

## **Legislative and External Affairs Advisory Committee Handouts**

June 19, 2025 | 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Agenda Item 4: Overview of Legislative & External Affairs Committee  
Presentation**

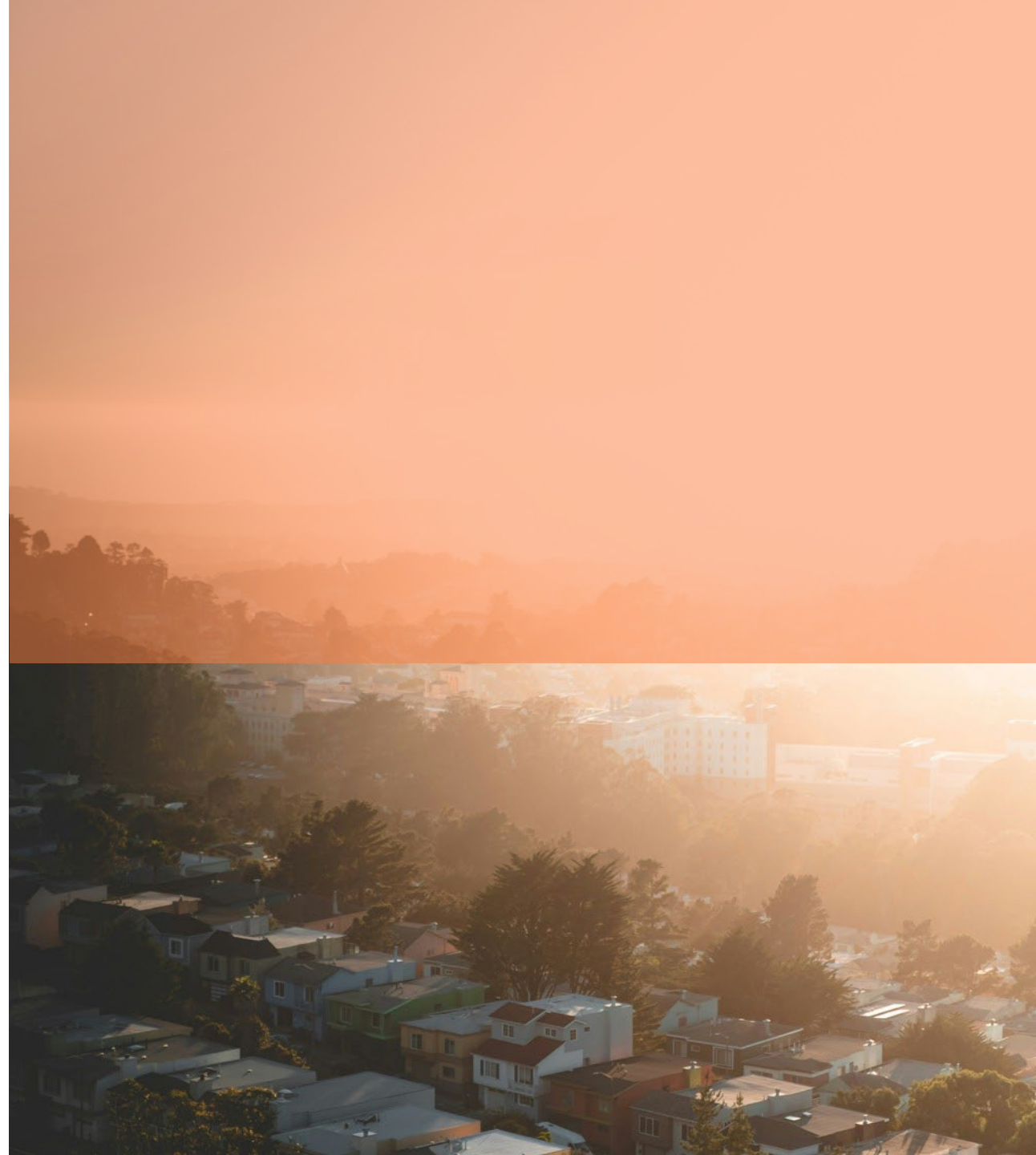
**Agenda Item 5: Update on Advocacy Programs Presentation**

