

## Minutes

### Behavioral Health Council

Date December 19, 2023

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Time 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

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Meeting called to order by Akbar Hossain, Secretary of Policy and Planning

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#### IN ATTENDANCE

##### Commonwealth Representatives:

1. Secretary of Policy and Planning, Akbar Hossain
2. Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh
3. Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr. Debra Bogen
4. Commissioner of Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Michael Humphreys
5. Secretary of the Department of Aging, Jason Kavulich
6. Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Dr. Latika Davis-Jones
7. Secretary of the Department of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin
8. Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Maj. Gen. Mark J. Schindler
9. Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Christopher Paris
10. Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Dr. Laurel Harry
11. Secretary of the Department of State, Al Schmidt
12. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Russell Redding
13. Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington
14. Secretary of the Department of Labor, Nancy Walker
15. Director of Digital Strategy at the Governor's Office, Annie Newman

##### Representatives with lived or living experiences and family members:

16. Robert Hamilton, MPPM - Westmoreland DHS Dir.; Formerly homeless veteran & person in long-term recovery
17. Kate Favata - Community Engagement Manager, Crossroads, Treatment Advocate
18. Jennifer Wilt - Parent of a loved one with mental illness, President NAMI of Cumberland, and Perry Counties

##### County Representatives:

19. Tina Clymer, County Mental Health Office representing Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties
20. Dr. Tamra Williams, County Mental Health Office from Montgomery County
21. Ryan Hogan, Single County Authority from Luzerne County
22. Kristin Varner, Single County Authority from Dauphin County
23. Laurie Greco, Area Agency on Aging from Northampton County
24. Dr. Shannah Gillam, Area Agency on Aging from Allegheny County

##### Clinical Representatives:

25. Dr. Amy Kim, an expert in child and family behavioral healthcare
26. Dr. Margaret Jarvis, an expert in addiction medicine and substance use disorder treatments
27. Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger, an expert in primary healthcare
28. Dr. Wendy Ross, an expert in treating individuals with co-occurring intellectual and developmental disabilities and autism with mental illness

Legislative Representatives from the General Assembly:

29. Representative Mike Schlossberg (D)
30. Representative Jim Struzzi (R)
31. Senator Maria Collett (D)
32. Senator Michele Brooks (R)

### COUNCIL

Jonathan Marks, Deputy Secretary of State administered the Oaths of Office to Non-Commonwealth Representatives prior to the meeting's commencement.

### REPORTS

Secretary Hossain, Chair of the Council, took roll call. He introduced himself as chair and gave some opening remarks. He thanked the members of Council and took particular note of a quote from the Executive Order – the Governor “wants us to create an action plan to address any gaps in access, affordability, or delivery of services with the goal of removing silos across state agencies, healthcare providers, payers, state and local government sectors and decrease wait time for services for Pennsylvania.” He reiterated his commitment to that goal and how all of the Council has been brought together to achieve that goal.

Secretary Hossain then yielded the floor to Secretary Arkoosh, who also gave brief introductory remarks. She welcomed the Council to the first meeting. She cited the actionable work with the Council has been tasked and how each of the Council members has a responsibility to collaborate to meet the behavioral health needs of Pennsylvanians.

Secretary Hossain yielded the floor to Dr. Finello, who gave some introductory remarks about how the Council is a call to action to help the people who need it the most. She then introduced three speakers who each spoke about their lived experience. Those members were Robert Hamilton, Kate Favata, and Jennifer Wilt.

Dr. Finello then presented slides about the current behavioral health landscape in Pennsylvania. She then reviewed the results of a survey that had over 900 responses.

Secretary Hossain ended the meeting with some closing remarks where we thanked the Council members for their time and reiterated the challenging task ahead but noted the Governor's full force behind the work.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Behavioral Health Council Meetings will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 PM. Quarterly meetings will be in person. The next in-person meeting is in March. The next meeting of the Council is January 16, 2024, and it will be virtual. More details to follow.

### NEXT MEETING

January 16, 2024, 1 PM, Virtual via Microsoft Teams