

# Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

## February 19, 2025 Minutes DRAFT

MEETING DETAILS	
<b>Date/Time</b>	February 19, 2025 at 10:00am
<b>Venue</b>	Virtual through Zoom
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
<b>Present</b>	Robin Binford-Weaver, DJJ, Jason Lowe, DMAS, Tanya Nesgoda, DBHDS, Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS, Kristinne Stone, VDOE, Hannah Sower, NAMI, Nick Pappas, Peer, Bruce Cruser, MHA, Karen Grabowski, DHBDS, Dietrich Bragg, Brighter Days MH Services, Crsity Corbin, FSP of VA
<b>Guest(s)</b>	John Richardson-Lauve (St. Joseph's Villa), Maureen Diezman, doctoral student, An Major, DBHDS,
<b>Unexcused Absence</b>	Kate Flinn, Margie Millner, Dreamel Spady, Heather Pate, Sandra Nichols, Kristin Vaughn, Justin Wallace
<b>Excused Absence</b>	
<b>Minutes Taken By</b>	Justin Wallace, Secretary
<b>Presiding Officer</b>	Heather Orrock, President
<b>Order Called</b>	Council convened at 10:00am

Time	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-up (if applicable)
10:00am	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heather Orrock chairing meeting</li> </ul>	Presiding Officer: Heather Orrock
10:05am	Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No BHAC quorum – will approve at April meeting</li> </ul>	Voting Members
10:10am	Financial Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Previous Account Balance: \$15,738.83</li> <li>Income: \$975</li> <li>Current Expenditures:\$0.00</li> <li>End Balance: \$16,713.83</li> </ul>	Bruce Cruser
10:15am	Committee Updates		
	Governance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bruce presenting in place of Rhonda</li> <li>Met January 31<sup>st</sup>, working on bylaws</li> </ul>	Bruce Cruser (acting chair)  Follow-up:

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating policy and procedures as well as bylaws (started two separate processes for this)</li> <li>• Rhonda has contacted two attorneys for support with this</li> <li>• The Governance Committee will report out in a subsequent BHAC council meeting</li> <li>• Onboarding is set to continue end of March – will need to clarify next steps prior to next meeting</li> <li>• Technical assistance request moving forward – delayed due to federal pause</li> <li>• A meeting is scheduled for technical assistance and further updates will be provided once available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bylaws and policy/procedure update – identification of attorney support</li> <li>• Update on TA request</li> </ul>
	Monitoring & Evaluation Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Met January 15<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Reviewed Commissioner’s letter and drafted action items</li> <li>• Send a thankyou letter</li> <li>• Request information on why concern F was omitted</li> <li>• Request a timelier response in the future</li> <li>• Multiple DBHDS data dashboards will be coming online – may wish to provide the advocacy committee with some of this information once available</li> </ul>	<p>Kristinne Stone (Chair)</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft/send thank you letter</li> </ul>
	Advocacy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No members available to report out</li> </ul>	
10:45am	SAMHSA Block Grant Data Reporting Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data Sources include Community Service Boards (CSBs), State Hospitals, and Private Hospitals</li> <li>• Surveys are also an aspect of DHBDS data collection</li> </ul>	An Major, Senior Research and Evaluation Analyst, DBHDS

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look at a snapshot of individuals served by DBHDS and the behavioural health system annually</li> <li>• DBHDS uses a number of indicators to assess the behavioural health system</li> <li>• Receive CSB reporting monthly</li> <li>• Basic Client Information due December 1</li> <li>• State Hospital Readmissions due March 1</li> <li>• DBHDS is linking systems to track individuals throughout the behavioural health system (project underway in 2025)</li> <li>• Council discussed the value in combining DBHDS and VDH data to get a more complete picture of the behavioural health outcomes of Commonwealth citizens</li> <li>• Current DBHDS data systems are not able to track changes in diagnosis however the new system will be capable of doing this</li> <li>• Details on DBHDS quality assurance efforts can be found in the slide deck</li> </ul>	
11:15am	BHAC – Review BHAC Commissioner Letter Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified including a thankyou</li> <li>• Request to address point F which was omitted</li> <li>• Recommendation to invite individuals from the Commissioners office to attend future BHAC meetings</li> <li>• Can request a presentation on BHAC priority points from the letter at future meetings</li> <li>• Request update on employment support as it is a key area for recovery</li> </ul>	Nathanael Rudney
11:20am	Committee Group Breakout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee breakout postponed due to minimal membership representation</li> </ul>	Nathanael Rudney/Rita Utz

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggest holding a full BHAC committee discussion instead</li> </ul>	
11:20am	Full BHAC Committee Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General discussion on recruiting more non-state employees to the BHAC</li> <li>Explore outreach to Region 10 CSB to support BHAC work through their peer advocacy council</li> <li>Other regions also have peer advocacy councils that could support BHAC</li> <li>Potential to explore lived experience reimbursement for time</li> <li>Question on who currently staffs the advocacy committee – majority state employees which is a gap as peers would be better placed to support advocacy elements</li> <li>Reminder – advocacy is not lobbying. BHAC cannot send individuals to lobby assembly members but can engage in advocacy</li> <li>Reminder – you don’t have to identify as an advocate to advocate for BHAC related priorities</li> <li>Recommendation – BHAC may benefit from a buddy system to improve retention and engagement</li> </ul>	<p>Nathanael Rudney</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BHAC will request peer councils list from DHBDS</li> <li>Governance committee should review and develop recommendations for participation gaps</li> <li>Explore paying peers to support BHAC work</li> <li>Bruce – will speak with Rhonda about prioritizing membership at the next Governance committed meeting</li> </ul>
11:50am	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No comment</li> </ul>	Heather Orrock
12:00pm	Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion: Adjourn</li> </ul>	Heather Orrock
<b>Next Full Council Meeting: April 16th.</b>			

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