



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Napa County Behavioral Health Board

2024-25 Annual Report

September 2025



Kristine Haataja
2024 - 2025 Chair

Table of Contents:

Executive Summary	1
Status of the MHB Meetings Membership Committees	3
Goals & Accomplishments	4
Meet the Board Members	7
Acknowledgements	11



Through public meetings, site visits, work groups, speakers, and reports from MH Division Staff and contractors, the MHB works to understand local mental health issues and advise the Board of Supervisors and the Mental Health Director regarding Napa County's mental health services and challenges. The Board of Supervisors appoints Napa County Mental Health Board members. It is part of our mandated duties to provide the Board of Supervisors with an annual report reviewing the needs and performance of the county's mental health system.

Executive Summary

Napa County's Behavioral Health Board (BHB) has dedicated, engaged, and diverse members who understand that mental illness and substance use disorder are medical conditions affecting a substantial number of our citizens, and supports the provision of effective behavioral health services, programs, and facilities in our county. Advocating for effective access to treatment and other supportive services, including housing and employment, for people experiencing behavioral health issues is our chief concern.

The Behavioral Health Board continues to support the integration of mental health and substance use disorder. In this fiscal year, the board expanded speaker topics to include more topics related to substance use and, for the first time, included substance use programs and facilities on its site visit list.

Key Concerns and Recommendations:

1. Housing: Housing for residents with serious mental health issues have been an on-going need in Napa County. The County has made significant strides in creating supportive housing for persons with mental illness in the past two years, including housing for CARE Court.

A key housing need for the County is supportive congregate living facilities. Napa County lacks Adult Residential Facilities for persons experiencing serious mental illness (SMI). Residents needing these living accommodations are placed in out-of-county facilities or experience a revolving door between homelessness, jails, hospitals, and short-term care facilities. These solutions come at a high financial cost to the County and high social costs to our residents and their families.

2. Children & Youth Behavioral Health: Our children and youth are increasing experiencing depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Access to mental health treatment and prevention services, exacerbated by stigma, cultural and linguistic barriers, and lack of insurance, is a pressing issue in Napa County. The Board is concerned that changes in California's behavioral health funding streams will significantly impact the behavioral health prevention and early intervention programs for youth. Community behavioral health planning should prioritize the development of strategies and identification of funding sources to support prevention and treatment resources.
3. Youth Cannabis Usage: The Behavioral Health Board Workgroup, "Mental Health Impact of Cannabis Use Among Adolescents" identified several concerns for Napa County youth. Based on these findings, the Board recommends that public schools provide more youth and parental education about the physical, social, and mental impacts of cannabis on youth. Specific recommendations are included within this report
4. Support LGBTQ+ Residents: The Behavioral Health Board is concerned about Federal Executive Actions that remove or weaken both physical and behavioral health protections for LGBTQ+ people. We are concerned because behavioral health issues are more prevalent among LGBTQ+ individuals than among heterosexuals, including, 39% suicide ideation among youth; 4 times more suicide attempts among youth; 2.5 times more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and substance misuse; and more than twice as likely have a mental health disorder in their lifetime. We urge the Board of Supervisors to support California's efforts to restrict these policies, support efforts to protect funding, and to support our local LGBTQ+ community in all ways that are possible.

Accomplishments of Napa County Behavioral Health Division

It is also essential to acknowledge the hard work and accomplishments of the Napa County Behavioral Health Division, under the leadership of Health & Human Agency Director, Jennifer Yasumoto, and Health & Human Services Deputy Director of Behavioral Health, Cassandra Eslami, as reflected in the Napa County Health & Human Services Agency Annual Report, FY 2024-2025.