**Agenda Item 6: Legislative Priorities Presentation**





# **Legislative and External Affairs ("LEX") Advisory Committee**



# Commission Membership



**CHAIR**  
**MARK BONTRAGER**



**VICE CHAIR**  
**ROBERT CALLAN JR.**



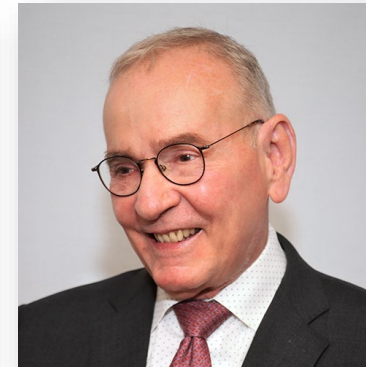
Amy Fairweather, J.D.



Karen Larsen



Gladys Mitchell

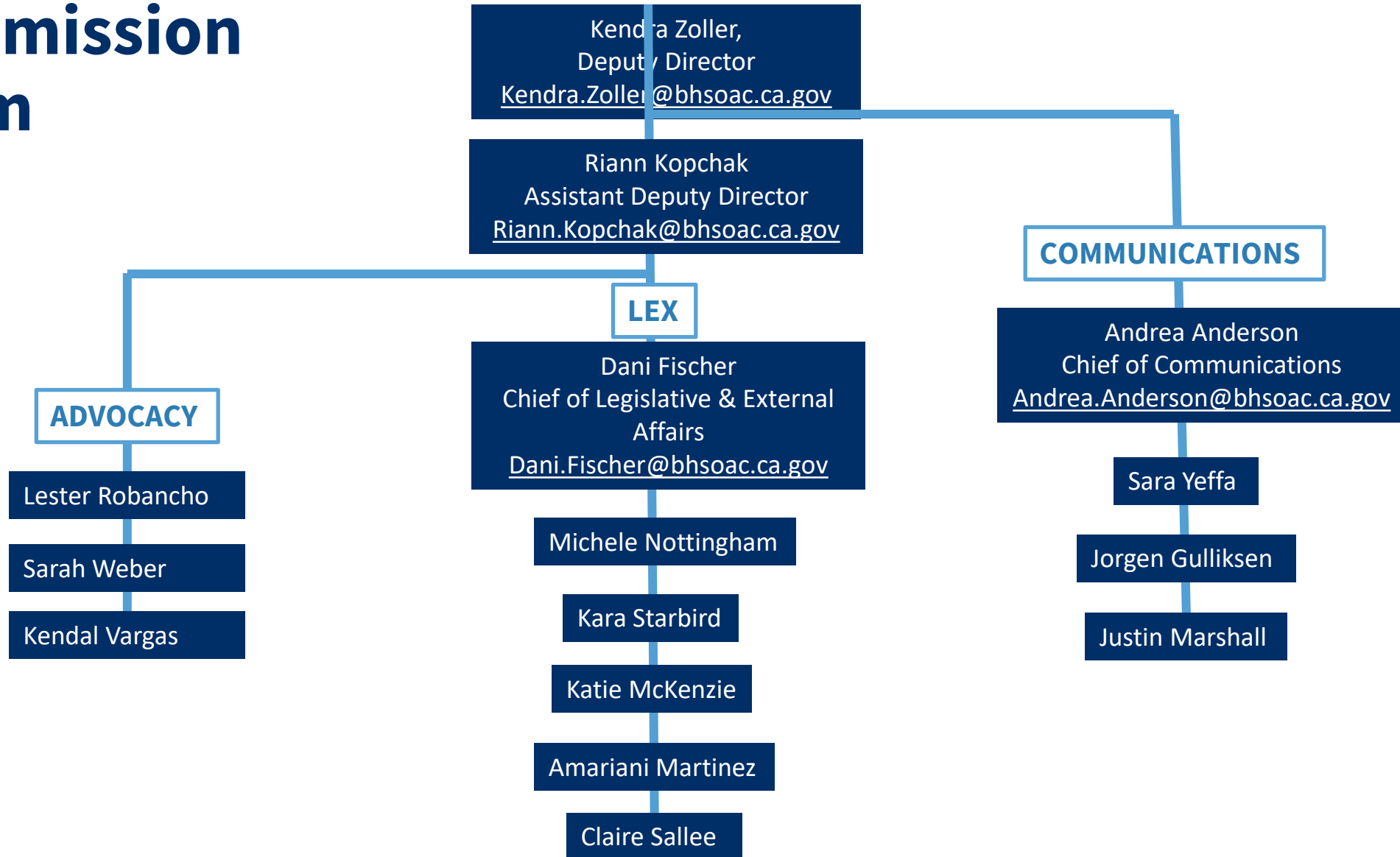


Marvin Southard, Ph.D.



