



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

MINUTES – Approved
March 19, 2026

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 15, 2026, 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY, 1400 EMELINE, ROOMS 206-207, SANTA CRUZ 95060
MICROSOFT TEAMS (831) 454-2222, CONFERENCE ID 812 449 1#



Salud Mental y
Tratamiento del Uso
de Sustancias

Present: Antonio Rivas, Dean Kashino, Hugh McCormick, Jeffrey Arlt (Remote), Michael Neidig, Natalie Stott, Valerie Webb, Xaloc Cabanes, Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa
Absent: Kaelin Wagnermarsh, Rachel Montoya
Staff: Marni Sandoval, Amy Rhoades, Jane Batoon-Kurovski

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- I. Roll Call – Quorum present. Meeting called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Chair Xaloc Cabanes.
Note: Jeffrey Arlt participated remotely due to Just Cause, Item B.
 - II. Public Comment – 1 addressed the BHAB in the conference room.
 - III. Board Member Announcement
 - Chair provided clarification on the BHAB's powers and duties.
 - IV. Approve November 20, 2025 Minutes
Motion / Second: Mike Neidig / Dean Kashino
Ayes: Kashino, McCormick, Arlt, Neidig, Stott, Webb, Cabanes
Abstain: Rivas
Absent: Wagnermarsh, Montoya, De Serpa
Result: Approved
 - V. Secretary's Report
 - January is Mental Wellness month, focusing on proactive self-care, stress reduction, building healthy habits.
 - Completed 2-hr training requirement: Dean, Xaloc, Jeffrey
 - Training opportunities include January 23rd CalBHBC; Crisis Jam every Wednesday on YouTube; NAMI; Commission for BH quarterly meeting on 01/22 & 1/23
 - BHAB Vacancies: one Transitional Age Youth and District 5
 - Term expirations in April: Antonio, Hugh, and Xaloc
 - VI. Presentation: Overview of Janus Services – Jessica Guiver, Chief Operating Officer, Janus of Santa Cruz
 - Janus of Santa Cruz's withdrawal management program offers 24-hour medically monitored residential care to manage mild to moderate withdrawal symptoms from drugs or alcohol. Withdrawal Management 3.2 Level of Care per ASAM Criteria. Will accommodate 3.7 level of care pending licensing with CA Department of Public Health.

- Sobering Center includes DUI Referral, Case Management, Peer Support, Medical Support (Monitoring Vitals), Police drop offs or self-referrals. Clients are monitored and can have conversations for potentially entering a program or DUI classes.
- Janus Integrated Behavioral Health – person-centered psychotherapy services are offered to folks with mild to moderate behavioral health systems. This program aims to address the interconnected nature of substance abuse and mental health issues by providing integrated, holistic, and individualized care to support clients.
- Residential Services at 7th – offers 24-hour clinically supervised care along with incidental medical services. Residential 3.1 and 3.5 Level of Care per ASAM Criteria.
- Perinatal Program – residential facility that provides treatment to pregnant, post-partum and moms that are parenting children under the age of 18. Children under the age of 6 can live at the facility with the mother. Services offered/Level of Care offered: 3.1 and 3.5. Ribbon cutting of new facility at 150 Pennsylvania to be held September 2026.
- Janus Outpatient and Recovery Residences
 - Outpatient Services: provides intensive outpatient treatment up to 12 clients per group, 9 hours of group per week plus additional individual sessions, peer support and ECM as needed.
 - Recovery Residence: supportive housing in 3 different houses for up to 90 days with concurrent enrollment in outpatient.
- Janus Opioid Treatment Program – offers Outpatient Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder. Licensed capacity for North County is 530 and South County is 230. MNTP vans at north and south expect to launch in late spring/early summer of 2026.

VII. Patient's Rights Report – George Carvalho, Advocate

November and December reports were provided. George did not attend the meeting.