- In FY 2024-2025 the Behavioral Health Division provided the following to community residents:
 - 42,584 Face-to-Face Services
 - 7,483 Telehealth Services Provided
 - 6,863 Group Services Provided
- HHSA – BH launched a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) clinic at the South Campus Psychiatric Medication Clinic for onsite, medically supervised treatment for substance use disorders, using FDA-approved medications (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone), as well as monthly counseling services to adult Medi-Cal beneficiaries. MAT services support people recovering from substance use disorders using specialized medication, treatment, and care, so they can live a healthy life, free from opiate use.
- Launched the Proposition 36 program in February 2025. This was a collaborative effort between HHSA, the Court, Probation, the District Attorney, and County Counsel. The program helps divert individuals into substance use disorder treatment from the criminal justice path, and with sufficient oversight and integrity. Since inception, there have been 20 referrals to the program.
- Napa County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the repurposing of the County's Re-Entry Facility into a new Behavioral Health Treatment Center, a critical step in addressing serious mental health and substance use disorders in Napa County. The Behavioral Health Treatment Center will house three HHSA - BH programs:
 - A Residential Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Withdrawal Management program
 - A Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act-designated Mental Health Rehabilitation Center, focused on meeting the SB 43 mandate
 - A Sobering Center to divert intoxicated adults from arrest and incarceration into immediate care and treatment pathways
- Continued focus on behavioral health staff retainment and recruitment strategies, including participating in the Greater Bay Area Regional Partnership's Workforces Education and Training Program, to provide stipends and student loan repayment. Provided twenty-two employees both within County and Community Based Organizations with a \$10,000 one-year commitment stipend, totaling \$220,000 in one-year awards.
- As a requirement of Senate Bill 1338, HHSA - BH successfully launched the Community, Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Act. CARE Act is specific to providing robust services including psychiatric medication, housing support and behavioral health services to vulnerable clients diagnosed with schizophrenia or other psychotic disorders. In FY24/25 three participants were served under the County operated CARE Act program, in addition these three participants have been successfully housed. In addition, there are seven clients in process for possible CARE Act services.
- As a requirement of Senate Bill 2083, HHSA - BH contracted with Seneca Family Services to launch High-Fidelity Wraparound. The program serves children experiencing high acuity at high risk, including youth involved in Child Welfare Services and Juvenile Probation. In FY 24/25 seventeen youth participated in High-Fidelity Wraparound treatment.

Status of the Behavioral Health Board

Meetings: Regular Behavioral Health Board (BHB) meetings were held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 2751 Napa Valley Corporate Drive, and Executive Committee meetings were held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the same location. Notice of all regular and special BHB meetings was made public, and an agenda was followed which allowed for public comment. BHB meeting agendas and minutes are available on the Napa County website. A quorum was established at all BHB meetings except February 2024, and average attendance was 73%. A quorum was established at all Executive Committee meetings, with average attendance of 81%.

In 2024- 2025, the BHB held two public hearings for review and comment. In August, a meeting was held to review the Napa County Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY24-25 Update to the 3-yr FY23-24 to FY25-26 Plan, and in April the Behavioral Health Division's proposal for the PIVOT Innovation Project was reviewed. In April, the BHB met in American Canyon to provide broader community access to a BHB meeting and address a topic relevant to that community, American Canyon Student Mental Health Access Programs.

Committees & Workgroups:

Executive Committee: Kristine Haataja, Chair; Patricia Sullivan, Vice Chair; Rob Palmer, Past Chair. Members at Large: Bill Chadwick, Jeff Dickinson, Marion Villalba

Behavioral Health Board Annual Report Workgroup: Kristine Haataja, Jeff Dickinson, Jasper Lowell, Liz Marks

Data Notebook Workgroup (2024): Kristine Haataja and Behavioral Health Division Staff: Cassandra Eslami, Deputy Director-BH; Valerie Cahill, Behavioral Health Manager; and Chelsea Stoner, Assistant Deputy Director-BH

Mental Health Impact of Cannabis Use Among Adolescents Workgroup: Rob Palmer, Marion Villalba, Etta Williams

Membership: At the close of the fiscal year, membership on the BHB consisted of 13 members and two open positions. Those leaving the Behavioral Health Board in FY 2024-2025 included Supervisor Ryan Gregory and Orion Taraban, whose terms expired, and Jenna Bolyarde, Bill Chadwick, Elmer Manaid, Rose Sheehan and Victoria Spencer. We thank them for their participation and contributions to the Board.

Board Member	District at Time of Appointment	Date Appointed to BHB	Term Ends	Represents
Supervisor Liz Alessio	2	1-14-2025	12-31-29	BOS
Elisabeth Brumley	2	03-12-2024	01-01-2026	Concerned Citizen
Greg Clark	2	03-12-2024	01-01-2026	Consumer
Jeff Dickinson	2	03-12-2024	01-01-2026	Consumer
Kristine Haataja	4	02-25-2025	01-01-2028	Family Member
Jasper Lowell	1	03-25-2025	01-01-2028	TAY - Age 18-25
Liz Marks	2	03-11-2025	01-01-2028	Family Member
Sandra Oliva	1	03-11-2025	01-01-2028	Consumer
Robert Palmer	3	02-25-2025	01-01-2028	Concerned Citizen
Patricia Sullivan	1	03-12-2024	01-01-2026	Consumer
Shauna Tackett	1	03-12-2024	01-01-2027	Consumer
Marion Villalba	3	02-25-2025	01-01-2028	LEA Employee
Etta Williams	1	03-12-2024	01-01-2027	Family Member
Open				Veteran/Vet Advocate
Open				Open

Goals & Accomplishments

The following objectives and goals for 2024-2025 were developed by the BHB Executive Committee and approved by the BHB. Below are details of the work done by the BHB to achieve each of these goals.

