

Behavioral Health Planning Council Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2025

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CT

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Melanie Gaebe (Chairperson); Andrea Hochhalter; Emma Quinn; Richard Smith; Paul Stroklund; and Tania Zerr

Also Present: Tami Conrad (Department Liaison) and Janell Regimbal (Facilitator)

Absent: Kurt Snyder; Megan Indvik and Lorraine Davis

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM by Chairperson Melanie Gaebe. Roll call confirmed a quorum.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes and Agenda

The motion to approve January 17, 2025, meeting minutes were made by Richard Smith and seconded by Emma Quinn. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the February 7, 2025, agenda as presented was made by Andrea Hochhalter and seconded by Emma Quinn. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comments were received during the meeting.

Review of Legislative Calendar Activities

Legislative Updates and Discussion:

- Chairperson Gaebe noted 1,071 bills are being heard this session, emphasizing the heavy workload of legislators and the high volume of testimony submitted on various bills. She reported having submitted testimony on the HHHS budget bill as planned. As of now no further inquiries have come to our facilitator in follow up to the testimony. Committee members shared what their takeaways have been thus far from conversations with others or from being on site at the session.
- Senate Bill 2200 (988 Crisis Line Funding): Discussion centered on its progression and how its funding model would operate without direct costs to callers.

- Senate Bill 2357 (Licensing Board Consolidation): This is a bill seen as being connected to BH workforce issues. The committee discussed concerns about the apparent lack of stakeholder engagement in drafting the bill. Tami Conrad highlighted the need for uniformity in licensing processes to support workforce development. The committee agreed to inform BHPC members of the bill to raise awareness of the issues surrounding it, and to note the plans to not take an official stance at this time.
- House Bill 1108 (Interstate Contracts for Behavioral Health Services): The bill moved into Senate Human Services for review. The committee discussed its potential to streamline behavioral health treatment access across state lines.
- SB 2352 – Heart River Correctional Center Child Residency Proposal): The committee expressed general support for the bill’s intent to allow incarcerated mothers to remain with their infants but raised concerns about its broad wording. A motion was made to engage by watching the bill’s progress rather than taking an official stance at this stage. The motion was made by Emma Quinn, seconded by Paul Stroklund, and passed unanimously.

Action Items

1. Emma Quinn will continue tracking SB 2352 and update the committee on potential amendments.
2. Paul Stroklund will monitor SB 2308 and report any key developments affecting professional licensure.
3. Janell Regimbal will alert BHPC members to SB 2357 to raise awareness about it as a bill of interest they may not be aware of.
4. The committee’s next meeting is February 14, 2025, at 1:00 PM CT.
5. Pam Sagness (DHHS Behavioral Health Director) will be asked to attend the next meeting if available to provide any insights on behavioral health funding discussions to watch for following crossover as a part of our agenda reviewing calendar activities.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM by Chairperson Gaebe

Respectfully Submitted By,

Janell Regimbal, BHPC Facilitator