for the training.

Ms. Lee stated employers are responsible for providing and paying for these trainings. She stated online video modules cost between \$10 to \$20 and the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross provide some of them for free.

Commissioner Mitchell asked who distributes the naloxone, and if pharmaceutical companies are involved.

Mr. Murphy stated AB 1976 mandated that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) develop a rule for all workplace first aid kits in the state to include a dose of naloxone. That rule needs to be finalized by 2028 or 2029. He stated it would be distributed through the Naloxone Distribution Project, which is run by the state of California through the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). Within the last couple years, the state started to use their own manufacture, which cut the cost down from about \$45 a dose to about \$20 to \$25 a dose.

Mr. Murphy noted that AB 2150 mandates the training on how to administer the naloxone. That training has already been developed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) but is currently optionally provided by the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association.

AB 1586

Deputy Director Zoller stated AB 1586 has similar policy goals to AB 2150. She stated AB 1586 requires school resource officers to take naloxone training, carry it, and receive liability protection when using it. This bill is also similar to AB 1037 by Assembly

Member Elery, a bill the Commission supported last year. AB 1586 is sponsored by the CAADPE.

Mr. Murphy stated AB 1586 is rooted in the very real and growing issue of youth opioid overdoses. These are often first-time exposures or accidental ingestions. School Resource Officers (SROs) are often the first trained responders on campus to an emergency but, historically, there has been inconsistency on whether they are trained, authorized, or even protected when it comes to responding to an opioid overdose. The bill takes a measured approach to addressing that gap. Amendments to the bill no longer requires that all SROs carry naloxone on their person, but it does clarify that all SROs must enroll in training done by the Peace Officer Standards and Training Division (POST) that oversees all training of police officers in the state of California. It requires that POST has a yearly naloxone overdose response education for SROs that are assigned to campus to give them some legal protections. The bill would also require POST to report back to the Legislature every five years.

Committee Discussion

Chair Bontrager stated his assumption that SROs would be included in those required to get the training under AB 2150 as well.

Mr. Murphy stated that is correct.

Chair Bontrager stated not all schools have SROs but all schools have teachers, coaches, etc. He asked why SROs are singled out.

Mr. Murphy agreed that a teacher may be closer to a student who overdosed than an SRO across the campus but it is a step in the right direction. He stated SROs were chosen because most schools have them on campus and it would make the most impact since the majority of them are sworn police officers and have received the basic naloxone training. It is important that all professions have the best training possible.

Commissioner Mitchell asked about allergic reactions to naloxone.

Mr. Murphy stated naloxone is safe and effective to use with no known side effects or allergies.

AB 1626

Deputy Director Zoller stated AB 1626 requires mental health training for sports coaches. She stated the Commission has a long history of supporting mental health training in schools, including last year with SB 531 Rubio. Unfortunately, the bill did not make it, but the California Alliance of Child and Family Services (CACFS) is back this year with a different version that starts with athletic coaches, adding mental health training to their already required training courses. This bill is very similar to the Commission's previous efforts and aligns with the Commission's School Behavioral Health Policy Report. AB 1626 is sponsored by the CACFS.

Dibya Shiv, Senior Policy Advocate, CACFS, stated AB 1626 no longer requires mental health training. It now creates model behavioral health training for youth sport coaches to help coaches recognize signs of distress in their student athletes. She stated

trainings will include topics like mental health distress, SUDs, eating disorders, suicide risk and prevention, anxiety, depression, and trauma-informed care. She noted that this bill would not permit coaches to provide mental health counseling or therapy but would help them identify when this is coming up in their student athletes and give them the tools to know where they can go to seek clinical help. She stated coaches are a critical part of the youth support system, but only one out of five sport coaches feels confident in their ability to support youth who are facing these behavioral health challenges. The support infrastructure is already there; AB 1626 requires training these sport coaches.

Ms. Shiv stated AB 1626 will establish the criteria that the coach training will include. The bill directs the CDE to compile a model training from the many trainings already available into an accessible location. She stated AB 1626 is complementary to AB 1665 Pacheco and AB 1985 and these authors are working together. AB 1626 is scheduled to be heard in the Assembly Education Committee next Wednesday and is on consent.

Alexa Cottrell, with Assembly Member Jesse Gabriel's Office, stated the compiled model training will not be mandated but will be used as a resource for youth recreational and club sports. She stated Assembly Member Gabriel's Office will be working with Assembly Member Pacheco's Office on setting criteria for the behavioral health training for all school coaches.

Committee Discussion

Commissioner Mitchell asked if this bill includes after school programs.

Ms. Cottrell stated the first part of the bill that sets the criteria for training is for all school coaches. The second part of the bill works with the CDE to compile a model training that will be provided for all recreational and club sports teams so that they can put it on their website and give it out to their coaches as a resource.

Commissioner Mitchell asked if there are age limits for students.

Ms. Cottrell stated there are no age limits in the bill. Each training will be tailored to the age group.