A. Objective: Fulfill the Mandated Responsibilities and Core Purposes of the Behavioral Health Board

1. **Goal:** *Review and evaluate the community's Behavioral Health needs, services, facilities, and special problems [WIC 5604.2 (a)(1)]*

Accomplishments:

- Throughout the year, the BHB hosted a variety of speakers and panel forums related to Napa County Behavioral Health issues, needs, and services, including:
 - Napa County Behavioral Health Budget for FY 2024-2025
 - Napa County MHSA FY24-25 Update to the 3-yr FY23-24 to FY25-26 & Public Hearing
 - Mental Health Needs of Survivors of Domestic Violence
 - Community Assistance, Empowerment and Recovery (CARE) Act
 - Housing & Supportive Housing for MH Consumer: Fresh Start & Progress Foundation
 - Behavioral Health Needs of and Services for the LGBTQ Community
 - Substance Use Disorder Continuum & Medication Assisted Treatment
 - Veterans Services
 - Napa County Collaborative Courts and Diversion Programs
 - American Canyon Student Mental Health Access Programs
 - Public Hearing for the Behavioral Health Division's proposal of the PIVOT Innovation Project
 - Serenity Homes- Transitional Housing and Sober Living Provider
 - Behavioral Health Division Quality Assurance Performance Improvement (QAPI)
- The Behavioral Health Board Workgroup, "Mental Health Impact of Cannabis Use Among Adolescents" presented results of their study which examined the extent of cannabis use among adolescents in Napa County and its mental health impacts.
 - Recreational cannabis legalization in California both reflects and reinforces a public perception that pot is not addictive and does not pose undue risks to human health.
 - However, medical and scientific research document a wide range of adverse impacts that cannabis use can have on adolescent users, including:
 - Disruption of normal neurodevelopmental processes, leading to changes in brain volume and connectivity
 - Deficits in cognitive and executive functioning, including processing speed, sustained attention, working memory, judgment and planning, problem-solving, decision-making, and self-regulation
 - A decline in academic GPA and higher rates of school absenteeism
 - High correlation with adverse mental health outcomes, including depression; an increase in suicide ideation, attempts and completion; and early-onset psychosis
 - Use can lead to both physical and psychological dependence, meeting the DSM-5 criteria for substance use disorder.
 - Napa County prevention and intervention efforts are provided by school Wellness Centers, Aldea & UpValley Family Centers school programs about substance use, SOAR, Aldea's early onset psychosis treatment program, and Mentis' Teens Connect programs and events. While these programs address substance use, the Behavioral Health Board believes that more youth and parental education about the physical, social, and mental impacts of cannabis on youth is necessary.

Recommendations: The Behavioral Health Work Group recommends the following actions:

- Napa Valley Unified School District should consider the teacher resource for course development, the "Cannabis Awareness and Prevention Toolkit" produced by the Stanford School of Medicine, a compressed curriculum with accompanying lesson plans, discussion guides, suggested quizzes, etc. The curriculum is separately adapted for elementary, middle and high school classrooms.
- Napa Valley Unified School District should consider adding one or more additional course offerings in upper class years, where the incidence of cannabis use and abuse increases.
- The Behavioral Health Board should consider a future Workgroup to assess school-based behavioral health resources; and incorporate the schools in its annual site visit process.
- The Board of Supervisors consider appointing a group to evaluate additional means and methods to interrupt the presently free-flowing supply of cannabis and cannabis paraphernalia to underage people in our County.

Goals & Accomplishments cont'd...

