

## Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Committee (USAAV+)/Policy Review Committee

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.  
State Capitol Complex, East Senate Building  
Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice large conference room, third floor

**Video call link:** <https://meet.google.com/yii-hukf-dwg>

**Or dial:** (US) +1 442-600-4789 PIN: 166 961 261#

	Time/Presenter	Discussion Topics
1	11:00 - 11:05 pm: Patrick Fleming	Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Attendance and approval of January 20, 2025 meeting minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ Minutes were approved during a roll call with 20 yes, 1 abstain (Clarissa Stebbing), and no oppose</li></ul></li></ul>
2	11:05 - 12:50 pm: Patrick Fleming; Mia Nafziger	Review of 2026 legislative session bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shane Bahr, Kim Gibb, Clarissa Stebbing, and Judge Dianna Gibson will be abstaining from voting on all bills reviewed during the meeting.</li></ul> <b>HB 199 Health Data Amendments -</b> <p>This bill is a priority for the Utah Behavioral Health Commission and Evan Done and Adam Cohen were in attendance and requested the support of the Committee. The bill will ensure access to key data sets for the Commission and its staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Liz Klc motions to support</li><li>• Robin Holcomb seconds the motion</li><li>• No opposition</li></ul> <b>HB 71 Health Plan Provider Directory Amendments -</b> <p>Addresses behavioral health network adequacy for commercial health insurance. The substitute has a number of significant changes, including the creation of a working group to study the feasibility of a statewide behavioral health provider directory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ross VanVranken motions to support</li></ul>

- Liz Klc seconds the motion

Dr. Gray Otis is opposed and believes it is too soon to support the bill. Behavioral health providers advocate that the bill is too harsh on providers and shouldn't penalize provider licenses.

- Ross VanVranken motions to support in concept
- Liz Klc seconds the motion
- No opposition

#### **HB 70 Correctional Health Services Amendments -**

Previously, a USAAV+ proxy was concerned about the requirements to align with national accreditations, but staff clarified that this only applies to facilities owned and operated by DHHS. Rebecca Brown and her team at UDC have been working with Rep. Eliason as there are concerns with the abuse of buprenorphine within prisons. UDC is very supportive of access to MAT within the prison, but wants to ensure inmates are not being victimized because of the abuse of buprenorphine. USAAV+ decided to remain at a hold.

#### **HB 205 Substance Use Intervention Amendments -**

USAAV+ members had previously expressed concerns about provisions prohibiting syringe exchange programs in parks and the off-limit orders sections. Staff shared that local harm reduction groups are supportive of the park prohibition clause. The off-limits order provisions bill mirrors frameworks already adopted in Seattle.

Multiple stakeholders expressed concerns about the STEP program. One USAAV+ member asked what a "court-approved substance abuse treatment plan" would be, and what the requirements would be to participate in STEP. Members suggested language on "licensed substance use treatment program" instead. The committee noted potential financial incentives for treatment providers and the difficulty of monitoring compliance within current court structures.

Members remain concerned about the enforceability of the off-limit order section.

The Committee will stay at a hold. Mia will set up a meeting with the bill sponsor with members of the Committee to

share specific feedback.

**HB 270 Healthcare Worker Post-employment Amendments -**

The Behavioral Health Workforce Workgroup supports this bill. A provider cannot solicit their current clients, but can let them know they are changing locations/jobs. The committee would like to move to support.

- Liz Klc motions to support
- Jeannie Edens seconds the motion
- No opposition

**HB 188 Juvenile Justice Amendments -**

CCJJ has worked with the bill sponsor to update the bill and is currently holding until the sponsor considers their recommendations. There are still significant concerns on the nonjudicial adjustments (NJA) for youth. USAAV+ will coordinate outreach with CCJJ.

USAAV+ is concerned about the bill's changes to nonjudicial adjustments, which are an important tool that can be used to help students adjust their behavior without excessive penalties. USAAV+ is very supportive of policies to reduce youth drug use, but believes this bill could be improved to better reach that goal.

- Liz Klc motions to request revisions
- Lacie Singleton seconds the motion
- No opposition

**HB 59 Identification Verification Amendments -**

UPAC would like to continue to HOLD, although members shared that Art Brown is ok with the bill passing at this point. Pat Fleming spoke in support of the bill and thinks it is a more appropriate approach to ID verification.

- Pat Fleming motions to support in concept
- Jeannie Edens seconds the motion
- Susannah Burt opposes the motion
- Roll call vote
  - Support: Javier Alegre, Rebecca Brown, Jeremy Christensen, Jeannie Edens, Janae Duncan, Kyle Smith, Pat Fleming, Marcie Gray, Robin Holcomb, Liz Klc, VaRonica Little, Jennifer

Mitchell, Brayden Robinson, Lacey Singleton, Kim Myers

- Oppose: Susannah Burt, Jeremy Cottle, Alyn Mitchell, Sgt. Chad Wilkins
- Abstain: Shane Bahr, Eric Tadehara, Kim Gibb, Judge Dianna Gibson, Tonya Myrup, Dr. Gray Otis, Clarissa Stebbing, Ross VanVranken
- The Committee voted to support in concept

#### **SB 34 Public Education Revisions -**

USBE has gone through stringent budget cuts this year and requested the bill. Prevention is concerned that taking the \$1000 from suicide prevention at this point would lead to an increase in suicide. Suicide prevention has a broad impact on overall mental health stigma.

USBE: All schools have been getting the \$1,000. However, there has consistently been a shortfall in the funds appropriated for suicide prevention funds and USBE has been using other funds to make up the difference to get all schools to \$1000. There is consistently around \$35,000 USBE has to cover.