Jay'Riah Thomas-Beckett

# Commission Team



# Meeting Format and Frequency



## HYBRID

- Virtual via Zoom
- In-person available at the Commission's headquarters: 1812 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, CA 95819



## EVERY OTHER MONTH AND AS NEEDED

- The committee will likely meet every other month in-between full Commission meetings; and ad hoc as needed



## BAGLEY- KEENE ACT

- Agendas will be posted 10-days in advance
- Cannot take action, only provide recommendations to full Commission
- Public comment includes open dialogue with Commissioners

# Charter Purpose and Goals

## SHAPE THE COMMISSION'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND ADVANCE PRIORITIES BY:

Monitoring legislation, developing and proposing new policies or amendments for existing laws that enhance behavioral health services and access

Engaging with Commission partners, including community leaders, providers, and advocates, to obtain diverse insights and identify policy priorities, and where applicable, adopt policy reports

Supporting and collaborating with the Commission's Advocacy Contract Grantees to strengthen their capacity for effective representation and advocacy on behalf of their constituent communities

# Items That Require Full Commission Approval

## LEGISLATION

Taking legislative positions and sponsoring legislation

## ADVOCACY

Developing and executing advocacy contracts for nine populations

## OTHER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

Developing and executing for communications-related and other external affairs contracts



# Upcoming “Action Needed” Items

THESE REQUIRE FULL COMMISSION APPROVAL BASED ON  
LEX ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

## LEGISLATION

- Fall 2025: sponsored legislation
- Spring 2026: legislative positions

## ADVOCACY POPULATIONS

- Fall 2025: TAY
- 2026:
  - Clients and Consumers
  - Diverse Racial & Ethnic Communities
  - Parents and Caregivers
  - LGBTQ+
  - Veterans
  - Families

# Potential Information items

## LEGISLATION

Status updates on legislation  
& implementation

## ADVOCACY

Updates on advocacy events  
and collaborative meetings

Presentations on quarterly  
and annual reports

## OTHER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

Briefings on stigma reduction  
efforts (KVIE Documentary; Art  
With Impact)

Updates on the UOP  
Transformational Change  
Partnership



**Thank you.**



**Questions?**



Commission for  
Behavioral Health





# Update on Advocacy Programs

**Lester Robancho**, *Health Program Specialist II*  
June 19, 2025



# Background on Advocacy

- The Commission funds community-based organizations to support behavioral health needs of underserved populations
- Contracts are awarded through competitive procurement and are typically awarded for three years of services
- Organizations conduct advocacy, training and education, and outreach and engagement activities and programs to further the voice of the communities they serve



# Populations

- ✓ Consumers
- ✓ Diverse Racial and Ethnic Communities
- ✓ Families of Consumers
- ✓ Immigrant and Refugee Populations
- ✓ K-12 Students
- ✓ LGBTQ+ Communities
- ✓ Parents and Caregivers
- ✓ Veteran Communities
- ✓ Transition Age Youth