2. **Goal:** *Review and comment on the county's performance outcome data and communicate its findings to the California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CMHPC) [WIC 5604.2 (a)(7)]*

Accomplishments:

- The Board completed the California Behavioral Health Planning Council's 2024 Data Notebook questionnaire in collaboration with members of Napa County's Behavioral Health Division.
- In 2024, the Planning Council's Data Notebook focused on two topics, 1) Homelessness in the Public Behavioral Health System and 2) County Specific Performance Outcomes Data. The Planning Council will aggregate these data to understand state-wide performance and county comparisons. Key findings for Napa County include:
 - Napa County collects data on **housing status** of individuals currently receiving services in the behavioral health system and provides a wide range of supports to provide housing to those individuals, including, case management services; health or social services access/navigation services, Medication-Assisted Treatment, enhanced care management and community supports; rental subsidies; housing vouchers; transitional and temporary housing; peer support; wellness centers; and full-service partnerships.
 - Napa County Behavioral Health currently collects the following **performance indicators** for all adult beneficiaries: employment status; criminal justice involvement; housing status; psychiatric hospitalizations; Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Conservatorship; self-reported wellness; and overall patient satisfaction.
 - Napa County Behavioral Health collects the following information for child and youth beneficiaries: criminal justice involvement; housing status; psychiatric hospitalizations; school attendance/absenteeism; academic engagement; classroom behavior; social functioning and community connectedness; self-reported wellness; and overall patient satisfaction.
 - Napa County uses this information to evaluate the effectiveness of programs; make changes in spending; make changes in program planning; inform partners and stakeholders; advocate for policy changes; and determine how to engage in community outreach.

3. **Goal:** *Review and approve the procedures used to ensure citizen and professional involvement at all stages of the planning process [WIC 5604.2 (a)(4)].*

Accomplishments:

- The Behavioral Health Board met in person for all of its regularly scheduled meetings.
- The April meeting was held in American Canyon to facilitate attendance from residents in that community. The American Canyon meeting addressed the American Canyon Student Mental Health Access Programs. Several community members attended the meeting.
- Meeting Agendas were and are publicly posted on the Napa County website:
[Agenda Center • Napa County, CA • CivicEngage](#)
- The public was invited to attend and participate in all monthly BHB meetings. The Behavioral Health Board sent flyers announcing meetings and speaking topics to county and local elected officials, local government leaders, behavioral health related non-profits, and faith leaders for posting at their place of business. This community outreach was effective in generating public attendance, with the largest public attendance being 20 people.
- Public comments, concerns, and questions were received from members of the public attending meetings during the year.

4. **Goal:** *Review any county agreement entered into pursuant to Section 5650 of the Welfare & Institutions Code.*

Accomplishments:

- The BHB reviewed the following contracts, agreements, reports, and applications during FY 2024-2025:
 - Napa County BH Division's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) FY24-25 Update to the 3-yr FY23-24 to FY25-26 Plan
 - Contracts for all site visit locations: Aldea's Wolfe Center; Archway Residential SUD Program; COPE Family Center; Seneca Health Services; St. Helena Hospital Mental Health Unit; Ugima Recovery Services (San Pablo); and Davis Guest Home (Modesto).

B. Objective: *Maintain an active, involved Behavioral Health Board.*

1. **Goal:** *Achieve full BHB membership that reflects the diversity of the populations served.*

Accomplishments:

- On June 30, 2025, the BHB had 13 members, including behavioral health consumers (38%), family members (23%), and interested/concerned citizens (15%). The remaining members include a local agency educator, a transition aged youth (18-25), and a member of the Board of Supervisors, as required by the Behavioral Health Services Act, California WIC 5604. The board had an opening for a Veteran/Veteran Advocate and one other position.

Goals & Accomplishments cont'd...