The Committee discussed the opportunity to use other revenue to make up the shortfall and would like to discuss ideas with the bill sponsor. Megan will reach out to the sponsor's intern to request a meeting to discuss a revenue solution to cover the shortfall. The Committee will stay at a request revision position.

#### **HB 88 Public Assistance Amendments -**

Revisions have already been requested and in the substitute no changes were made that were requested.

- Liz Klc motions to oppose
- Marcie Gray seconds the motion
- No opposition

#### **HB 183 Sex Designation Amendments-**

The Committee met with the sponsor last week. Chair Pat Fleming asked that we stay with "request revisions" until a substitute bill is shared by the sponsor.

#### **SB 48 Kratom Revisions -**

The Committee would like to change from a support in

concept position to a support position.

- Liz Klc motions to support
- Jeremy Cottle seconds the motion
- No opposition

#### **HB 253 Marijuana Use or Possession Penalty Amendments -**

Representative Grant Miller attended the meeting to present two of his bills. Law enforcement generally opposes this bill. The current proposal addresses marijuana possession of less than 14 grams. The central goal remains clear: to prevent individuals from going to jail for minor possession offenses and to keep their records clear. A proposed provision for possession under 14 grams is being considered to help achieve this goal, which is particularly relevant for rural areas. If USAAV+ does not want to approve the bill, the sponsor will hold for interim.

Susannah Burt requested language be added to differentiate between youth (under 21) and adults for this bill. The Committee will continue to hold to see if the prevention piece regarding age is added to the bill.

#### **HB 94 Criminal Accounts Receivable Amendments -**

The bill sponsor Rep. Grant Miller presented this bill to make modifications to the court fine bill from last year. The bill is clarifying that service/treatment/course fees can count towards mandatory fines, as long as it is not against the interest of justice.

- Liz Klc motions to support HB 94
- Second Ross VanVranken
- No opposition

#### **HB 206 Nicotine Product Advertising Amendments -**

The Committee supports this bill as it would align all nicotine product advertising rules to the level of tobacco. Prevention is very supportive of the bill.

- Liz Klc motions to support
- Javier Alegre seconds the motion
- No opposition

#### **SB 154 Protection and Advocacy Agency Reporting -**

The Disability Law Center is the current advocacy accountability group in the State of Utah. Implements reporting requirements for the bill, they are not opposed to this. The Committee agrees this is beyond scope and would like to add SJR 7 to the tracker.

- Liz Klc motions to support
- Marcie Gray seconds the motion
- No opposition

**SJR 7 - Joint Resolution Regarding Utah’s Protection and Advocacy Agency -**

The Disability Law Center (DLC) provides essential behavioral health support in Utah, serving as the state’s federally mandated protection and advocacy agency. Andrew Riggle emphasizes that the DLC possesses a level of niche expertise and capacity that no other agency in the state can currently fulfill as required by federal law. To maintain these vital services, Riggle is calling on partner agencies and clients who have benefited from the DLC’s work to contact their representatives and share the agency's unique value to Utah's behavioral health system.

This will be added to the tracker for next week.

**SB 175 Health Insurance Coverage Amendments -**

The bill addresses the backlog in autism diagnosis. Sen. Kwan presented to the Commission during the January meeting. The bill is a reintroduction of a previous bill that faced opposition over concerns regarding the scope of practice and resistance from insurance companies that sought to limit diagnostic authority to a narrow group of licensed professionals. This bill expands the definition of who can provide a qualified autism spectrum disorder diagnosis to include a broader range of licenses and increase the insurance reimbursement rate for the services.

- Dr. Gray Otis motions to support
- Pat Fleming seconds the motion
- No opposition

**HB 337 Nicotine Product Tax Amendments -**

UPAC will discuss with the tobacco team during their meeting on Thursday 1/29/2026 and will share the information during

		<p>the 2/3/2026 meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Klc motions to hold</li> <li>• Pat Fleming seconds the motion</li> <li>• No opposition</li> </ul> <p><b>HB 339 Street Medicine Amendments -</b></p> <p>Committee members shared that the sponsor is working on a substitute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kim Myers motions to hold</li> <li>• Jeremy Cottle seconds the motion</li> <li>• No opposition</li> </ul> <p><b>HB 387 Kratom Modification -</b></p> <p>The Committee will wait to hear back from UPAC with more information on this next week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Klc motions to support in concept</li> <li>• Susannah Burt seconds the motion</li> <li>• No opposition</li> </ul> <p><b>SB 174 Exercise of Religious Beliefs and Conscience Amendments -</b></p> <p>USAAV+ is concerned the bill may unintentionally reduce access to evidence-based behavioral health services, such as medications for depression, anxiety, and substance use disorder. USAAV+ members request that the bill be adjusted to ensure continuity of care and responsible referrals to necessary and evidence-based behavioral health treatment. USAAV+ wants to ensure there are patient safeguards in place to protect patient needs.</p> <p>Committee members will reach out to the sponsor to discuss recommendations and intent of the bill. It appears that applying the right of conscience to payers is the only significant change in the bill, but this could result in reduced access to evidence-based behavioral health care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liz Klc motions to request revisions</li> <li>• Ross VanVranken seconds the motion</li> <li>• No opposition</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>12:50 - 1:00 pm:</b> Patrick Fleming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jessica Black: HB 174 is being heard today to ban all gender affirming care for minors. This</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>affects youth who come to Utah for treatment from states where gender affirming care is allowed and they will be required to stop. Providers won't legally be able to provide the hormone treatments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No comment</li><li>• USAAV+ members requested to add HB 174 and HB 175 to the tracker.</li><li>• Adjourn</li></ul> <p><i>(Action required: None)</i></p>
--	--	---

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 11 AM - 1 PM**  
**State Capitol Complex, East Senate Building**  
**Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice large conference room, third floor**