

Behavioral Health Commission Meeting and Approvals

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Behavioral Health Priorities for Governor-Elect

- Presented by Commissioner Gary Tsai with input from staff, PAC public comments, and Executive Director Brenda Grealish.
- Core vision: Turn California's recent behavioral health infrastructure investments into high-quality, integrated, accountable systems.
- Key recommendation pillars:
 - Promote well-being, risk reduction, early identification, effective treatment, and recovery.
 - Shared accountability: Establish cross-agency delivery councils and an executive branch cabinet-level behavioral health lead.
 - High-quality standard: Shift toward an opt-out mentality for services, integrate SUD and mental health assessments, expand harm reduction and MAT.
 - Focus on whole-person outcomes: Measure success via recovery, housing, supportive relationships, education, and purpose.
 - Core message to next administration: Build on the foundation—do not start over or dismantle recent initiatives (CalAIM, BHSA/Prop 1, BHCIP).
- Commission and public discussion highlights:
 - Concerns raised regarding supplantation of BHSA dollars to backfill General Fund obligations.
 - Commissioners debated commission scope (broad population-level influence vs. statutory SMI focus under BHSA investments).
 - Emphasis on protecting school-based initiatives like CYBHI.
 - Public comments urged inclusion of the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) and Community-Defined Evidence Practices (CDEPs).

Agenda Item 10: Innovation Partnership Fund (IPF) Round 2

- Commissioner recusals due to potential conflict of interest (Political Reform Act and Government Code 1090) before discussion.
- Presented by Callie Clark (Acting Deputy Director of Grants Program and System Innovation).
- Program context:
 - Created by Prop 1 shifting MHSA to BHSA; administered statewide by the Commission up to \$20M/year for 5 years (\$100M total).
 - Round 1 recap: 308 applications (93% CBOs/non-county entities); 13 projects awarded totaling \$20M.
- Round 2 framework & award structure:
 - Small grants: Up to \$500k (\$4M set aside, ~8 projects for CBOs/tribal/nonprofits).
 - Large grants: \$500k to \$5M (\$16M set aside, minimum 3 projects, open to all org types).
 - Core criteria retained: Innovation definition, target priority populations, direct/indirect benefit to county programs.
- Process improvements:
 - Establishing Quality Assurance and Process Improvement (QAPI) team and developing a CDH procurement manual by March.
 - Transitioning to Flux grant management software (launching by fall).
 - Two-phase application to reduce burden: Optional intent to apply closing mid-November; Phase 1 key questions released November 20, 2026; Phase 2 invitations issued early January 2027; Intent to award targeted for May 2027.
- Inquiries and contact: program@bhsoac.ca.gov.
- Commission action: Motion approved authorizing the Round 2 procurement plan not to exceed \$20M and empowering the Executive Director to execute solicitations and agreements.

Agenda Item 11: Full Service Partnership (FSP) Report

- Mandated biannual report under SB 465 presented by Callie Clark and Alicia Delouise (Research Scientist).
- Legislative scope & metrics through 2025:
 - 311,000 FSPs created serving 278,000 distinct clients (~30,000 enrolled more than once; 9%).
 - Annual enrollment averages ~15,000 individuals, with ~30,000 active participants annually.
 - Homelessness: ~66% of adult participants and >33% of youth (61,000 youth) experienced homelessness prior to/during FSP enrollment.
 - Future reports planned on child FSPs (Spring), BHSA transition challenges, and specialty populations (older adults, justice-involved).