



2020 West El Camino Avenue, Suite 800  
Sacramento, CA 95833  
hcai.ca.gov



## California Health Workforce Education and Training Council (Council) AGENDA

February 26, 2025, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
February 27, 2025, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The Council may not discuss or act on any matter raised during the public comment section that is not included on this agenda, except to place the matter on a future meeting agenda. (Government Code §§ 11125, 11125.7, subd. (a).)

### Location:

2020 West El Camino Ave, Conference Room 900, Sacramento, CA 95833

### Day 1

Microsoft Teams Link for Public Participation

[Click to join the meeting now](#)

Call in Line (audio only): 1-916-535-0978

Conference ID: 385 494 168#

### Day 2

Microsoft Teams Link for Public Participation

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Call in Line (audio only): 1-916-535-0978

Conference ID: 237 929 367#

### Day 1 Agenda, Wednesday, February 26, 2025

- Item #1      **Call to Order**  
Facilitator: Van Ton-Quinlivan, Chair
  
- Item #2      **Swearing in of New Council Members**  
Swearing in of Patrick Brennan and Anthony Cordova  
Facilitator: Elizabeth Landsberg, HCAI Director
  
- Item #3      **Roll Call**  
Facilitator: Naomi Kozak, HCAI Staff
  
- Item #4      **Black Liberation Statement**  
Presenter: Elizabeth Landsberg, Director, HCAI

Item #5      **Approval of September 2024 and November 2024 Meeting Minutes**  
Vote to approve September and November 2024 minutes  
Facilitator: Van Ton-Quinlivan, Chair

Item #6      **Amendment of June 2024 Meeting Minutes**  
Vote to amend June 2024 minutes to include public comments  
Facilitator: Van Ton-Quinlivan, Chair

Item #7      **HCAI Director Remarks**  
HCAI updates related to the proposed FY 2025-26 Governor’s Budget, Office of Health Care Affordability, and Health Payments Database.  
Presenter: Elizabeth Landsberg, Director, HCAI

Item #8      **HCAI Workforce Program Update**  
Overview of HCAI Health Workforce Program actions to support LA fires response and recovery. Introduction of new Health Workforce Program Assistant Deputy Director. Overview of Governor’s Budget implications for Health Workforce Program. Overview of winter 2024/2025 activities  
Presenter: Libby Abbott, Deputy Director, HCAI

**LUNCH**

Item #9      **Behavioral Health Workforce Funding Opportunities and BH-CONNECT Workforce Initiative Deep Dive**  
a. Overview of Behavioral Health Services Act and BH-CONNECT  
Presenter: Paula Wilhelm, Deputy Director for Behavioral Health, Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)  
b. BH-CONNECT Workforce Initiative  
Presenter: Sharmil Shah, Branch Chief, Behavioral Health and Policy, HCAI  
c. 2026-2030 Five-Year Behavioral Health Services Act Workforce Education and Training (WET) Plan Update  
Presenter: Sharmil Shah, Branch Chief, Behavioral Health and Policy, HCAI

Item #10     **General Public Comment**  
Facilitator: Nancy Samra, HCAI Staff

Item #11     **Recess Day 1 Meeting**  
Facilitator: Van Ton-Quinlivan, Chair

**Day 2 Agenda, Thursday, February 27, 2025**

Item #12     **Call to Order**  
Facilitator: Van Ton-Quinlivan, Chair

Item #13     **Roll Call**  
Facilitator: Naomi Kozak, HCAI Staff

Item #14     **Expanding California’s Behavioral Health Workforce through Targeted Pathway Investments**  
Overview of collaborative project exploring targeted investments in pathway programs to diversify and expand California’s behavioral health workforce  
Presenter: Meg Ziemann, MPH, Research Scientist, Fitzhugh Mullan for Health Workforce Equity, Department of Health Policy & Management, Milken Institute School of Public Health, The George Washington University

