Utah Behavioral Health Commission
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2026, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Utah State Capitol Complex
Senate Building Room 110

Commission Chair: Ally Isom
Vice Chair: Tammer Attallah
Second Vice Chair: Kyle Snow

Commission Members:

Jim Ashworth
Mike Deal
Tracy Gruber
Jordan Sorenson
Adam Cohen
Evan Done
Elaine Navar
Josie White

	Time/Presenter	Discussion Topics
1	**1:00 - 1:10 pm:** Chair Ally Isom	**Welcome** **Approval of June 18, 2026, meeting minutes** • Motion to approve meeting minutes made by Mike Deal, seconded by Adam Cohen. Approval of June 18, 2026, meeting minutes passed unanimously. (*Action required: Vote*)
Workstream 1: Strategic planning		
2	**1:10 - 1:20 pm:** Chair Ally Isom	**Leadership Retreat Summary** • Chair Ally Isom provided a summary of the recent leadership retreat. She highlighted the commission's strategic alignment and emphasized a continued, overarching people-centered focus and outlook across all subcommittees and policy recommendations. (*Action required: None*)
3	**1:20 - 1:30 pm:** Megan West	**Review of the Scoring Process & Presentation of the Commissioners' Scores**

		● **Scoring Methodology Presentation:** Megan West presented an overview of how the 15 submitted legislative recommendations were evaluated following presentations on June 18, 2026. Commissioners completed voting on July 14, 2026. ● **Scoring Criteria Breakdown (Out of 100 points per recommendation; 1,000 total points across commissioners):** ○ **Strategic Alignment (25 Points):** Extent to which the proposal moves the needle on the Commission's strategic plan. ○ **Evidence of Problem (35 Points):** Proven need and supporting data. ○ **Likelihood of Success (25 Points):** Feasibility and probability of successful implementation. ○ **Cost-Effectiveness (15 Points):** Potential to reduce long-term systemic costs. (*Action required: None*)
4	**1:30 -2:45 pm:** Chair Ally Isom	Discussion, Final Ranking, and Voting of Legislative Recommendations **Budgetary Framework:** Tracy Gruber noted that the initial aggregate cost across all recommendations totaled $97,150,000 in one-time funding and $121,000,000 in ongoing funding. She urged the Commission to establish strict budgetary criteria, focusing strictly on "mandatory and critical" items. **Discussion on Post-Crisis Care & MCOT Scope (Recs #5 & #6):** ● **Josie White** advocated for prioritizing proactive crisis care over involuntary treatment, suggesting Recommendation #6 (Case management/follow-up) be moved ahead of Recommendation #5 (Involuntary medication). She expressed concern that individuals involuntarily medicated in county jails face sudden withdrawal upon release without structured post-crisis care. ● **Mike Deal & Pam Bennett (SUMH)** discussed rural versus urban implementation. Rural areas naturally utilize Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOTs) for post-crisis follow-up, whereas urban areas lack a singular provider, leading to individuals falling through the cracks. ● **Megan West** provided legal context: Rec #6 requires a

statutory update to Utah Code 26B-5; Rec #8 and #10 require statute updates; Rec #11 requires an administrative rule change only.

Detailed Discussion on Involuntary Medication in County Jails (Rec #5):

- **Kyle Snow & Megan West** clarified that the state would act as a central hub for legal and medical review, while county jails act as spokes—maintaining local care while establishing a uniform, legally defensible, medically necessary process.
- **Amanda Rapacz (USH)** explained the forensic necessity: Individuals with severe mental illness often refuse medication due to their condition and deteriorate in jail. Many await competency restoration; administering medication returns them to baseline, enabling trial readiness and avoiding long delays for USH forensic beds. She detailed the strict due process involved, including formal hearings with a patient advocate, a psychiatrist, two mental health professionals, and an appeals process.
- **Adam Cohen & Tim Whalen (SLCo)** noted that under the Justice Medicaid Waiver, 30 days of medication will be provided upon release. Tim Whalen added that Salt Lake County ACT teams actively visit jails to coordinate discharge meds, emphasizing that while difficult, stabilization drastically improves long-term outcomes and reduces hospital waitlists.

Motion – Structural Separation into Two Priority Lists:

- **Discussion:** To provide clarity to the Legislature, commissioners discussed separating non-funding policy changes from direct budget requests.
  - **Motion:** Divide all recommendations into two distinct lists: List A (Appropriations Requests) and List B (Policy/Statutory Changes).
  - **Moved by:** Jordan Sorenson
  - **Seconded by:** Adam Cohen
  - **Outcome:** Passed unanimously.

