

**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, February 24, 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 February 17, 2026 meeting minutes<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Motion to approve the minutes by roll call vote.</li></ul></li><li>• Members present: Javier Alegre, Shane Bahr, Rozanna Benally-Sagg, Pam Bennett, Rebecca Brown, Susannah Burt, Vice Chair Santiago Cortez, Carol Ruddell (representative for Jeremy Cottle), Janae Duncan, Rebecca Dutson, Chair Patrick Fleming, Judge Dianna Gibson, Marcie Gray, Robin Holcomb, Shanel Long, Elizabeth Klc, Kim Gibb, Alyn Mitchell, Kyla Clark, Jennifer Mitchell, Dr. Gray Otis, Andrew Riggle, Lacey Singleton, Clarissa Stebbing, Kim Myers (representative for Dr. Mason Turner), Vice Chair Ross VanVranken, Senator Carlene Walker, Sgt. Wilkins, Carla Wiese</li></ul>
2	11:05 - 12:50 pm: Patrick Fleming; Megan West; Mia Nafziger	Review of 2026 legislative session bills: Clarissa Stebbing, and Rozanna Benally-Sagg will abstain from all voting unless otherwise noted.  <b>HB 572 Justice Involved Mental Health Amendments (Eliason)</b> - This bill will be combined with HB 552, the Behavioral Health Commission's bill, during the House Health and Human Services Committee meeting on 2/24.  Tim Whalen stated that the counties do not see the

receiving centers as a formal diversion program, and Representative Eliason has worked on an amendment to address counties' concerns.

Commission Chair Ally Isom will be testifying in support. Chair Pat Fleming emphasized that the bill is an important bill for the PRC as it strengthens the Behavioral Health Commission.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to stay at support in concept
- Marcie Gray seconded the motion
- Carla Wiese and Clarissa Stebbing abstained

**HB 88S6 Public Assistance Amendments (Lee)** - A sixth substitute has been released since the last PRC meeting. The bill will still be difficult to implement, even after changes in the substitute.

Adam Cohen shared that 80% of clients admitted to Odyssey House do not have any form of ID/documentation, and therefore would not be able to serve most clients seeking services. The Utah League of Cities and Towns opposes the bill.

- Ross VanVranken motioned to oppose S6
- Lacey Singleton seconded the motion
- No opposition
- Kim Gibb, Kyla Clark, Elizabeth Klc, Sgt. Wilkins, Rebecca Brown, Shane Bahr, Janae Duncan abstained

**HB 188S3 Juvenile Justice Amendments (Peck)** - S3 removes the committee's concerns related to nonjudicial adjustments. Elizabeth Klc noted that the bill now adds perimeters around nonjudicial adjustments so a student doesn't have an undefined number of "chances." The Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice will be able to collect data to better understand Representative Peck's areas of concern, and their members now support the bill.

- Elizabeth Klc motioned to support S3
- Lacey Singleton seconded the motioned to support S3

- No opposition

**HB 399S2 Prohibition Against Student Character Tracking and Grading Systems (Lee)** - The committee opposed the first substitute, and the second substitute does not address the committee's original concerns with S1. Rebecca Dutson of the Children's Center agreed that the bill has not made sufficient changes to warrant a change in position.

The Utah State Board of Education has not taken a position.

- Rebecca Dutson motioned to hold at oppose
- Marcie Gray seconded
- No opposition
- Carla Wiese abstained

**HB 471S1 Social Services Amendments (Monson)** - Many committee members are neutral on this bill. The sponsor has made revisions to the bill which removed all of the committee's previous concerns related to the behavioral health system. This codifies into state law Medicaid changes required in HR1.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to not take a position
- Liz Klc seconded the motion
- Sgt Wilkins and Carla Wiese abstained

**SB 174S3 Exercise of Religious Beliefs and Conscience (Stratton)** - PRC met with the sponsor on Wed 2/18 and asked the sponsor to take the "payor" out of the bill, and add a provision on adverse action to be null and void if the provider isn't doing their job. The sponsor's core goal for the bill is protecting individual's religious beliefs. The sponsor has worked to make changes to make the bill better for providers. The committee also asked for clarification on discussing an individual's beliefs upon hire, as that could be hard to implement with existing HR protections and rules. Changes to that portion were not included in S3.

- Elizabeth Klc motioned to support S3
- Patrick Fleming seconded the motion to support S3

- Jennifer Mitchell, Javier and Santiago Cortez oppose SB174S3.

A roll call vote was taken: Javier Alegre opposed, Shane Bahr abstained, Rozanna Benally-Sagg abstained, Pam Bennett abstained, Rebecca Brown abstained, Susannah Burt opposed, Santiago Cortez opposed, Carol Ruddell opposed, Janae Duncan abstained, Rebecca Dutson abstained, Patrick Fleming supported, Kim Gibb abstained, Judge Gibson abstained, Marcie Gray opposed, Robin Holcomb opposed, Liz Klc supported, Shanel Long abstained, Alyn Mitchell abstained, Jennifer Mitchell opposed, Kyla Clark abstained, Dr. Otis abstained, Andrew Riggle abstained, Lacey Singleton opposed, Clarissa Stebbing abstained, Kim Myers supported, Ross VanVranken supported, Senator Walker supported, Carla Wiese abstained, Sgt. Wilkins abstained.

The motion failed.

- Liz Klc motioned to not take a position on S3
- Marcie Gray seconded the motion
- No opposition

There was no previous position taken on S2.

**SB 288S1 Medicaid Provider Amendments (Stratton) -**

S1 removes the large administrative burden on Medicaid to implement the bill. The sponsor noted he wants to work with Medicaid and DHHS to make the bill better. S1 added that the legislature would make the provider designations for incentives with help from DHHS. There will also be analysis done on payments, length of time between provider rate increases, and the analysis of impacts of payments by provider type.