# Update on Transition Age Youth Advocacy

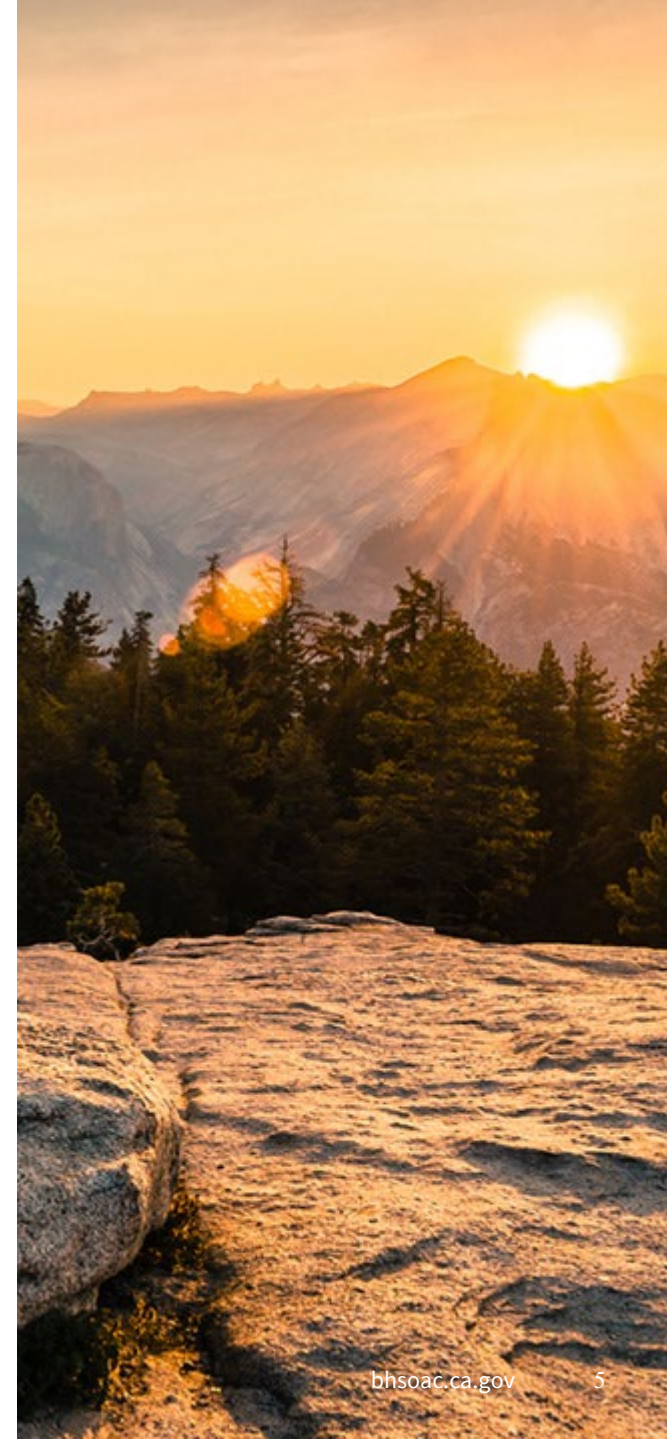
The Commission is updating its approach to advocacy through an extensive community engagement process.

- 1 Meetings.** Staff met with several statewide agencies to learn how they approach TAY engagement
- 2 Listening Session.** An in-person listening session will be held on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento to hear directly from TAY
- 3 Survey.** A survey will be distributed to gather valuable insight from the TAY population
- 4 Virtual Listening Session.** An additional listening session will be held in July to capture more TAY voice on advocacy and behavioral health



