



Utah Behavioral Health Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2026, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Utah State Capitol Complex
Senate Building Room 210

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

Commission Members:

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

	Time/Presenter	Discussion Topics
1	1:00 - 1:05 pm: Chair Ally Isom	Chair Ally Isom welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mike Deal made a motion to approve the February 19, 2026 meeting minutes, Kyle Snow seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
Workstream 1: Strategic planning		
2	1:05 - 1:25 pm: Kendyl Brockman (<i>DHHS</i>); Mia Nafziger	<p>Kendyl Brockman presented on the Health Workforce Advisory Council (HWAC). The HWAC is developing a behavioral health strategic plan to fulfill Legislative Auditor General recommendations (Report #2025-05) and Commission Objective 4.</p> <p>The top priorities identified via stakeholder survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recruiting qualified professionals (addressing geographic shortages and supervision limits). ● Retaining experienced staff (combating burnout and limited growth). ● Addressing low compensation and wage competition (high debt vs. community-based pay). <p>The proposed solutions for the above focus areas include expanding supervision capacity, rural education pathways, reducing administrative burdens, and improving Medicaid</p>

		<p>engagement, among other options.</p> <p>Discussion from Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI integration: inquiries were made regarding AI as a tool for documentation vs. a therapeutic replacement. HWAC will coordinate with the new Office for AI Policy. • Chair Isom asked if there are any benefits for universities creating a minor in behavioral health, and Kendyl stated she would follow up with more information. • Behavioral health technicians and coaches:: Adam Cohen and Tracy Gruber noted that commercial insurance often refuses to reimburse for lower-level degreed professionals (Behavioral Health Tech/Coach), unlike Medicaid. The Commission will explore following up with the Department of Insurance regarding this gap.
<p>3</p>	<p>1:25 - 1:40 pm: Mariah Noble; Mia Nafziger</p>	<p>Mariah Noble presented on the process for creating administrative rules by outlining the statutory requirements for DHHS administrative rules, emphasizing the fiscal impact analysis and public comment phases.</p> <p>The Commission discussed draft rules for implementing the membership of the Behavioral Health Policy Review Committee (PRC), Behavioral Health Crisis Response Committee, Prevention and Early Intervention Committee, and Treatment and Recovery Committee, per HB 572. Chair Isom requested that the administrative rules clearly define the appointment process to the Commission (application through Commission staff, Executive Committee review, then Commission appointment) to ensure continuity beyond current members.</p> <p>Feedback on the final draft is due by the April meeting to meet the May filing deadline for a July 1, 2026, effective date.</p>
<p>Workstream 2: Legislative recommendations</p>		
<p>4</p>	<p>1:40 - 2:00 pm: Mia Nafziger; Megan West</p>	<p>Mia Nafziger and Megan West provided an update on the 2026 Legislative Session.</p> <p>Despite a requested 5% cut across state agencies, major HHS items were largely protected.</p> <p>Key appropriations for the Behavioral Health Commission recommendations: \$300,000 for family outreach specialists for suicide surveillance; \$200,000 for rural receiving centers (or</p>

		<p>commitment database, however alternative funding was identified after the session); \$100,000 for peer recovery support, \$50,000 for suicide prevention trainings; \$100,000 for Medicaid collaborative care rate increases.</p> <p>Staff also described major bills that did and did not pass, including the Commission's bill (HB 572).</p>
5	<p>2:00 - 2:25 pm: Mia Nafziger</p>	<p>Mia Nafziger presented the process for committees developing 2027 General Session recommendations. The Commission was provided with three documents to review and vote to adopt regarding committees' process of providing legislative recommendations. These include a proposed timeline, form for committees to complete with legislative priorities/recommendations, and a scoring rubric. The Commission reviewed the scoring rubric and provided feedback and adopted changes.</p> <p>Adam Cohen motioned to approve and adopt these documents/process. Director Tracy Gruber seconded this motion.</p> <p>The motion to adopt the legislative recommendations process was passed unanimously.</p>
<p>Workstream 3: Data analysis</p>		
6	<p>2:25 - 2:55 pm: Ryan Carrier (<i>DHHS</i>)</p>	<p>Ryan Carrier provided an overview of the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) behavioral health dashboard designed to track behavioral health trends among Utah residents who have received at least one diagnosis. The dashboard allows for granular analysis, with the ability to filter data by age group, geographic region, diagnosis categories, and gender. Some people may have more than one diagnosis and this dashboard does not identify anyone who is a self-pay patient. The Commission extended an invitation for Mr. Carrier to return for future sessions to present updated findings and longitudinal trends as the dashboard evolves.</p>
<p>Workstream 4: Communications</p>		
		<p>No items to discuss</p>
<p>Project management</p>		

7	<p>2:55 - 3:00 pm: Chair Ally Isom</p>	<p>Administrative Rule Development: The Commission reaffirmed its commitment to establishing formal administrative rules for committee structures. This work remains a priority to ensure organizational continuity and a standardized appointment process.</p> <p>Partner Recognition: Chair Isom expressed gratitude to the various community partners whose collaborative efforts continue to drive the Commission’s strategic objectives.</p> <p>Jordan Sorenson motioned to adjourn the meeting; Adam Cohen seconded.</p> <p>The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned.</p>
<p>Next Meeting: April 16, 2025 1 PM - 3 PM</p>		

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