- The Behavioral Health Board continues to work toward adequately representing the demographic composition of the community.
2. **Goal:** *Maintain a high attendance and participation at all BHB meetings, including all committees and/or workgroups.*
Accomplishments:
- Board Meetings were held monthly without exception, and a quorum was established at all but one meeting. Board member attendance ranged from 47% to 100%, with average attendance at 73%.
 - The Executive Committee also met monthly without exception, and a quorum was established at all meetings (100%). Executive Member attendance ranged from 60% to 100%. Average attendance was 81%.
- C. **Objective:** *Maintain an active, involved Behavioral Health Board.*
3. **Goal:** *Maintain representation on appropriate local, regional, and state boards, committees, councils, etc., and report regularly to the Behavioral Health Board.*
Accomplishments: Behavioral Health Board members served as liaisons on the following committees, boards and commissions.
- **Napa County Community Corrections Partnership:** Rob Palmer
 - **Commission on Aging:** Kristine Haataja
 - **Continuum of Care:** Patricia Sullivan
 - **Behavioral Health Division Cultural Competence Committee:** Victoria Spencer
 - **Live Healthy Napa County:** Rob Palmer, Etta Williams
 - **Napa County Suicide Prevention Council:** Bill Chadwick
 - **Behavioral Health Division Quality Improvement/Utilization Review Committee:** Patricia Sullivan, Elisabeth Brumley
 - **Napa County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council:** Rob Palmer, Marion Villalba
 - **Behavioral Health Division Stakeholders Advisory Committee:** Patricia Sullivan
 - **California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions:** Kristine Haataja is a Greater Bay Area representative to the Governing Board of the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards/Commissions (CALBHB/C).
4. **Goal:** *Complete 100% of site visits.*
Accomplishments:
- The Behavioral Health Board completed 7 scheduled site visits during FY 2024-2025. This is the first year that the Behavioral Health Board included substance use (SUD) programs/facilities among their site visits. The programs and facilities included:
 - Aldea – Wolfe Center (Youth Substance Use Program), Napa
 - Archway – Napa State Hospital (not associated), (Residential SUD Program), Napa
 - COPE Family Center (Pathways to Mental Health & Strengthening Families Programs), Napa
 - Seneca Health Services (Youth Hi Fidelity Wraparound – SUD), Napa
 - St Helena Hospital Mental Health Unit (Hospital Psychiatric Unit), St Helena
 - Ugima Recovery Services (Residential Perinatal SUD Unit) San Pablo
 - Davis Guest House (Adult Residential - Enhanced Board & Care), Modesto
5. **Goal:** *Provide training opportunities to BHB Members*
Accomplishments:
- Members were notified of all online Quarterly training opportunities provided by CALBHB/C and encouraged to attend.
 - Board members participated in the following training:
 - How to Be an Effective Behavioral Health Board: Kristine Haataja, Sandra Oliva
 - Community Engagement & Unconscious Bias: Kristine Haataja, Liz Marks
 - Chair & Admin Liaison Training: Patricia Sullivan, Sandra Oliva
 - Updated the “Mental Health Board Member Guide” to be a “Behavioral Health Board Member Guide.” The Guide is posted on the County’s website on the Behavioral Health Board web page.

Meet the Board Members



Kristine Haataja was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2015 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024 and was currently chair of the BHB. She has previously served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Mental Health Board and has served on several workgroups, including School-based Mental Health, Member Recruitment, Community Outreach, and several Behavioral Health Planning Council Data Notebooks. She holds a BA in Sociology from Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota and an MBA from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Ms. Haataja was a Consumer Insights & Strategy Consultant for corporations and consulting firms for over 35 years, retiring in 2015. She is passionate about mental health intervention in early childhood and adolescence, based upon her lived experience raising a child with serious mental health issues. In 2019, Ms. Haataja was elected to the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards and Commissions (CALBHB/C) representing the Bay Area, where she serves as Secretary/Treasurer.



Patricia Sullivan was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2021 Behavioral Health Board in March 2024, representing those who live with mental health conditions. Ms. Sullivan is the current Vice Chair of the BHB. Her personal life experiences have given her a sense of compassion and empathy for others facing mental health challenges. Ms. Sullivan is a strong proponent of the benefits of peer support for mental health consumers. Since 2016, she has worked as an Independent Living Advocate at the Napa Office Disability Services & Legal Center, where she assists seniors and people with disabilities. Since 2013, she has been a volunteer with Community Health Napa Valley. Ms. Sullivan holds a bachelor's degree in Hospitality Management from Nova Southeastern University and has completed both Culinary Arts and Accelerated Wine and Beverage Programs at The Culinary Institute of America.



Liz Alessio is a fourth-generation Napa native whose family has called the valley home for over 140 years. Public service is in her roots—her great-great grandfather served as a Napa County Supervisor from 1901 to 1904. With over two decades of experience in healthcare, Liz specialized in public health and community benefit programs. Elected to the Napa City Council in 2018, she championed initiatives to improve health equity and community well-being. In 2024, Liz was elected to the Napa County Board of Supervisors representing District 2. She took office in January 2025, prioritizing expanded access to behavioral health and substance use disorder services. Supervisor Alessio serves on multiple regional and county boards, including the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council, Napa County Behavioral Health Board, Childcare & Development Planning Council, Napa Valley Transportation Authority, Workforce Alliance of the North Bay, Climate Action Committee, and the Napa Valley Tourism Improvement Local Governing Committee. Outside her official duties, Liz continues her deep community involvement through leadership service on the Suicide Prevention Council, Napa County Historical Society, and the Napa County Working Families Coalition. She founded the Napa County Community Infant/Childcare Coalition in 2025 to address the local childcare crisis and advocate for expanded access to licensed care. She actively supports veterans and active-duty service members of the Armed Forces through Operation: With Love from Home and proudly hosts an annual Harvest Hoedown fundraiser benefiting local nonprofits. Liz's lifelong commitment to public service is driven by her passion for the health, well-being, and future of Napa County.



