



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY Behavioral Health Division



Salud Mental y
Tratamiento del Uso
de Sustancias

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT
JULY 27, 2026, 9:30 AM-2:30 PM
1400 EMELINE, CONFERENCE ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ
THE PUBLIC MAY JOIN THE MEETING ON MICROSOFT TEAMS (LINK BELOW) OR
CALL (831)454-2222, CONFERENCE 351 955 585#

Xaloc Cabanes Chair 1 st District	Valerie Webb Member 2 nd District	Michael Neidig Co-Chair 3 rd District	Antonio Rivas Member 4 th District	Dan Barnett Member 5 th District	Natalie Stott Transitional Age Youth
Kaelin Wagnermarsh Member 1 st District	Dean S. Kashino Member 2 nd District	Hugh McCormick Member 3 rd District	Rachel Montoya Member 4 th District	Jeffrey Arlt Secretary 5 th District	Vacant Transitional Age Youth

Kimberly De Serpa Board of Supervisor Member	
Dr. Marni R. Sandoval Behavioral Health Director	Meg Yarnell Behavioral Health Deputy Director

Information regarding participation in the Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting

The public may attend the meeting at the Health Services Agency, 1400 Emeline, Conference Rooms 206-207, Santa Cruz. Individuals may click here to [Join Meeting Now](#) or may participate by telephone by calling (831)454-2222, Conference ID 351 955 585#. All participants are muted upon entry to prevent echoing and minimize any unintended disruption of background sounds. This meeting will be recorded.

If you are a person with a special need, or if interpreting services (English/Spanish or sign language) are needed, please call 454-4611 (Hearing Impaired TDD/TTY: 711) at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format.

Si usted es una persona con una discapacidad o necesita servicios de interpretación (inglés/español o Lenguaje de señas), por favor llame al (831) 454-4611 (Personas con Discapacidad Auditiva TDD/TTY: 711) con 72 horas de anticipación a la junta para hacer arreglos. Personas con discapacidades pueden pedir una copia de la agenda en una forma alternativa.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD RETREAT AGENDA

ID	Time	Regular Business
1	9:30–9:45	• Roll Call • Public Comment (No action or discussion will be undertaken today on any item raised during Public Comment period except that Mental Health Board Members may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed. Limited to 3 minutes each) • Board Member Announcements
2	9:45–11:15	Check in -Timed 5 minutes of you or what brings you to the board, and -Timed 1 minute: What is a positive Santa Cruz Behavioral Health change you have seen? How did you become aware of this change?
3	11:15–11:25	Break – stretch, move, breath
4	11:25–11:40	Questions
5	11:40–12:45	Lunch Team Building Activity – Mission Statement for the Year
6	12:45–1:30	Beebe Striking the Iron – it’s hot!
		Next Year’s Agenda Items
7	1:30–2:00	The Year Plan – Presenters, Publicity, Sites to visit
8	2:00–2:25	Committees – Ad Hoc and Standing
9	2:25–2:30	Graduate
	2:30PM	Adjourn

**NEXT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING IS ON:
AUGUST 20, 2026
HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY
1400 EMELINE AVE, CONFERENCE ROOMS 206–207, SANTA CRUZ**

Under California Penal Code Section 933, public agencies and officials must follow a strict legal framework when responding to a Civil Grand Jury report.

Mandatory Response Timelines

The timeline for your submission depends entirely on your official role:

- **90 Days (Governing Bodies):** Elected boards, such as the County Board of Supervisors or City Councils, must respond within 90 days of the report's public release. [1]
- **60 Days (Public Officials):** Individual department heads, such as the Director of Behavioral Health or an elected Sheriff, must respond within 60 days. [2]

Exact Wording Requirements

You cannot simply write a general letter. For every numbered **Finding** and **Recommendation** explicitly assigned to your office, you must use the specific statutory phrasing outlined below.

How to Respond to Findings

For each Finding, you must state one of the following four options:

1. *"The respondent agrees with the finding."*
2. *"The respondent disagrees wholly with the finding."*
3. *"The respondent disagrees partially with the finding."* [3]

Note: If you wholly or partially disagree, you must include a clear, concise explanation of the specific reasons for your disagreement. [4]

How to Respond to Recommendations

For each Recommendation, you must state one of the following four options:

1. *"The recommendation has been implemented."* (Provide a brief summary of the action taken).
2. *"The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future."* (Provide a specific timeframe for implementation, not to exceed 6 months).
3. *"The recommendation requires further analysis."* (Explain the scope and parameters of the analysis. The implementation or study timeframe cannot exceed 6 months from the report's release date). [5, 6]

4. *"The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable."* (Provide a detailed explanation defending this position).

