

Behavioral Health Planning Council Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 17, 2025

Time: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CT

Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Members present: Melanie Gaebe (Chairperson); Andrea Hochhalter; Megan Indvik; Emma Quinn; Richard Smith; Paul Stroklund; Tania Zerr, Lorraine Davis

Also present: Carlotta McCleary, Tami Conrad (Department liaison) and Janell Regimbal, facilitator.

Absent: Kurt Snyder

Agenda Items

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM by Chairperson Melanie Gaebe. Roll call confirmed a quorum.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve the January 2, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Megan Indvik and seconded by Richard Smith.
- **Motion passed unanimously.**

Public Comment

- Benjamin Schaffer, Executive Director of the Western Education Regional Cooperative, raised concerns about behavioral health resources for schools and presented a proposal for regional support for students prior to state placements.
- Chairperson Gaebe thanked Mr. Schaffer for his comments and directed him to existing resources, noting that some funding might not be applicable.

Review of Legislative Calendar Activities

Discussion:

- Chairperson Gaebe provided an overview of the legislative activities for the week, focusing on budget hearings and the behavioral health package in the Governor's budget proposal.
- Bills discussed included:
 - Senate Bill 2171: Modifications to emergency mental health petition procedures.

- Senate Bill 2200: Creation of a crisis stabilization fund supported by a communication services surcharge.
- House Bill 1337: Appropriation of \$10 million for mental health services for incarcerated individuals.
- Senate Bill 2190: Addition of applied behavioral analysis to Medicaid benefits.

Actions:

1. Chairperson Gaebe and Tami Conrad will gather and disseminate comparisons between the current Governor's proposal and the previous administration's recommendations regarding behavioral health priorities when available.
2. Committee members were encouraged to monitor legislative schedules and provide updates on bills of interest.

Next Steps and Consideration of Action Items

Discussion:

- The committee discussed the potential implications of Senate Bill 2096, which provides appropriations for state hospital renovations and regional psychiatric treatment.
- Questions were raised about whether the bill could conflict with support for a new state hospital. Chairperson Gaebe agreed to attend the hearing and provide clarification.
- Committee members emphasized the importance of balancing support for local and state-level behavioral health services.

Actions:

1. Chairperson Gaebe will provide updates on SB 2096 after attending the hearing.
2. Paul Stroklund will reach out to key sponsors for further insights.
3. Committee members were directed to review House Bill 1223, focusing on suspension and expulsion policies for K-12 students, for its potential behavioral health impact.

Scheduling Future Meetings

- The committee agreed to hold the next two meetings on **February 7, 2025, at 1:00 PM CT, and February 14, 2025, at 1:00 PM CT.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM by Chairperson Gaebe.