Item #15     **Role of Allied Health Professionals in Behavioral Health Transformation**  
a. Recap of previous Council discussions on the role of allied health professionals and capacity to develop the workforce in behavioral health  
Presenter: Hovik Khosrovian, Senior Policy Advisor, HCAI  
b. Behavioral Health Transformation and evidence-based strategies for team-based approaches for workforce development  
Presenter: Ivan Bhardwaj, Division Chief, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health—Policy Division, DHCS, and Uzma Rahman, Branch Chief, Special Medi-Cal Projects Branch, Medi-Cal Behavioral Health—Policy Division, DHCS  
c. Panel discussion on the role of Allied Health Professionals in Behavioral Health  
Panelists: Oscar Axume Cortez, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, Level 1, Tarzana Treatment Centers; Jason Robison, Board Member, California Association of Mental Health Peer-Run Organizations; Diana White, Phd, LMFT, LPCC, Chief Executive Officer, Turning Point Community Programs

**LUNCH**

Item #16     **BH-CONNECT Medi-Cal Behavioral Health Recruitment and Retention Program Deep Dive**  
a. Program overview including terms and conditions  
Presenter: Sharmil Shah, Branch Chief, Behavioral Health and Policy, HCAI  
b. Panel discussion on insights and learnings from HCAI’s Community-Based Organization Behavioral Health Workforce Grant Program  
Panelists: Beverly Johnson, LCSW, Chief Operating Officer, Alternative Family Services, Inc.; Teddie Valenzuela, LCSW, Vice President, Amanecer Community Counseling Service; Dr. Ryan Quist, Behavioral Health Director of Sacramento County  
c. Council discussion on program considerations to maximize reach and impact  
Facilitator: Sharmil Shah, Branch Chief, Behavioral Health and Policy, HCAI

- Item #17     **Leveraging the Council to Impact Health Workforce Development in California**
- a. Council’s role: What do we mean by “impact”? Framework for three mechanisms for impact through Council activities and Council members. Influencing through the collective voice of the Council: proposal for an annual HWET Council letter.  
Presenter: Libby Abbott, Deputy Director, HCAI
  - b. Guidance for individual Council members re: external engagements  
Presenter: Nancy Samra, HCAI Staff

Item #18     **General Public Comment**  
Facilitator: Nancy Samra, HCAI Staff

Item #19     **Adjourn Day 2 Meeting**  
Facilitator: Van Ton-Quinlivan, Chair

Council Members: Abby Snay, M.Ed.  
Anthony Cordova, MBA  
Catherine Kennedy, RN  
Cedric Rutland, MD  
Deena McRae, MD  
Elizabeth Landsberg, JD  
Judith Liu, RN, MSN  
Katherine Flores, MD  
Kevin Grumbach, MD  
Kimberly Perris, DNP, RN, CNL, PHN  
Kristina Lawson, JD  
Michael Freeman, MBA  
Nader Nadershahi, DDS, MBA, EdD  
Patrick Brennan, MBA  
Rehman Attar, MPH  
Roger Liu, PhD  
Van Ton-Quinlivan, MBA  
Vernita Todd, MBA

HCAI Staff: Elizabeth Landsberg, Director  
Lemeneh Tefera, Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Director for  
Clinical Innovation  
Libby Abbott, Deputy Director  
Marissa Enos, Assistant Deputy Director  
Sharmil Shah, Behavioral Health and Policy Branch Chief  
Hovik Khosrovian, Senior Policy Advisor  
Jalaunda Granville, Policy Section Chief  
Janis Herbstman, Legal

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The Council may take action under any agenda item.

Every effort will be made to address each agenda item as listed. However, the agenda order is tentative and subject to change without prior notice. Items not listed on the agenda will not be considered. The Council may take a brief break during the meeting. Members of the public are NOT required to identify themselves or provide other information to attend or participate in this meeting. If Microsoft Teams (or other platform) requires a name, you may enter "Anonymous". You may also input fictitious information for other requested information if required to attend the meeting (e.g., [anonymous@anonymous.com](mailto:anonymous@anonymous.com)).

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#### Spanish/ Español

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#### Korean/ 한국어

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#### Chinese Simplified/簡體中文

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#### Tagalog/Tagalog

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#### Vietnamese/Tiếng Việt

Nếu quý vị cần trợ giúp để hiểu chương trình nghị sự của cuộc họp này, như cần dịch sang ngôn ngữ khác hoặc cần dịch vụ ngôn ngữ ký hiệu [HWETCouncil@hcai.ca.gov](mailto:HWETCouncil@hcai.ca.gov). Vui lòng cho chúng tôi biết ít nhất bảy ngày trước cuộc họp để chúng tôi có thể bố trí các dịch vụ mà quý vị cần.

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