

Utah Behavioral Health Planning and Advisory Council

Approved Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 1st, 2021, 12:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom

“Our mission is to ensure quality behavioral health care in Utah by promoting collaboration, advocacy, education, and delivery of services.”

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeanine Park, James Park, Peggy Hostetter, Terry Harrison, Rob Wesemann, Richard Nance, Donald Cleveland, Randee Barriga, Cathy Davis, Sigrid Nolte, Javier Alegre, Dave Wilde, Dan Braun, Martha Mendes, Jennifer Marchant, Sherri Wittwer, Karla Arroyo, Julia Martinez, Nettie Byrne

DSAMH STAFF PRESENT: Pam Bennett, Shanin Rapp, Heidi Peterson-Dutson, Shanel Long, Eric Tadehara, Jessica Makin, Ming Wang

OTHERS PRESENT: Joanna Onorato, Susi Feltch-Malohifoou, Jeremy Larson, Cynthia May Askie, Evan Done, Renee Brown, Stephen Unga Fabiano, Allison Heffernan, Courtney Bullard, Jeanette Villalta

COUNCIL MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rachel Bawden, Robert Snarr, Kim Myers, Heather Rydalch, Mary Jo McMillen, Emily Bennett, Rafael Montero

Welcome & Introductions

Rob Wesemann welcomed the group to the meeting, and introductions were made.

General Announcements

Richard Nance told the Council that public comment is open for Electronic Cigarette Substance Standards. **Public Hearing:** Virtual Utah Department of Health Public Hearing via Google Meet regarding Change in Proposed Rule Amendment R384-415 – Electronic Cigarette Substance Standards Tuesday April 6, 2021 – 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM.

Due to COVID-19, this public hearing will only be held virtually via Google Meet link <https://meet.google.com/xpd-tjgz-hzd> or join by phone (US) +1 470-466-0325 PIN: 392 435 757# To sign up to provide public comment during this virtual public hearing, please contact TPCP Policy Analyst Christy Cushing at 801-538-6260 or ccushing@utah.gov or email tobaccorulescomments@utah.gov.

Rob Wesemann announced that the NAMI walks National Day of Hope will be held May 22nd, 2021. To register for NAMI walks please visit <https://namiut.org/news-events/nami-walks>

Javier Alegre let the Council know that the Peer Conference is being held on June 10th, 2021. There is still room for presenters to participate. Please reach out to Javier if you are interested at javier.lbhs@gmail.com. We will share more details as soon as they are available.

March Meeting Minutes Review

Martha Mendes motioned to approve the March 2021 minutes; Donald Cleveland seconded. The minutes were approved.

Allison Heffernan & Courtney Bullard, Utah Health Policy Project (UHPP)-

Federal COVID-Response Priorities

IMPROVE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE:

- ✓ Expanding ACA subsidies, reopening enrollment period
- ✓ More Medicaid funding, state, and local government \$\$ IMPROVE ACCESS TO

TESTING, TREATMENT & AFFORDABLE CARE:

- ✓ Coverage for testing, treatment, and vaccine
- ✓ Stop surprise medical bills and price gouging

SUPPORT UTAH FAMILIES:

- ✓ Housing, hunger, unemployment, and direct financial assistance SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH:

- ✓ Funding and strategy for vaccine distribution, public health

<http://www.healthpolicyproject.org/covid-19-policy-recommendations>

Medicaid: where are we now?

Current eligibility threshold:

- January 2020 full expansion moved from 100% to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (finally!)

Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM):

- No countable income
- 19-64
- No dependent or no custody of dependent
- Justice involved or homeless with SUD or diagnosed mental illness Expansion
- Individual: \$1500/month
- Family of 4: \$3000/month

Behavioral Health Outreach and Enrollment

- Behavioral Health Enrollment Program
- People with behavioral health needs
- People within the criminal justice system
- People experiencing homelessness
- Partnerships with state agencies and other organizations reach vulnerable Utahns
- UHPP has continuously helped over 40% of the Targeted Adult Medicaid enrollees each year since TAM was implemented in 2017

Behavioral Health Enrollment During Covid

- Looked at different access barriers for our clients and addressed them to still be a community resource during quarantine
- Many partner sites impacted and had to pause all enrollment efforts
- Navigating technology barriers with clients
- Training other folks to help with applications
- Creating technology systems to connect with clients virtually
- Vaccine access for staff for in person work

2021 Legislative Session – Successful Behavioral Health Bills HB81

- Mental Health Days for Students

HB336 - Suicide Prevention Amendments Suicide data reporting requirements DSAMH training for health care organizations

HB337- Child Mental Health Amendments Coordination of services, training, and best practices for early childhood mental health support and interventions

SB41 – Mental Health Access Amendments Telehealth coverage requirements for mental health
There is now more help available for more people to access affordable health care!

SB53 - Behavioral Emergency Services Amendments New license for behavioral emergency services technicians

SB155 - 988 Mental Health Crisis Assistance Creates a crisis response account Funding to help respond to new 988 number and expected increased caseload

SB161 – Mental Health Systems Amendments Telehealth mental health coverage requirements prohibits the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing from refusing to issue, or taking disciplinary action against, the occupational license of certain healthcare providers based solely on the provider seeking or participating in mental health or substance abuse treatment

Learn more:

[*Frequently Asked Questions: Utah Health Care Edition*](#)

More details from the marketplace:healthcare.gov/more-savings/

Spread the word:

[Shareable Social Media Graphics](#)

Get Help:

[Contact our team](#) if you have questions or need assistance.

CUREIE Updates—Javier Alegre & Martha Mendes

Javier informed the Council that CUREIE will be meeting tonight at 5:00 PM to discuss some of the initiatives that Suicide Prevention will be working on and CUREIE would like to hear from the state and those involved with the Racial and Ethnic Equity Committee to get their feedback regarding what can be provided to our minority communities. Javier encouraged other members of UBHPAC with the same interests to attend as well.

CUREIE is still working on a proposal with the Division to create language specific training to create a safe space to talk about race and equality in other committees like UBHPAC.

Martha let the Council know that the committee's name has been changed from REIC to CUREIE, which stands for Communities United for Racial and Ethnic Integration and Equity. Martha said the group had been informed that Reich, pronounced the same, refers to Germany during the period of Nazi control from 1933 to 1945. Martha explained that since the Council is committed to racial and ethnic equity, they felt it best to change the name to not have any mistaken association with Reich.

DSAMH Updates— Pam Bennett

Pam let the council know that the Division is finishing up some of the legislative changes such as the new 988 number and working closely with the crisis team to get this implemented.

Pam also reported that the Division is currently categorizing the extra Block Grant money and some emergency COVID-19 funds into areas such as quality improvement, youth under six years of age, homelessness to name a few. Next the Division will focus on allocating the funds. Once this is complete there will be a request for proposals in hopes that culturally relevant agencies and services can become vendors to provide services to those they serve. Pam said that she is open to feedback on community agencies that can be brought in to have their proposals considered. Shanel Long pointed out that this will be a way to streamline the procurement process so funding does not take as long but will not be a guarantee to receive funding.

Adjourned at 1:52 P.M.

Thank you for your support of the UBHPAC!

Accommodations to the known disabilities of individuals in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For accommodation information or if you need special accommodations during this meeting, please contact the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health at (801) 538-3939 or TTY (801) 538-3696.

The State has adopted a stipend policy that will pay for reasonable travel expenses related to consumers and advocates attendance at UBHPAC meetings. For more information, please visit www.dsamh.utah.gov – Initiatives – Behavioral Health and Advisory Council – Information & Forms – UBHPAC Stipend Policy.

All meeting minutes and recordings are posted on the Public Notice website at: <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/sitemap/publicbody/51.html>