Formal Delivery and Routing

To officially complete the process, you must distribute your typed response to multiple oversight bodies simultaneously:

- **The Presiding Judge:** Mail or deliver a signed, physical copy directly to the Presiding Judge of the Santa Cruz County Superior Court.
- **The Civil Grand Jury:** Send a physical copy to the current Civil Grand Jury foreperson at their official mailing address.
- **Electronic Copy:** Provide a digital PDF version to the Grand Jury's administrative coordinator so it can be uploaded to the public county repository.

If you are drafting a response, let me know if you would like me to:

- Format a template using the **exact statutory language** required by the court.
- Look up the specific **mailing addresses** for the Santa Cruz County Presiding Judge and Grand Jury.

Tell me how you would prefer to **move forward**.

- [1] <https://static.prisonpolicy.org>
- [2] <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov>
- [3] <https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov>
- [4] <https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov>
- [5] <https://www.placer.courts.ca.gov>
- [6] <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov>

NAMI SCC 'Hot Issues'

Presentation to Behavioral Health Advisory Board

7/27/26

Outline of the Issues

- Top two interrelated challenges
 - Impact of HR1
 - Upcoming County fiscal budget
- Relevance of 'Social Determinants' framework
- Thoughts on mitigating impacts to individuals
- Summary

Impact of HR1 on Community Health

- Three areas of legislation with direct negative impact on 30,000
 - Medicaid (Medi-Cal) eligibility effective 1/27
 - 21,250 of 85,000 individual on Medi-Cal may lose coverage
 - County behavioral health currently serves 8,500 high need individuals
 - Central California Alliance for Health currently serves 65,000 members
 - SNAP (Cal Fresh) eligibility effective 7/26
 - 7,000- 9,000 out of 31,000-36,000 risk reduced or eliminated support
 - Reduced ACA subsidies: reduced low earner subsidies, eliminated 'high earner' subsidies, and eliminated subsidies for non-citizens below federal poverty level
 - 7000 County residents face premium spikes or loss of subsidies

Fiscal Challenge Understood- Solution Unclear

- FY 26/27 County Budget reconciled with:
 - Use of the majority of available reserves
 - Eliminating 58 unfilled positions after eliminating 74 unfilled positions in the prior year
 - Cut backs in funding across both County, contractors and non-profits
 - Current staffing and planned compensation increases maintained
 - Hiring freeze instituted with rigorous review
- Two of three variables have been balanced
 - Available funds- General fund and transferred funds
 - Staffing levels (but not compensation)
- Third variable is a quantitative impact on services & unmet needs
 - Impact of last two year's elimination of unfilled positions and future budget actions
 - Reconciling: HR1, staffing levels, enrollment levels, uninsured support
- Projected \$67 million deficit in FY27/28
 - Uncertainty of State support, Federal legislative changes, revenue increases, staff & service cuts

Social Determinants and Mental (all) Health

- Public policy and social norms act as foundational “upstream” drivers of mental (and all) health
- Genetic risk, injury and pathogens/ toxins interact with social determinants for mental health
- The hierarchy:
 - Public policy & social norms- affects
 - Health policy, health care system and access to care
 - plus
 - Distribution of opportunities- affects
 - Social & environmental conditions: un(under)employment, poor built environment, food insecurity, housing insecurity, adverse life experience, social exclusion, poor education, and discrimination- affects
 - Reduced options, poor choice, high risk behavior and stress- affects
 - Poor mental (all) health, disease and morbidity

Thoughts on Mitigating Impacts to Individuals

- Develop one or two scenarios which project the impact of HR1 and County budget implications to:
 - The specific populations and each individual/ family potentially affected
 - The organizations affected (County, CCAH, emergency rooms, non-profits, etc.)
- Develop communications alerting the affected individuals of potential changes and the alternatives, if available, to pursue alternatives for support
 - Alternative insurance & provider options
- Develop strategies to seamlessly ease the loss of service due to loss of eligibility
 - Transfer medical records, prescription extensions after loss of coverage,...

Summary

- A significant percentage of Santa Cruz County will be affected by recent Federal legislation and on-going budget challenges
- Federal policy changes have negatively impacted the 'social determinants' hierarchy
- Measuring the quantitative impact of the various elements would provide transparency and linkage to effected individuals and mitigating actions
- A goal of anticipating and mitigating the downside impacts should be a priority which will require a dedicated cross organizational team
- Success in communication and mitigating strategies will support the County's leaderships value for the welfare of our community