Elisabeth Brumley was appointed to the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024 and served on the Advisory Board for Alcohol and Drug Services since 2023. Ms. Brumley has been a member of the Napa community for 40 years, raising two children, and working as a teacher for the Napa County Office of Education. She continues to advocate for early childhood inclusion and accessibility. Ms. Brumley retired as an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher in 2019 after 33 years of service. Her interest in the Behavioral Health Board is based on her experience as a teacher of children with special needs, working with families, and her own family's mental health needs.



Greg Clark was appointed to the Advisory Board on Alcohol and Drugs in 2023 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024, where he is a representative of the Recovering Community. He is a former Napa County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures, retired in 2018 after serving our community for over 18 years and nearly 30 years in county government. Mr. Clark has a bachelor of science degree (Agricultural Science/Viticulture) from California State University, Fresno, and a master's degree (Public Administration) from San Jose State University. He previously served on ABAD since the early 2000s and looks forward to representing the interests of the entire community as it relates to behavioral health and substance abuse. In retirement Mr. Clark volunteers with several nonprofits, including the board of directors of the Napa Farmer's Market, the Jack L. Davies Napa Valley Agricultural Land Preservation Fund, and with animal rescue ranch Jameson Humane.



Jeff Dickinson was appointed to the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. He holds a BA in Communications from Loyola of Los Angeles University. Mr. Dickinson is a retired pilot from Southwest Airlines where he flew for 34 years. As an Executive Officer for SWA's Pilots Association, Mr. Dickinson helped develop an EAP Program for impaired pilots and appeared before a Congressional fact-finding board as an SME on alcohol and drug abuse and testing prior to implementation in the airline industry. Mr. Dickinson served in the US Air Force for 11 years in Active Duty and Reserve Status. He and his wife have lived in Napa for 34 years. They have been active in the recovery community for the past 38 years, sponsoring individuals locally and being of service regionally and nationally.



Jasper Lowell was appointed to the Napa County Behavioral Health Board in March 2025 to represent transition aged youth, 18-25. As a young teenager, Jasper struggled with substance abuse as a coping mechanism to unresolved trauma and processing issues. His path to recovery sparked the desire to be of service to others, especially those who struggle with behavioral health issues. He wants to bring to the board real insight into the challenges of young adults.

Jasper graduated from Valley Oak High School in Napa in the fall of 2022. He is currently working part-time as an EMT - Technical Rescuer while studying to become a Nurse and Paramedic with a heavy concentration on Behavioral Health. Jasper currently volunteers as a coach for the Napa BMX Racing League. Beyond teaching kids how to be successful on the track, he enjoys showing them how to reach their goals through patience, confidence and resilience.



Liz Marks was appointed to the Behavioral Health Board in March 2025. She moved to Napa in 2000, bringing a deep commitment to building compassionate communities. She helped launch the St. Helena and American Canyon Family Centers through One Family Network, then joined Cope Family Center in 2006 as Major Gifts Officer, raising critical funds for families in crisis. From 2013 to 2016, Liz consulted for nonprofits including The Salvation Army, Children's Nurturing Project, and Sonoma State's Lifelong Learning Program. In 2016, she became Development Director at Mentis, where she led a successful capital campaign to open the Mentis Wellness Center, expanding access to mental health services. After retiring in 2024, Liz continues to serve her community through the Senior Advisory Commission, P.E.O., and her Methodist church. She's a proud grandmother, avid Mah Jongg player, and curious traveler, embracing this new chapter with love, purpose, and joy.



Sandra Oliva was appointed to the Behavioral Health Board in March 2025. She holds a BA in Biology from Sonoma State University and a Masters of Public Health from Touro University. She serves on the board because of the significant impact behavioral health conditions have had on her life and desires to be a part of resolving local behavioral health needs. Sandra works as an Analyst at Napa County Health and Human Services within the fiscal division. She has extensive experience in non-profit management. As executive director of Share the Care Napa Valley, Sandra turned a grassroots organization into a brick-and-mortar nonprofit with a dedicated staff and volunteer base enabling community members increased access to free medical equipment and supplies. During her five years at Mentis as senior operations manager, she developed systems to streamline administrative processes and oversaw the installation of new computer equipment agency-wide and data migration to cloud storage.