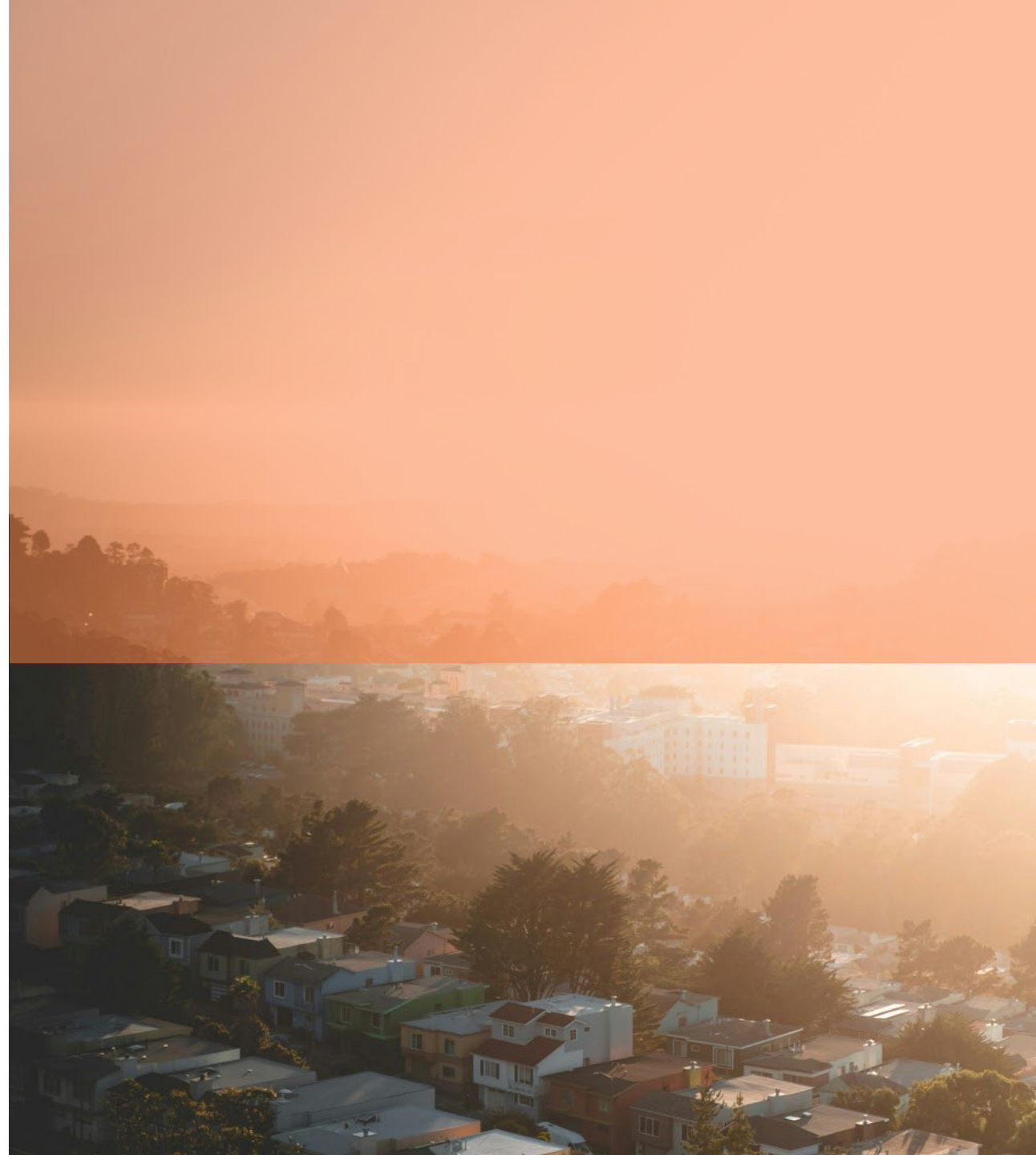
# Update on Immigrant and Refugee RFP

- Current Immigrant and Refugee organizations will complete their 3-year contracts on June 30 and September 30
- Awards for 7 Local Organization contracts were announced in April 2025
  - Draft contracts are being finalized and reviewed. Contracts will be executed before June 30
- The Statewide Organization RFP is being finalized and will be tentatively released in July 2025