Vice Chair Callan asked if it includes private schools as well.

Ms. Cottrell stated it does.

Chair Bontrager asked if the created training will include trainings that already exist.

Ms. Cottrell stated the first part of the bill for school coaches just lists the criteria because there are many trainings available. For the CDE portion, they are welcome to either create or compile trainings they feel are best, but it is more about compiling trainings to make sure that they meet all the criteria.

Deputy Director Zoller asked the author's office and the sponsor to consider including the complementary bill, AB 1665 by Pacheco, with AB 1626.

Ms. Cottrell and Ms. Shiv agreed.

Commissioner Mitchell moved to amend the motion to include AB 1665 (Pacheco).

AB 2011

Commissioner Larsen recused herself from the discussion and decision-making with regard to AB 2011 and AB 2138, pursuant to Commission policy.

Deputy Director Zoller stated AB 2011 codifies the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) regulations into state law. She stated it aligns with the Commission and BHSA priorities. It has the potential to reduce discrimination and has a significant amount of stakeholder support. AB 2011 is sponsored by the Steinberg Institute in partnership with the California Department of Insurance (CDI) and other advocacy groups.

Tara Gamboa-Eastman, Senior Advocate, Steinberg Institute, stated AB 2011 seeks to codify federal regulations that currently apply in California but are at risk of being rescinded. Federal and California state mental health parity regulations and laws require that mental health be covered the same way as physical health by insurance plans; however, enforcement is a challenge. In 2024, the Biden Administration took steps to clarify definitions and set the framework for state and federal regulation. The Trump Administration seems primed to rescind these regulations, the consequences of which would be devastating. AB 2011 does not change existing law but is meant to protect against the federal government rescinding the rules. This is a similar approach that the state of California took during the previous Trump Administration to codify the Affordable Care Act into state law to protect against its being rescinded.

Committee Discussion

Chair Bontrager stated Medicaid and Medicare are federal programs. He asked what would happen if AB 2011 is passed statewide and yet federal rules change.

Ms. Gamboa-Eastman stated AB 2011 would only impact Medicare because Medicaid is a state-run program. She stated the DHCS would be able to enforce these rules. The federal government likely would not enforce them on Medicare. If the federal government rescinded and California enforced between commercial Medicaid-Medicare, the only change for health plans would be a loss of common language and definitions in the Medicare space. She stated it does not change any legal obligations. The changes are more about the enforcement foundational understanding between regulators and plans.

AB 2138

Deputy Director Zoller stated AB 2138 aligns with the Commission's strategic plan priorities, the BHSA workforce component, and the Commission's work under the MHWA Peer Respite Grant Program. AB 2138 is sponsored by the Steinberg Institute in partnership with others and enjoys a broad range of support.

Ms. Gamboa-Eastman stated AB 2138 addresses two barriers to expanding access to peer services. The first is that, in California, the DHCS has requirements for background checks for people working in the public system. This is meant to prevent against fraud, waste, and abuse and ensure safety in programs; however, where this guidance falls short is that it does not recognize that peers are hired for their lived experience. The issue is that peers with justice involvement in their past are unable to get hired as peers because of background check requirements.

Ms. Gamboa-Eastman stated AB 2138 creates a good cause exemption, which is becoming a state best practice and has passed in other states, to clear the background check requirements for peers who are being hired for their lived experience. Great outcomes with no safety concerns have been experienced in places that have done this. However, the bill includes exceptions for violent crimes and for an individual's justice background to be considered holistically as part of their fitness for the job overall. She stated AB 2138 merely does not preclude them from being considered.

Ms. Gamboa-Eastman stated the second barrier to expanding access addressed is incorporating peers more explicitly into enhanced care management teams under California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (CalAIM). These novel models of care of proactive outreach and engagement of individuals with complex cases in the safety net system have been transformational in the ability to serve various populations.

Ms. Gamboa-Eastman stated one of the implementation challenges heard from enhanced care management providers on the ground is that, because they work with complicated cases with individuals who are often from marginalized communities who have been traumatized by the health care system, there is very little trust between the prospective client and the enhanced care management team. This is where peers are crucial.

Ms. Gamboa-Eastman stated AB 2138 requires peers to be included on enhanced care management teams to offer peer support services and to work within the confines of enhanced care management. She stated this bill is being amended next week and so it will look slightly different. The bill currently requires a peer support specialist to be on every enhanced care management team in the state of California, which does not align the value of peers with the populations they are intending to serve. The amendments next week will require peer support specialists be made available by enhanced care management providers who have more than 50 clients for whom 25 percent of their caseload is individuals with serious mental illness and SUDs. She stated there are additional amendments giving additional time for the DHCS to offer additional guidance and for enhanced care management providers to implement.

There were no questions from Committee Members and no public comment.

