

Behavioral Health Board Minutes
San Luis Obispo County
March 18th, 2026, 3:00pm

Members Present	Guests
Barbara Levenson	Jeff Carlson
Amanda Sherlock	Jeff Donovan
Seth Stabinsky	Martin Bragg
Holli Rodriguez	Barry Johnson
Christopher Emert	Members Absent
Melissa Cummins	Kimberlee Booth
Rose Fowler-Plummer	Leslie Brown
Bill Matthew	Hugo Castaneda
Dana Ready-Hunt	Amber Gallagher
Tina Grace	Trista Ochoa
Erica Ward	James Sofranko
Tom Milder	Tracy Campbell
Heather Lakey	
Health Agency Staff Present	
Frank Warren	
Brett Dowgiewicz	
Siddarth Puri	
Sara Craft	

1. **Barbara Levenson called the meeting to order 3:10 pm**

2. **Introductions and Announcements:**
 - Round table introductions.

3. **Public Comments:**
 - Melissa Cummins shared concerns regarding financial account management practices, noting that accounts may become inactive when funds are depleted while charges continue to accrue, making it difficult to restore account balances. She expressed interest in pursuing better coordination or negotiation at the state level regarding these processes.

4. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Minutes from February 18th, 2026, M/S/C: Melissa Cummins/Bill Mathews/Abstain:8

5. Ongoing Business:

- The site visit follow-up for Sun Street Center at Prado was presented by Melissa Cummins, who highlighted strong staff dedication and quality care, along with challenges related to staffing, funding, and housing shortages, and recommended improved signage within the facility.
- The Justice Services report was discussed by Melissa Cummins, who noted that the report remains pending and that follow-up is ongoing to clarify staffing levels (allocated versus filled positions) and confirm information regarding bilingual services.
- The upcoming June 2026 site visit was discussed, with plans to visit 805 Outreach (TMHA homeless behavioral health site) A second potential site visit to the Welcome Home Village was discussed, with timing dependent on its anticipated May opening; Amanda Sherlock will coordinate the visit with the Department of Social Services.

6. New Business:

- The vote on renewal of appointments expiring June 30, 2026 was presented by Amanda Sherlock, who confirmed that all members with expiring terms expressed interest in continuing service. The following renewals were approved to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors: Amanda Sherlock, William Matthew, Hugo Castaneda (name change from Balcazar), Sheriff Ian Parkinson, Kimberlee Booth, and Thomas Buckley. M/S/C: Amanda Sherlock/Melissa Cummins/Abstain:5
- New and updated agency member appointments to be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors included Holli Rodriguez (CenCal) and Tina Grace. M/S/C: Amanda Sherlock/Melissa Cummins/Abstain:5

7. Membership Committee - Update:

- The forwarding of agency representative names to the Board of Supervisors was discussed, including updates on agency member roles and replacements.
- Officer slate development was discussed, noting that the Board is required to annually confirm a slate of officers, including Chair, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, and Membership Chair, as outlined in the bylaws; current officers will be asked to confirm their intent to continue, and a proposed slate will be presented at the next meeting, with the opportunity for additional nominations prior to the April vote.

- The member profile spotlight featured Melissa Cummins, who shared her background in psychology, education, and law, including her work supporting students with special needs, and described her personal experience navigating behavioral health services for her son, which highlighted gaps in care coordination, communication, and access to services and motivated her involvement on the Board.

8. Committee Representatives- Update:

- The Crisis Continuum Committee update from February 26th was presented by Barbara Levenson, highlighting that SLO County was recognized as a model for Community Action Teams (CAT), the Sobering Center surpassed 1,000 clients served, there has been an increase in out-of-county inpatient placements, the Children's Crisis Residential Program is under construction with a projected July 2026 opening, and a partnership with Generations Healthcare is supporting placements.

9. Presentation: Dr. Siddarth Puri and Sara Craft

- The Mobile Clinic Outreach at Prado presentation was given by Dr. Siddarth Puri and Sara Craft, who described a mobile behavioral health program providing low-barrier services to individuals experiencing homelessness, including assessments, medication support, and care coordination, with early outcomes showing improved engagement and reduced hospitalizations, and plans to expand services countywide.

10. Administrator's Report: Frank Warren

- The Behavioral Health organizational overview was provided by Frank Warren, outlining the department's structure, including divisions such as mental health, substance use services, justice services, and crisis services.
- Major program and project updates were shared, including the upcoming transition to separate Behavioral Health and Public Health departments effective July 1, 2026, development of the Paso Robles facility, progress on the Children's Crisis Residential Program, expansion of mobile services, and updates on budget planning and Medi-Cal funding opportunities.

Adjourn at 4:48 pm

Next Behavioral Health Board Meeting: April 15th, 2026