



Process for Legislative Recommendations

This document describes the process and timeline for the development of legislative recommendations. It is important to note that Committees are encouraged to evaluate gaps and formulate solutions year-round.

Committees may develop legislative recommendations for the Behavioral Health Commission to consider for the 2028 General Session. Recommendations should address a clear behavioral health gap or problem in Utah. Recommendations may require changes to statute, additional funding, or both. **The Commission requests Committees limit funding requests for the most urgent and highest priority needs.**

*Committee responsibilities are highlighted in **bold blue font**.

Utah Behavioral Health Commission Process for Legislative Recommendations (2028 Legislative Session)	
Date	Activity
Thursday, September 17, 2026 (Previously March 19) <i>Behavioral Health Commission Meeting</i>	Commissioners vote on the updated legislative process.
Thursday, December 17, 2026 (Previously March 19) <i>Behavioral Health Commission Meeting</i>	Commissioners vote on legislative process voting form and scoresheet.
Monday, December 28, 2026 (Previously March 20)	Commission staff will share all finalized legislative process documents with the Commission and all Committees .
Friday, March 26, 2027 (New)	Commission staff will create a legislative brief for all pertinent behavioral health bills.
Thursday, April 22, 2027 (Previously April 30) <i>Policy Review Committee Meeting</i>	Committees discuss draft recommendations at the Policy Review Committee meeting to solicit feedback.
Friday, April 30, 2027 (Previously June 3)	Committees submit recommendation forms to Commission staff.

Thursday, May 20, 2027 <i>(Previously June 18)</i> <i>Behavioral Health Commission Meeting</i>	Committees present recommendations to the Commission. Commissioners ask questions and provide feedback.
Tuesday, June 1, 2027 (Previously July 1)	Committees submit updated recommendations.
Wednesday, June 2 - Tuesday, June 15, 2027 <i>(Previously July 2-July 14)</i>	Commissioners complete scoresheets for recommendations.
Thursday, June 17, 2027 <i>(Previously July 16)</i> <i>Behavioral Health Commission Meeting</i>	Commissioners discuss, rank, and vote on recommendations. Committee representatives should attend to respond to questions as needed.

High quality data drives strong recommendations, but critical information may come late in the process. Committees should share the best data available, and the Commission will provide structured opportunities to update information as it emerges.

To keep the process fair while allowing necessary changes, a formal option exists to adjust approved recommendations. Amendments will be limited and must meet strict criteria:

- **Compelling Justification:** Amendments require a clear, documented rationale demonstrating why off cycle consideration is necessary.
- **New and Extraordinary Conditions:** Requests must stem from unforeseen changes or urgent, emerging needs.
- **Strategic Alignment and Impact:** Proposed modifications must fit directly within the Commission's strategic scope and materially impact current recommendations.
- **Executive Oversight:** All proposed adjustments must be submitted to the Executive Committee for urgent review prior to any formal adjustment of the prioritization list.