

Chair: Patrick Fleming
Vice Chair: Santiago Cortez
Second Vice Chair: Ross VanVranken

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

Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 12:00 - 2:00 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	12:00 - 12:05 pm: Patrick Fleming	Welcome: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Attendance and approval of February 24, 2026 meeting minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Motion to approve the minutes made by Santiago Cortez. The minutes were approved with a roll call vote.• Members present: Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Pam Bennett, Rebecca Brown, Rob Timmerman (representative for Susannah Burt), Jeremy Christensen, Vice Chair Santiago Cortez, Jeremy Cottle, Janae Duncan, Dr. Kyle Smith, Chair Patrick Fleming, Judge Dianna Gibson, Jessie Higgins, Marcie Gray, Robin Holcomb, Greg Johnson, Shanel Long, Elizabeth Klc, Kim Gibb, Catherine Jurado, Jennifer Mitchell, Tonya Myrup, Dr. Gray Otis, Andrew Riggle, Lacey Singleton, Clarissa Stebbing, Kim Myers (representative for Dr. Mason Turner), Vice Chair Ross VanVranken, Senator Carlene Walker
2	12:05 - 1:50 pm: Patrick Fleming; Megan West; Mia Nafziger	Review of 2026 legislative session bills: Clarissa Stebbing, Kim Gibb, and Rozanna Benally-Sagg will abstain from all voting unless otherwise noted. HB 572S3 Behavioral and Mental Health Amendments (Eliason) - Combines the provisions to address recommendations from the Leifman Group for

Salt Lake County on improving their behavioral health and justice system with the Behavioral Health Commission bill (HB 552). The bill substitutes addressed concerns related to the civil commitment database and data security. The bill will be heard during committee 3/3/26 at 4 pm.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to support
- Ross VanVranken seconded the motion
- No opposition

The fiscal note is pending decisions from the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC), which allocated only \$750,000 for the commission with a specific split. EAC meets Thursday to finalize the funding.

HB 88S6 Public Assistance Amendments & HB 386S2 Immigration Amendments (Shepherd) -

- Santiago Cortez motioned to continue to oppose
- Jeremy Christensen seconded the motion

HB 386S2 Immigration Amendments (Shepherd) -

- Gray Otis motioned to oppose
- Kim Myers seconded

HB 183S2 Sex Designation Amendments (Strong) -

Replace the term "gender" with "sex" throughout statute. The provisions impacting discrimination were removed during committee.

- Ross VanVranken motioned to oppose
- Marcie Gray seconded the motion
- No opposition

HB 596S1 Homelessness Amendments (Eliason) -

A substitute came out for this bill, the substitute made updates to address concerns from cities and counties. The bill removes provisions related to code red alerts for DHHS, but still preserves the ability of St. George to adjust homeless shelters' capacity on days of extreme

heat. The committee continued to be at a priority support of this bill.

SB 174S4 Exercise of Religious Beliefs and Conscience Amendments (Stratton) - Significant changes made to the bill, removes both payers and health care institutions from the right of religious belief. The substitute adjusts the definition of adverse action to accommodate employer needs, removes behavioral health providers from the included list of providers covered by the act, and removes psychological therapy or counseling from the applicable health care services.

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- Ross VanVranken motioned to take no position on substitute 4
- Liz Klc motioned to second
- No opposition

SB 45S3 Kratom Adjustments (McKell) - Megan West provided an update on bills related to kratom at this point in session. The committee continued to support SB 45.

SB 288S1 Medicaid Provider Amendments (Stratton) -

This bill does not have a House sponsor and is circled in the Senate. Several substitutes have been released that include Medicaid provider rate increases, but not for behavioral health providers. The substitutes have not been adopted. EAC attached the bill to all of the provider rate increases, so it will probably move as the mechanism to increase the rates. The committee remains supportive of the bill.

HB 597 Alcohol Amendments (Burton) -

- Senator Carlene Walker motioned to support
- Santiago Cortez seconded the motion
- No opposition

HB 599 (Social Services Funding Amendments (Ward)

- This bill is enacting EAC decisions that were a part of the budget cut decisions. Statutory changes are needed

		<p>to enact the changes in EAC. The bill provides that interest earned in the Medicaid ACA fund would be deposited into the General Fund. This is a large amount of money, and it breaks the seal of the funding. The money is earmarked and this would change the availability for the funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Santiago Cortez motioned to request revisions ● Ross VanVranken seconded the motion ● No opposition <p>HB 601 Flavored Alcohol Amendments (MacPherson) - UPAC reached out to the sponsor to see if there is any information we are missing. The committee not take a position on the bill at this time.</p>
3	<p>1:50 - 2:00 pm: Patrick Fleming</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Public comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SB 174 is a copy and paste from a bill in Florida that passed in 2023. ● Adjourn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Santiago Cortez motioned to close ○ Jeremy Christensen seconded the motion
<p>Next Meeting: Thursday, April 30, 2026, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Multi-Agency State Office Building, Room 1019A & B 195 N 1950 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84116</p>		