

Behavioral Health Planning Council Special Educational Lunch and Learn Session
Minutes

Date: January 17, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CT

Location: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Attendance was optional for members, as no official business was conducted. The following members were in attendance:

- Melanie Gaebe (Chairperson); Andrea Hochhalter; Kurt Snyder; Megan Indvik; Tania Zerr; Rich Smith; Carlotta McCleary; Melissa Kainz; Janell Regimbal (facilitator).

Agenda Items

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairperson Melanie Gaebe called the meeting to order at 12:02 PM. Attendance was recorded via electronic sign-in. Quorum was not required for this educational session

Lunch and Learn Educational Opportunity

Presenter: Melanie Gaebe, Chairperson

Summary:

- The presentation provided an overview of the legislative process in North Dakota, focusing on advocacy, relationship building, and effective engagement with legislators.
- Key topics included:
 - The importance of understanding the legislative calendar and processes.
 - Strategies for coalition building to present a united front on priority issues.
 - Tailoring communication to legislators based on their districts, voting history, and interests.
 - The significance of concise, jargon-free messaging when advocating for policies.
 - Techniques for fostering genuine, long-term relationships with legislators.

Interactive Component:

- Ms. Gaebe demonstrated navigating the North Dakota legislative website (ndlegis.gov) and explained tools for tracking bills, finding legislator information, and accessing committee schedules.

Key Takeaways:

- Advocacy efforts should focus on presenting solutions with positive impacts rather than emphasizing problems.
- Coalition unity and clear communication are essential for legislative success.
- Building authentic connections with legislators, outside of legislative needs, strengthens relationships and trust.

Action Items:

- The slide deck will be distributed to attendees and other Council members for future reference.
- Council members are encouraged to explore the legislative website and practice tracking bills of interest.

Adjournment

Chairperson Gaebe adjourned the session at 1:00 PM, encouraging attendees to join the Legislative Committee meeting scheduled immediately afterward.

Respectfully submitted by:

Janell Regimbal, BHPC Facilitator