

Behavioural Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

April 16, 2025 Minutes

MEETING DETAILS	
Date/Time	April 16, 2025 at 10:00am
Venue	Virtual through Zoom
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
Present	Tanya Nesgoda, DBHDS, Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS, Hannah Sower, NAMI, Bruce Cruser, MHA, Karen Grabowski, DHBDS, Dietrich Bragg, Margie Millner, Dreamel Spady, Rhonda Bryant, Jennifer Faison, VACSB
Guest(s)	
Unexcused Absence	Kate Flinn, Heather Pate, Sandra Nichols, Kristin Vaughn
Excused Absence	Heather Orrock
Minutes Taken By	Justin Wallace, Secretary
Presiding Officer	Bruce Cruser, MHV for Heather Orrock, President
Order Called	Council convened at 10:00am

Time	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-up (if applicable)
10:00am	Welcome	- Bruce Cruser – opens meeting - No Quorum	Presiding Officer: Bruce Cruser for Heather Orrock
	Approval of Minutes	No BHAC quorum – will approve in June	Voting Members
10:05am	Financial Report	- Previous Account Balance: \$16,713.83 - Income: \$0 (awaiting DHBDS payment of \$975) - Current Expenditures: \$0.00 - End Balance: \$16,713.83 (\$17,688.83 once DHBDS payment received)	Bruce Cruser Follow-up: Confirm payment from DBHDS
10:10am	Committee Updates		
	Executive Committee	Technical assistance request – has been approved by DHBDS and SAMHSA	Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS

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		• Awaiting final approval from SAMHSA to move TA request forward – anticipate a response within the week • Once plan is approved Nathanael will send the TA plan to BHAC for review • Question: are we anticipating approval and plan given the changes at the federal level? ○ As of April, DHBDS continues to engage with the block grant project officer – limited impact so far ○ Base block grant remains in force – no indication of a reduction at this time	Follow-up: • Confirm SAMHSA has submitted final approval of TA request • Send plan to BHAC
	Governance Committee	• Membership – looking to explore where to go with next membership cycle • Revising BHAC application to align with current administration objectives • Concern over BHAC ability to bring new members on given need to finalize bylaws changes • There is currently a hold on voting in new members – paused in October 2024 • Public website message indicates new membership review will begin again in March of 2025 • Request to amend the current bylaws to outline rules on electronic voting • Social media – exploring awareness campaigns to message the purpose of BHAC and generate engagement – Rhonda meeting with a communications student exploring assistance with digital marketing • Invitation to have social media contact create a draft flyer	Rhonda Bryant Follow-up: • Waiting on TA approval to ensure next steps for membership and onboarding are in alignment • Request to explore a reduction in membership totals for establishing a quorum • Update website on when new membership applications will begin again • Update bylaws to include guidance on electronic voting • Rita/Rhonda to discuss process for next steps

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		- Reminder – will need to tie backend work on marketing to BHAC – establish accounts, manage accounts, etc. - Recommend – potential to establish a working group to support marketing work in the future - Recommend – connect with peer council committee under VACSB to support membership buildout	re: membership, presentation on where the governance committee currently stands Rhonda to connect with communications student for draft flyer to be reviewed by BHAC
	Monitoring & Evaluation Committee	- Discussed TA request with SAMHSA – waiting to see how this will inform next steps for this sub committee - Looking to use available data to inform other sub committees - Statement of purpose is complete - Ready to process reports and data as needed	Nathanael Rudney, DHBDS
	Advocacy Committee	- Advocacy committee – needs more members - Justin Wallace requested to move from monitoring & evaluation to advocacy committee	Nathanael Rudney, DHBDS Follow-up: Cristy to connect with Justin on next sub committee meeting
10:30am	General Discussion – Funding Cuts/Executive Agency Impact	- DARS reports no impact so far - DBHDS reports impact on ARPA funds - VDH reports impact on ARPA funds (over 500 layoffs) - NAMI Virginia reports no funding impact – bracing for September 30th impact based on proposed federal budget - MHV reports loss of ARPA funding	Bruce Cruser, MHV Request: DBHDS to report out to BHAC on impacts of funding cuts

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		VOCAL reports loss of 20% of funds for a single position	
10:40am	DBHDS Updates – Commissioner letter, ARPA, etc.	- Waiting on approval from DBHDS regarding BHAC edits to the response to the BHAS letter to the commissioner (request for more detail) – still in approval process - ARPA terminated within DBHDS – assessing impact on partner organizations – DBHDS continues to look at the impact of these changes	Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS Karen Grabowski, DBHDS
10:50am	BHAC - Elections	- Elections are supposed to happen in June (executive elections) - Nominating committee (for executive members) is appointed by the BHAC council – cannot be a majority of state employees - Will require quorum to move the nominating committee forward - Will need another BHAC nominating committee chair – Rhonda Bryan has volunteered to act as nominating committee chair - Dietrich Bragg and Jennifer Faison have volunteered to be on the nominating committee with Rhonda Bryant	Bruce Cruser, MHV Follow-up: - Rhonda to email council members for assistance on the nominating committee (cannot be majority state employees) - Coordinate next steps within nominating committee with Rhonda Bryan, Dietrich Bragg, and Jennifer Faison
10:55am	Public Comment	No comment	Bruce Cruser, MHV
11:05am	Adjourn	Motion: Adjourn	Bruce Cruser, MHV
Next Full Council Meeting: June 18th, 2025			

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