Rob Palmer was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2019 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. He is a former chair and vice chair of the Napa County Mental Health Board and has served on several Data Notebook workgroups. Mr. Palmer is a retired lawyer whose practice focused on litigation matters and, in recent years, on representing at-risk clients in human rights and refugee asylum cases. He and his wife Mary live in Yountville, close to two of their three grown daughters and three grandchildren, who live in Napa. Before coming to California in 1995, Mr. Palmer practiced law in Washington, DC, and in Phoenix, AZ, where he also served on the board and is a past president of the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest.



Shauna Tackett was appointed to the Mental Health Board in April 2023 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. She is a Lead Peer Mentor at Innovations Community Center where she works with individuals who live with mental health disorders and substance abuse, as well as homelessness. She has actively worked on her own recovery from these issues for the last 7 and a half years. Ms. Lewis is driven to give back to her community and to help advocate for others that are suffering in these areas.



Marion Villalba was appointed to the Mental Health Board in November 2023 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. She holds a BS in Psychology and an MS in Forensic Psychology. Ms. Villalba has worked with at-risk youth and incarcerated adults for over 20 years in California, New Mexico, and Oregon. She has a passion for helping those who experience different livelihoods, viewpoints, and perspectives to feel needed and appreciated. Her favorite position was working with Native American youth in developing visions beyond their current situation. Ms. Villalba's ultimate goal is to open an at-risk youth facility to help students thrive in different areas of interest. Her motto is: "There is a place for every mindset, every dream, and every passion; all we need to do is know how to get there in the right way."



Etta Williams was appointed to the Mental Health Board in November 2023 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. She has been an education professional for 20 years, and spent a decade in the classroom, with a focus on early childhood education. After moving to Napa, she completed a Masters in Communication Sciences and is a California licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. Ms. Williams focused on toddlers and preschool-aged children of our most at-risk populations with language and developmental delays and neurodivergence diagnoses. She is currently Director of Advancement for Blue Oak School, which allows her to focus on the development and growth of an innovative and inclusive educational option in the Napa Valley. She joined the BHB to support the development of services for children and the LGBTQIA+ population.

Members Leaving the Board During the Past Year

Thank you for serving on the Behavioral Health Board!



Ryan Gregory joined the Mental Health Board in 2018 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. He was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2016. Prior to election, he was Vice President and Owner of the local civil engineering firm RSA+. During his 20-year professional career, Supervisor Gregory was a leader in the local engineering field with a specialty in the planning, design, and construction of residential projects for both nonprofit and for-profit builders. Mr. Gregory's community involvement includes being the former Chair for the Napa Chamber of Commerce and Community Action Napa Valley, Leadership Napa Valley, Napa Engineers Society, and the Kiwanis Club of Napa. Mr. Gregory was a member of the Vine Trail Engineering Committee, Joint City-County Affordable Housing Taskforce, the Airport Industrial Area Blue Ribbon Committee, the City of Napa Housing Element Update Committee 2007 & 2014, the County Transportation and Planning Agency's Highway 29 Citizens Advisory Committee, and the Downtown Napa Specific Plan Steering Committee. He continues to serve Napa County through service to the Boys & Girls Club of Napa Valley, the Downtown Property and Business Improvement District, Brother Can You Spare A Dime, and the Napa Composite High School Mt. Bike Team.



Jenna Bolyarde was appointed to the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. She currently works to improve the San Francisco Homelessness Response System through philanthropic investments. Prior to this, she oversaw the housing programs for the local homelessness provider in Napa. She has served as a person with lived experience on multiple boards in Napa County, as well as nationally since she sobered in 2013. Ms. Bolyarde has lived in Napa since 1994 and graduated from Napa High School. She has researched many of the punitive systems in Napa from a client perspective and has used this knowledge to help others navigate complex systems. She is passionate about mental health as she believes that this is where a person's actions originate.



William (Bill) Chadwick was appointed to the Napa County Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. He previously served on the Napa County Advisory Board for Alcohol and Drug Services. Mr. Chadwick holds an undergraduate degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point and an MBA from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. He is a decorated combat veteran. Mr. Chadwick is a lecturer with the School of International Graduate Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, consults with international ministries of defense and presents graduate level seminars to military personnel around the world. He is a longtime volunteer at the California Veterans Home-Yountville and mentors veterans in recovery. He serves as a recruiter for applicants to USMA at West Point (on behalf of U.S. Congressman Mike Thompson), served on the Napa County Housing Commission, and is a former Planning Commissioner for the City of Napa.