Motion – Private Commercial Insurance Directives (Recs #7 & #14):

- **Discussion:** Tammer Attallah recommended withdrawing mandates on commercial insurance reimbursement (Rec #7) and non-DSM-5 coverage (Rec #14) in favor of formal collaborative outreach. Tracy Gruber noted that the

		Department of Insurance confirmed commercial insurance accounts for only 30% of plans (most being self-insured), so a mandate would have limited reach. ○ **Motion:** Rescind Recommendations #7 and #14 from the legislative recommendations list and establish a dedicated Commission stakeholder group—chaired by Tammer Attallah—to engage private sector payers and employers directly. ○ **Moved by:** Tammer Attallah ○ **Seconded by:** Tracy Gruber ○ **Outcome:** Passed unanimously. **Motion – Directory & Network Adequacy (Recs #12 & #15):** ● **Discussion:** Commissioners discussed "ghost networks" and network adequacy. Megan West referenced the April 2025 OLAG workforce audit, which recommended that the Commission analyze directory options with the Department of Insurance before offering legislative solutions. ○ **Motion:** Withdraw Recommendations #12 ($100k) and #15 ($112M kindergarten class size limit) from the list to allow for preliminary analysis and avoid unintended market consequences. ○ **Moved by:** Tracy Gruber ○ **Seconded by:** Josie White ○ **Outcome:** Passed unanimously. **Motion – Final Approval of Policy / Non-Funding Recommendations:** ● **Motion:** Advance all four remaining non-funding policy items (Recommendations #8, #10, #11, and #13) to the Legislature. ○ **Moved by:** Tammer Attallah ○ **Seconded by:** Evan Done ○ **Outcome:** Passed unanimously. **Motion – Adjustments & Approval of Appropriations Recommendations:** ● **Supportive Housing Budget Adjustment (Rec #3):** Mike Deal, Tim Whalen, and Megan West clarified that county supportive housing requires ongoing operational Medicaid match funds. The request was updated from $8.3M one-time to $7.5M–$8.3M one-time (facility construction) plus $800,000 ongoing for operational match. ● **Streamlining Priorities:** Chair Ally Isom and Tammer Attallah reminded the Commission that state revenue is

		projected to be tight, and legislators requested a streamlined, hyper-prioritized list. ○ **Motion:** Amend the funding motion to strike Recommendations #5 ($374k) and #6 ($250k) from the fiscal list, and advance Recommendations #1, #2, #3 (as adjusted), #4, and #9. ○ **Moved by:** Kyle Snow ○ **Seconded by:** Tracy Gruber ○ **Outcome:** Passed (Jordan Sorenson voted nay, stating any cuts derelict commission duty). **Approved Legislative Recommendations Summary** **List A: Policy & Statutory Recommendations ($0 Fiscal Impact)** ● **Rank 8:** Reduce the risk of overdose death, improve recovery, and protect public safety by requiring substance use training for all first responders ○ **Funding Request:** $0 ● **Rank 10:** Establish standardized public safety answering point protocols for 911 to 988 transfers ○ **Funding Request:** $0 ● **Rank 11:** Improve law enforcement utilization of 988 by integrating required module content into the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training academy ○ **Funding Request:** $0 ● **Rank 13:** Amend the current "Temporary Commitment - Requirements and procedures", Utah Code 26B-5-331 ○ **Funding Request:** $0 **List B: Appropriations Recommendations** ● **Rank 1:** Expand the bed capacity of the Utah State Hospital ○ **Funding Request:** $88,800,000 (One-time) / $5,000,000 (Ongoing) ● **Rank 2:** Establish ongoing operational funding for two additional rural behavioral health receiving centers ○ **Funding Request:** $2,400,000 (Ongoing) ● **Rank 3:** Expand county supportive housing services *(Updated to reflect ongoing operational match)* ○ **Funding Request:** $8,300,000 (One-time) / $800,000 (Ongoing) ● **Rank 4:** Implement ongoing funding for one additional Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) in Utah County ○ **Funding Request:** $800,225 (Ongoing) ● **Rank 9:** Implement ongoing funding for firearm and lethal means safety materials, locking mechanisms, and secure storage tools

		○ **Funding Request:** $400,000 (Ongoing) (*Action required: Vote*)
Workstream 3: Data analysis		
		No items to discuss
Workstream 4: Communications		
		No items to discuss
Project management		
5	2:45 - 3:00 pm: Chair Ally Isom	**Leadership Elections:** ● **Chair:** Ally Isom announced her official reappointment as Commission Chair by the Governor. ○ **Motion:** Re-nominate and elect Tammer Attallah as Vice Chair and Kyle Snow as Second Vice Chair for the ongoing term. ○ **Moved by:** Jordan Sorenson ○ **Seconded by:** Evan Done ○ **Outcome:** Passed unanimously. **Welcome New Commission Member:** ● The Commission acknowledged receipt of a formal letter from the Utah State Senate introducing Dr. Jeremy Kendrick. Dr. Kendrick is triple board-certified and was welcomed to the Commission. Staff will coordinate his official swearing-in. **DHHS Staff Director Appointment:** ● Eric Tadehara (SUMH) announced that following a thorough recruitment process, Melissa Aitken has been hired as the new DHHS Staff Director for the Behavioral Health Commission, starting Monday. ● Melissa Aitken introduced herself, noting her 5-year tenure with DHHS/DIH, her recent role as research consultant, and her passion for public health in Utah. **Closing Remarks & Adjournment:** ● Tracy Gruber expressed deep gratitude to Chair Isom and the Vice Chairs for committing to another two years of leadership. ● Chair Isom thanked staff, Megan West, and the subcommittee members for their dedication. ○ **Motion:** Motion to adjourn. ○ **Moved by:** Tracy Gruber

		○ **Seconded by:** Jordan Sorenson ○ **Outcome:** Passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM. (*Action required: Vote*)

Next Meeting: August 17, 2026
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Senate Building Room 210