Action: Chair Bontrager asked for a motion to recommend that the full Commission support AB 2150 (Haney) and direct staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor. Commissioner Michell made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Callan, that:

- *The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission supports AB 2150 (Haney) and directs staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor.*

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

The following LEX Committee Members voted “Yes”: Commissioners Fairweather, Larsen, and Mitchell, Vice Chair Callan, and Chair Bontrager.

Action: Chair Bontrager asked for a motion to recommend that the full Commission support AB 1586 (Ramos) and direct staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor. Commissioner Larsen made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Callan, that:

- *The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission supports AB 1586 (Ramos) and directs staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor.*

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

The following LEX Committee Members voted “Yes”: Commissioners Fairweather, Larsen, and Mitchell, Vice Chair Callan, and Chair Bontrager.

Action: Chair Bontrager asked for a motion to recommend that the full Commission support AB 1626 (Gabriel) and AB 1665 (Pacheco) and direct staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor, as amended. Commissioner Larsen made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Callan, that:

- *The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission supports AB 1626 (Gabriel) and AB 1665 (Pacheco) and directs staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor.*

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

The following LEX Committee Members voted “Yes”: Commissioners Fairweather, Larsen, and Mitchell, Vice Chair Callan, and Chair Bontrager.

Action: Chair Bontrager asked for a motion to recommend that the full Commission support AB 2011 (Hart) and direct staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor. Commissioner Michell made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Callan, that:

- *The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission supports AB 2011 (Hart) and directs staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor.*

Motion passed 4 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following LEX Committee Members voted “Yes”: Commissioners Fairweather and Mitchell, Vice Chair Callan, and Chair Bontrager.

The following LEX Committee Member abstained: Commissioner Larsen.

Action: Chair Bontrager asked for a motion to recommend that the full Commission support AB 2138 (Krell) and direct staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor. Commissioner Michell made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Fairweather, that:

- *The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission supports AB 2138 (Krell) and directs staff to communicate its position to the Legislature and the Governor.*

Motion passed 3 yes, 1 no, and 1 abstain, per roll call vote as follows:

The following LEX Committee Members voted “Yes”: Commissioners Fairweather and Mitchell and Vice Chair Callan.

The following LEX Committee Member voted “No”: Chair Bontrager.

The following LEX Committee Member abstained: Commissioner Larsen.

Commissioner Larsen rejoined the meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Creative Services Contract – Action

Chair Bontrager stated the Committee will hear an overview of a creative services contract that covers the production of several routine reports and the facilitation of summer focus groups with community members, providers, and counties to gather feedback on the BHSA community planning process. He stated the Committee will consider making a recommendation to move it forward to the full Commission for approval. He noted that this contract was also presented for recommendation during the BFA Committee meeting earlier today. He asked staff to present this agenda item.

Deputy Director Zoller stated part of her branch includes the communications team, which oversees creative services for the Commission and, at times, requires support beyond the team’s in-house capabilities. She stated the Commission has held multiple creative services contracts with multiple partners over the years. Since 2020, the Commission has partnered with Program 11 on key work, including multiple policy reports, the Commission’s post-Proposition 1 rebrand, the BHSA Community Partner Toolkit, and other projects.

Deputy Director Zoller stated, while this is an administrative contract that could fall under the Executive Director's delegated authority, staff is bringing it to the BFA and LEX Committees to ensure transparency and accountability, since the Commission has been working with this vendor for several years. In addition, a new project has been added to the creative services contract that will put the amount just over the \$100,000 delegated authority threshold.

Deputy Director Zoller stated, to be consistent with contracting best practices, staff did an informal solicitation and issued a request for bids to 27 organizations. The scope of practice included two reports, hourly creative services estimated based on historical needs, and the newly added summer project to facilitate and host focus groups to evaluate the BHSA community planning process, since the County Integrated Plans will be out by that time.

Deputy Director Zoller stated 4 of the 27 organizations responded to the bid request and Program 11, the current contractor, scored the highest based on experience partnering with government, working in behavioral health, their ability to translate complex information to the public, their strong creative capabilities across multiple formats, a collaborative approach, and capacity to manage multiple concurrent projects. She stated staff has been satisfied with Program 11's quality of work and partnership and is seeking to continue that collaboration.

There were no questions from Committee Members and no public comment.

Action: Chair Bontrager asked for a motion to recommend that the full Commission approve a contract with Program 11 up to \$135,000 for Fiscal Year 2026-27 to support creative services and facilitation of summer focus groups focused on the BHSA Community Planning Process. Vice Chair Callan made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Larsen, that:

- *The Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee recommends that the full Commission approve a contract with Program 11 up to \$135,000 for Fiscal Year 2026-27 to support creative services and facilitation of summer focus groups focused on the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Community Planning Process.*

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

The following LEX Committee Members voted "Yes": Commissioners Fairweather, Larsen, and Mitchell, Vice Chair Callan, and Chair Bontrager.

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment

Chair Bontrager stated the next full Commission meeting will be held on May 28, 2026, and the LEX Committee meeting will be held on June 18, 2026. He thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:30 p.m.