



Department of Behavioral Health

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Tony Hobson, Ph.D., Director
Alcohol and Drug Administrator

buttecounty.net/behavioralhealth

August 28, 2026

Disability Rights California
Attn: Coty Meibeyer
1831 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Re: BCBH Response to DRC's Investigation and Findings, Butte County Jail and Behavioral Health Systems

To Whom it May Concern:

Butte County Behavioral Health (BCBH) appreciates the opportunity to respond to the information contained in the Disability Rights California (DRC) Investigation and Findings letter dated August 3, 2026. BCBH takes seriously the issues identified in the findings and remains committed to strengthening coordination, continuity of care, re-entry services, and access to behavioral health resources for individuals involved with the Butte County Jail system.

Interagency Records and Information Sharing

With respect to the finding concerning interagency records and information sharing (p. 30), BCBH would like to provide additional information regarding efforts undertaken to strengthen communication and coordination among BCBH, the Butte County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) and Wellpath.

On November 4, 2025, BCBH, BCSO, and Wellpath leadership met to review concerns related to care coordination and records and information sharing. Following that collaborative discussion, BCBH issued a department memorandum on November 5, 2025, outlining expectations regarding care coordination and information sharing with Wellpath. The memorandum was communicated to relevant BCBH teams working with Wellpath and was also shared with Wellpath staff directly. On March 9, 2026, BCBH contacted BCSO and Wellpath leadership to obtain an update regarding coordination efforts and to ensure that the work identified during the November meeting was continuing. Wellpath reported that records and information sharing were ongoing at that time, with no issues identified.

In addition, beginning March 2025 and continuing through June 2026, BCBH maintained regular communication with Wellpath senior leadership, including Cody Sutherland, regarding implementation of Wellpath's Jail-Based Re-Entry Services Program. These discussions included identifying appropriate pathways and mechanisms for effective care

coordination and continuity of care. BCBH encouraged Wellpath to enroll in SacValley Med Share, BCBH's Health Information Exchange platform, and provided information regarding mechanisms for obtaining appropriate authorizations to release information and share records as part of the re-entry process. BCBH has also continued to participate in regular meetings and case discussions facilitated by BCSO, Wellpath and other County departments to address the needs of individuals transitioning between the jail and community behavioral health systems.

BCBH recognizes that effective information sharing and communication among these systems are essential to ensuring continuity of care, and we remain committed to identifying and addressing barriers as they arise.

Referrals, Re-Entry, and Coordination with BCBH Outpatient Services

BCBH has taken several steps to increase capacity and strengthen the process for connecting justice-involved individuals with appropriate behavioral health services.

During FY 2025/26, BCBH added nine positions to its Forensic team to increase capacity to serve Mental Health Diversion and AB 109 clients, and to expand supportive services related to jail-based assessments and re-entry care coordination. Throughout BCBH's meetings with Wellpath leadership, BCBH provided information regarding its 24/7 Access Line, which is staffed by BCBH employees 24/7 and provides a resource for individuals and providers seeking behavioral health services and assistance with accessing care.¹ Additionally, BCBH is subject to regular state monitoring of our 24/7 Access Line through the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), which includes after hours (e.g., before 8:00am and after 5:00pm test calls to ensure 24/7 Access), and our Quality, Compliance, and Performance Division regularly monitors access through after hours test calls. BCBH has received no internal or state deficiencies for failure to answer the 24/7 Access Line during any after-hours call. BCBH encouraged Wellpath discharge staff to utilize the Access Line to facilitate scheduling of appointments outside regular business hours or when assigned BCBH Forensic staff were unavailable for consultation or coordination.

BCBH also began meeting bi-weekly with Wellpath discharge planners to facilitate coordination, assessments, and linkages to appropriate services. Wellpath was provided with contact information for BCBH leadership, including substance use treatment staff, to facilitate communication and consultation regarding available services. BCBH also made efforts to participate in the Quarterly Quality Assurance meetings hosted by BCSO and Wellpath. BCBH also receives daily and weekly emails from BCSO that include arrest logs, requests for records and information sharing, as well as discharge coordination. This communication has been centralized through a single shared email address (DBH-Forensics@buttecounty.ca.gov) which is regularly monitored by BCBH to ensure timely and effective coordination of services.

BCBH has continued regular coordination with County Counsel and the Public Defender's Office to identify opportunities for process improvement and greater efficiencies in

¹ The 24/7 Access Line website can be found here: <https://www.buttecounty.net/162/Get-Started>.

connecting eligible individuals with Mental Health Diversion services following the appropriate court proceedings. With County support, BCBH implemented streamlined screening and assessment tools in 2025 designed to reduce assessment timeframes while maintaining clinical standards and fidelity. Combined with the addition of nine Forensic positions, these efforts have expanded BCBH's capacity to provide assessment, care coordination, and linkage to appropriate services for qualifying individuals.

BCBH remains committed to continuing to elevate these processes and to working collaboratively with Wellpath, BCSO, the courts, and other County partners to improve continuity of care during the transition from incarceration to community-based services.

Housing Support

BCBH has also pursued additional housing resources to address the needs of individuals with complex behavioral health and justice-system involvement.

BCBH was awarded Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) funding, which supported the opening of three additional adult residential facilities in Butte County. These facilities are required to give priority placement to individuals eligible for CARE Court and also provide additional housing resources for the forensic population. BCBH was also awarded Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial Infrastructure funding, and has worked with BCSO and other County stakeholders to develop a 50-bed transitional housing site in Oroville, California. This site is intended to provide a safe and structured transitional housing option for individuals found incompetent to stand trial on felony charges, as well as other qualifying justice-involved individuals.

In addition to these support services, BCBH also has a 10-bed Crisis Residential Treatment Facility that provides co-ed supportive services in lieu of hospitalization for adults 18 and over, as well as a 24/7 Sobering Center that also provides a path for individuals to receive substance use treatment support, case management, and referral, in lieu of incarceration for drug based offenses. The Sobering Center provides services to anyone regardless of insurance status and has been in operation in Butte County since August 2025. For youth that may be involved in crisis events, BCBH works with a local provider to operate a short-term, intensive Hospital Alternatives Program for youth ages 0-17, which also provides support after traditional business hours and on weekends for youth and families.

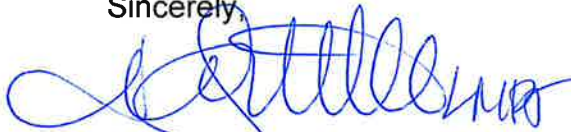
Conclusion

BCBH appreciates the opportunity to provide this additional information regarding the steps that have been and continue to be taken to strengthen coordination and continuity of behavioral health care for individuals transitioning between the Butte County Jail and community-based services.

BCBH recognizes that effective coordination among County departments, Wellpath, community providers, courts, and other partners is an ongoing process. We remain committed to working collaboratively with County and State partners, including Disability

Rights California, to identify opportunities for continued improvement and to support individuals with complex behavioral and environmental needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Stofa', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

Jennifer Stofa, LMFT
Assistant Director, Clinical Services

Encl: Quality & Compliance Oversight Division Memorandum, dated 11/05/2025

Cc: Tony Hobson, Director Department of Behavioral Health
Brunella Wood, Chief Deputy County Counsel