- Kim Myers motioned to support
- Patrick Fleming seconded the motion

It would be helpful for the sponsor to work with the Utah Behavioral Health Commission to develop the behavioral health related provider incentives. Medicaid can also lean on the Commission for input during the development of

the process.

- No opposition
- Sgt Wilkins, Carol Ruddell, and Carla Wiese abstained

Megan and Mia will communicate with the sponsor on working with the Commission.

**HB 578 Guardianship and Conservatorship Resources Amendments (Dailey-Provost)** - This bill requires all local mental health authorities to provide information and referrals to resources related to guardianship and conservatorship to individuals that contact the office. Counties are working with the sponsor on possible adjustments because the bill reads that every individual the county interacts with has to be given information. UAC is working to meet with the sponsor this week. The Disability Law Center has requested to be removed from the bill language.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to support in concept
- Patrick Fleming seconded the motion
- No opposition
- Carla Wiese and Kim Gibb are abstained

**HB 596 Homelessness Amendments (Eliason)** - This bill strengthens Utah's behavioral health safety net by increasing funding for homelessness services and providing counties with the flexibility to deploy resources effectively. The bill also supports the expansion of receiving centers, which would help operationalize and incentivize expansion of centers in rural areas. The bill requires the tax commission to transfer cigarette tax (Syntax funds) funds to the homeless services restricted account. It would require the counties to match the funding which would help prioritize the building of supportive housing.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to support in priority
- Ross VanVranken seconded the motion
- No opposition
- Andrew Riggle, Kim Gibb, Sgt. Wilkins, Judge Gibson,

Pam Bennett, Kyla Clark, Shane Bahr, Rozanna Benally-Sagg will abstained

**SB 311 Medical Translation Amendments (Balderee) -**

The bill requires HMHI to develop a SafeUT software application that is available in multiple languages including Spanish.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to support
- Robin Holcomb seconded the motion
- Kim Gibb, Kyla Clark, Carla Wiese abstained
- No opposition

**SB 319 Health Insurance Preauthorization**

**Amendments (Johnson) -** The bill reforms health insurance preauthorization by requiring insurers to publicly list requirements, provide advance notice of changes, and disclose the use of artificial intelligence in reviews. It also enhances patient protection through outlined timelines, mandatory independent medical reviews by professionals for denials, and detailed data reporting to the state.

- Ross VanVranken motioned to support in priority
- Santiago seconded the motion
- Sgt Wilkins, Kim Gibb, Andrew Riggle abstained

**SB 317 Opioid Terminology Amendments (Plumb) -** This

bill updates terminology related to opioids and substances throughout state code.

- Liz Klc motioned to support
- Marcie Gray seconded the motion
- No opposition
- Kim Gibb abstained

**HB 317S1 Social Health in Public Education Curriculum (Ivory) -** This bill defines “social health” as an individual’s

ability to successfully build, maintain, and improve mutually beneficial relationships with others, including family, friends, peers, co-workers, online connections, the broader community, and the individual’s environment, while pursuing an optimal relationship with the individual’s self. It also outlines types of social health

curriculum instruction allowed in public schools.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to support
- Liz Klc seconded the motion to support
- No opposition
- Kim Gibb abstained

**HB 590 Child Therapy Amendments (Dailey-Provost) -**

This bill requires insurers in certain cases to allow children leaving custody from DCFS to continue care from the therapist leading their care while in custody. This policy would create continuity of care.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to support in concept
- Gray Otis seconded the motion
- No opposition
- Kim Gibb abstained

**SB 73S3 Online Age Verification Amendments (Musselman) -**

This bill creates a tax on paid pornographic content. The funding collected would be used for mental health programs for youth and the enforcement of age verification requirements meant to protect minors from accessing certain harmful materials. It will be a small amount of funding because most of these harmful materials are provided for free.

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

**SB 323 Criminal and Juvenile Justice Recodification (Weiler) -**

This bill recodifies and creates a Criminal Justice Department and creates the administrative structure for the new Department.

- Santiago Cortez motioned to support
- Marcie Gray seconded the motion
- No opposition
- Kim Gibb abstained

**HB 447S1 Tobacco Amendments (Burton) -** This bill creates the regulations for online sales of cigars and pipe

		<p>tobacco. Currently online sales are illegal in Utah code, but those sales are unregulated and unenforced. Prevention is opposed to this bill because tobacco sales should be allowed only in person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Santiago motioned to stay with request revisions</li> <li>● Ross VanVranken seconded the motion</li> <li>● No opposition</li> </ul> <p><b>HB 566 Health Care Transparency Amendments (Hall) -</b></p> <p>This bill codifies work Medicaid already does. There is a provision about actuarial firms, and Medicaid is reaching out to the sponsor on that portion.</p> <p>The committee will stay neutral, and not take a position.</p> <p><b>HB 597 Alcohol Amendments (Burton) -</b> This is the alcohol omnibus bill and was released 2/24/26. The committee will review and discuss at the next meeting on March 3. The bill changes proximity rules and turns it to local control. UPAC is requesting revisions and reaching out to the sponsor.</p>
<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>○ Rally for Recovery at 4 pm at the Capitol on Thursday, 2/26/26! Mia will send the flyer out.</li> <li>○ Post session celebration on Friday, 3/6/26. Please RSVP to Megan or Mia by 2/25/26.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Adjourn</li> </ul>
<p><b>Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3, 2026 11 AM - 1 PM</b>  <b>State Capitol Complex, East Senate Building</b>  <b>Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice large conference room, third floor</b></p>		