Elmer Manaid was appointed to the Mental Health Board in July 2023 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. He has over 20 years of experience as a Psychiatric Nurse working directly with people with mental and developmental disabilities under different capacities for the CA Department of Developmental Services and the CA Department of State Hospitals. Mr. Manaid currently works as an Independent Contractor for the State of California providing residential supports to developmentally disabled adults. As an immigrant of Filipino descent, he hopes to contribute meaningful insights regarding the cultural aspects related to behavioral health outreach and treatment.



Rose Sheehan was appointed to the Mental Health Board in November 2023 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. She grew up in a military family and lived in both domestic and international locations. Ms. Sheehan holds a BS degree in engineering from The College of New Jersey, a Masters Degree in Corporate Management/International Business from Golden Gate University and recently graduated from the CSU East Bay Nonprofit Management Program. Ms. Sheehan previously worked in the Biotech/ Pharmaceutical industries leading teams in developing lifesaving products and therapies. Currently, she produces and hosts programs and content focused on government, business, and community issues for local public access stations and other media.



Victoria Spencer was appointed to the Mental Health Board in July 2023 and the Behavioral Health Board in March 2024. She earned a BA in international human rights at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and a JD from William Mitchell College of Law also in St. Paul, Minnesota. Ms. Spencer has a deep passion for advocating for those in need of mental and behavioral health services based upon her personal experience of growing up with an LGBTQ+ sibling who developed severe mental health issues, alcohol and substance addiction after many years of bullying. She is a consumer of mental health services after being a survivor of domestic. Ms. Spencer believes no one is untouched by behavioral health issues and serves on the Board to ensure everyone in need has access to appropriate care.



Orion Taraban was appointed to the Mental Health Board in 2022 and the Behavioral Health Board in 2024 and currently serves on the Executive Committee. Dr. Taraban earned his master's degree and doctorate in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. He is a licensed psychologist, has served on the faculties of psychology departments in the Bay Area, and has widely published in several academic journals. In his private practice, Dr. Taraban works with adults and adolescent boys, specializing in men's mental health. Dr. Taraban is the creator of PsychHacks, a short-form podcast inspired by his clinical practice, available on all major distribution platforms.

Acknowledgements

Witness Program Thank you to Cassandra Eslami, Behavioral Health Director, to Sandra Null, Senior Office Assistant, and to the entire Behavioral Health Division Staff and supporting agencies.

Thanks also to guest speakers, community partners, and community members for information and support this year:

Coach Bailie, Program Director, LGBTQ Connection
Steven Boyd, Progress Foundation
Jean Cramer, Serenity Homes of Napa Valley
Jason Farrell, Serenity Homes of Napa Valley
Tracy Lamb, Executive Director, NEWS - Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse Services
Roxana Plancarte, NVUSD Wellness Program
Dr. Monica Ready, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support Services
Oliver Rosenberg, COO, Downey Community Health Center
Jessica Solano, Courage Center
Jennifer Stewart, Executive Director, Napa Valley Education Foundation
Michele Farhat, Executive Director, Monarch Justice Center

Napa County Health & Human Services Behavioral Health Division Staff:

Felix Bedolla, MHSA Project Manager
Erica Basulto, Supervising Office Assistant
Valerie Cahill, Behavioral Health Manager
Nathan Hobbs, Assistant Deputy Director of Behavioral Health
Daisy Ilano, MD, Psychiatry
Lynette Lawrence, Provider Services Coordinator
Ariel Quijas, Secretary-Behavioral Health
Brian Roy, CARE Act Supervisor
Marlo Simmons, Assistant Deputy Director of Behavioral Health
Chealsea Stoner, Assistant Deputy Director of Behavioral Health
Tracy Ulitin, ADS Network Supervisor-Residential Coordinator

Napa County Health & Human Services Staff:

Kimberly Danner, Chief Fiscal Officer, Health & Human Services Agency
Jennifer Yasumoto, Agency Director, Health & Human Services Agency

Other Napa County Staff:

Erin Harper, District Attorney's Victim
Dell Pratt, Napa County Veterans Services Officer
Kate Susemihl, Napa County Deputy District Attorney

Thank you to everyone in the community who works to provide the best behavioral health care system possible to the children and adults of Napa County!