VIII. Board of Supervisors Report – Supervisor Kimberly De Serpa

- Wrote a support letter for \$150M grant that Janus is pursuing in partnership with the County; funding decision expected in April.
- Advocated for a ban on Kratom which is an opioid-like substance sold at gas stations and convenience stores, following 11 deaths in the county over the past year. Drafted an ordinance to prohibit sales in the unincorporated area, which did not pass after the Kratom lobby provided extensive testimony stating it is a miracle drug. The plan is to bring it back to ban the synthetic form.

IX. Behavioral Health Director's Report – Dr. Marni Sandoval, Behavioral Health Director

1. Adults Behavioral Health Update

- Currently planning for the opening of the BH Bridge House which will provide a safe, community-based setting for treatment, recovery and transition to long-term housing. Housing Matters will operate 24/7 on-site resident services and the County's Integrated Housing and Recovery Team (IHART) will provide comprehensive behavioral health services. The program is expected to serve 60-80 Santa Cruz County residents annually, with an average stay of six months.

2. Children's Behavioral Health Update

- The Children's BH Management is engaged with Center of Excellence to understand next steps for implementing the following Evidence-Based Psychological Practices (EBPP): Parent-Child Interaction Therapy; Functional

Family Therapy; Multi-Systemic Therapy; and High-Fidelity Wraparound. Numerous contractors expressed interest in becoming providers of one or more of the EBPP.

3. Substance Use Disorder Services Update

- SUDS successfully launched a Request for Qualifications to identify new DUI Program providers. Once approved, services will be launched by April 2026.
- Janus of Santa Cruz will launch new mobile NTP (methadone) services in Spring 2026. Vans will deliver methadone to unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County increasing access for individuals who live long distances from NTP clinics.
- SUDS has partnered with Horizon Services, Inc. in Alameda County to provide Level of Care 3.3 residential treatment services to individuals who meet medical necessity for this level of treatment. LOC 3.3 is for individuals who have cognitive impairments and/or traumatic brain injuries that impact their ability to receive treatment in traditional residential treatment settings.

4. System Quality Improvement Efforts

- Recent improvements include the Integration of Access to Services team into one Integrated Access Program for Children's, Adults, and SUDS services. This improvement will support: timely access to initial care for all requests for services; continued optimization of data quality to support non-clinical Performance Improvement Projects related to timely access; and continued efforts toward the "No Wrong Door" approach to behavioral health care.
- Integrated & Timely Services Experience – integration of the Mental Health Plan and the Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System into a single plan within the next two years. Efforts continue to improve timely access to services. Currently, 73% of clients receive an appointment within 10 business days of request.

5. General BHSA Updates

- Community Engagement process has been completed – 3 Community Forums, 5 BHSA Educational Sessions, 4 Key Informant Interviews, 4 Informational Meetings, 8 Focus Groups, 1 Community Needs Survey. 229 community members were reached through forums, educational sessions, key informant interviews and the focus groups.
- Currently conducting internal Service System Mapping & Cross walking existing MHSA-funded activities to the new BHSA guidelines. This process will help determine which services will remain allowable under BHSA and how existing services can continue.
- Integrated Plan Development is underway. The integrated plan will report on every single type of revenue source in behavioral health, which will be tracked and reported on.
- Public comment opens on March 19th. More detailed in-depth overview of integrated plan and all findings from community engagement will be provided. Public comment will close on April 16th.

X. Site Visit Committee Update

- Next site visit: 7th Avenue Center on Tuesday, February 10th, 1pm-3pm

XI. Jail Packet Revisions

Two sections, Custody Alternative Program (CAPS) Guide and Criminal Justice Reform and the Case for Collaborative Courts, were provided to the board. This will be discussed at the February meeting.

- XII. Response to the BHSA Integrated Plan – to be discussed at the February meeting.
- XIII. Letter of Recommendation regarding staff training in Generative AI Tools – to be discussed at the February meeting.
- XIV. Announcement: Funding Ad Hoc Committee 2026 – to be announced at the February meeting.
- XV. Thank you letter: Dr. Jennifer Wells Kaupp – to be reviewed at the February meeting.
- XVI. Adjournment
Meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.