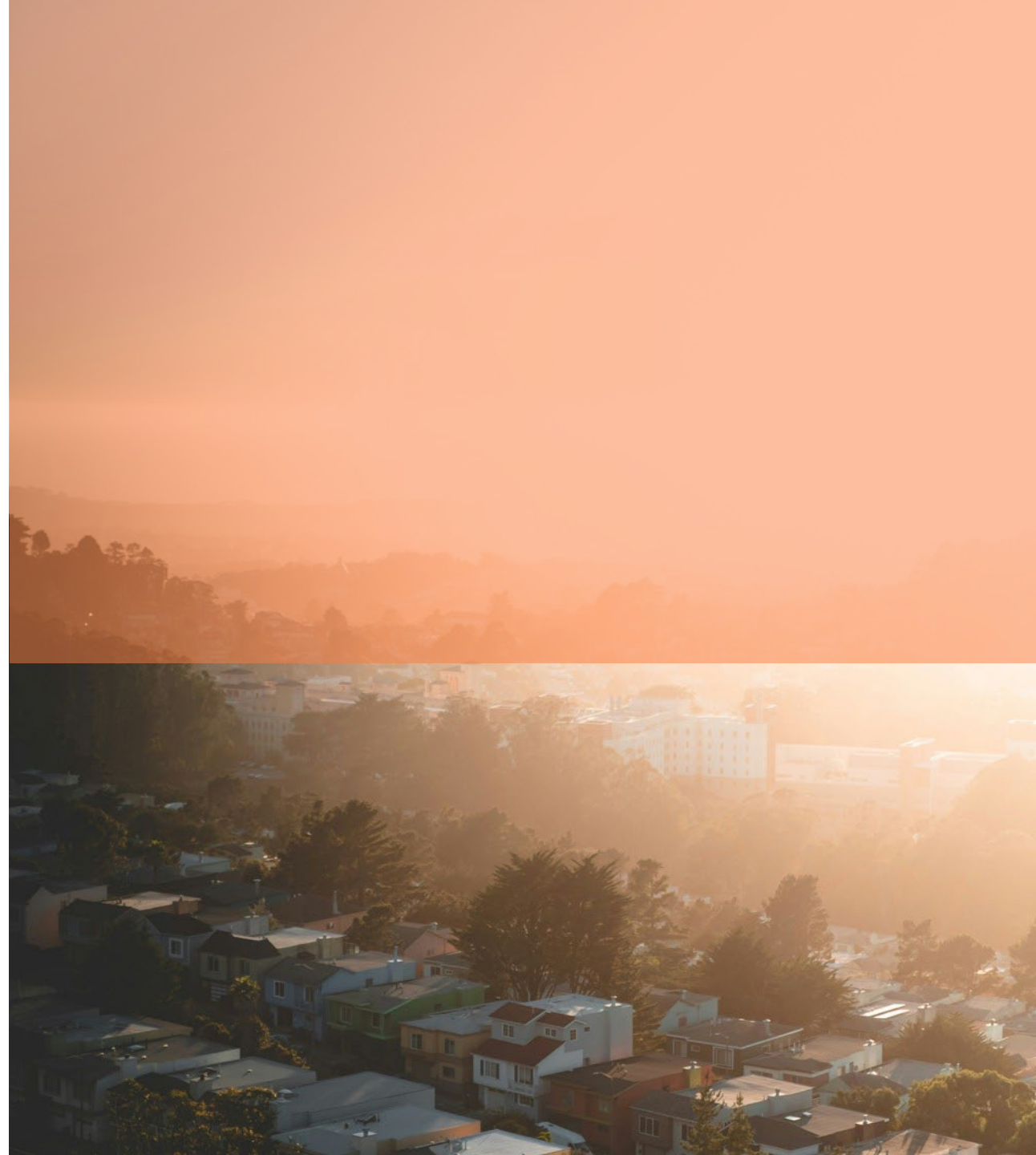


# Thank You





# Legislative and External Affairs ("LEX") Advisory Committee



# DRAFT Decision-Making Framework for Legislation

Alignment	Impact & Equity	Landscape & Value	Potential Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the legislation directly relate to behavioral health or to the Commission and its work?</li> <li>Does the legislation relate to the implementation of the Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) or the state's Behavioral Health Transformation?</li> <li>Is it aligned with the <u>strategic plan</u> of the Commission to:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Champion vision into action (elevate diverse voices, improve systems, apply global best practices);</li> <li>2. Catalyze best practices (build capacity, strengthen workforce, ensure equitable access);</li> <li>3. Inspire innovation (promote adaptive policy, fund new ideas, share impact stories); or</li> <li>4. Drive expectations (reduce stigma, measure outcomes, raise public and policymaker awareness)?</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does the legislation advance equity for marginalized or underserved groups?</li> <li>What is the potential impact (high, medium, low)?</li> <li>What is the urgency or timing of the legislation?</li> <li>Is funding identified and sufficient to implement and sustain the legislation?</li> <li>Are the intended impacts consistent with the Commission's vision for all Californians to experience wellbeing through a coordinated, prevention and recovery focused system?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do stakeholders support the legislation?</li> <li>Do the individuals, communities, or organizations directly impacted by the legislation support it?</li> <li>Is the Commission's support meaningful or necessary for the legislation's success?</li> <li>Does this duplicate current legislation or other statutory mandates?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support</li> <li>Oppose</li> <li>Oppose if Amended</li> <li>Watch</li> <li>No position</li> </ul>



# Discussion Questions

- Does this framework reflect the right values and priorities?
- Is anything important missing or unclear?
- How can we make this tool more accessible and equitable?
- What would help you feel confident using or engaging with this process?

**Thank you.**



**Questions?**



Commission for  
Behavioral Health