

Behavioral Health Planning Council (BHPC)

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026

11:30 a.m–12:00 p.m CT

Virtual (Microsoft Teams)

Attendance:

Members present: Tania Zerr, Chairperson, Rich Smith and Kurt Snyder

Members absent: Melanie Gaebe and Andrea Hochhalter

Also present: Janell Regimbal, Facilitator/Recorder; and Tami Conrad DHHS BHD attending in support of Monica Haugen's planned absence.

Welcome and Call to Order: Chairperson **Tania Zerr** called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Following roll call, a quorum was confirmed.

Agenda Approval – Sept. 10, 2026

Motion: Kurt Snyder moved to approve Sept. 10, 2026, agenda as presented with second by Rich Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2026

Motion: Kurt Snyder moved to approve May 18, 2026, meeting minutes as presented with second by Rich Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Review of DRAFT October BHPC Agenda for Consideration

Janell Regimbal presented the draft agenda for the October BHPC quarterly/annual meeting, noting that the proposed agenda was built primarily around topics carried forward from prior meetings and issues that may help further inform the Council's legislative advocacy work. The meeting will include the Council ratifying the results of the electronic ballot for Vice Chair. The October meeting will return to the Job Service location. Participants discussed technology challenges experienced at the Capitol and the advantages of returning to Job Service when space is available. 2027 meeting date schedule, which had not yet been reflected on the draft agenda and would be added.

Topics for consideration as agenda items include:

1. Early Childhood / Pediatric Behavioral Health Panel with the intent of the panel would be to provide a broad overview of the needs, gaps, and system intersections affecting young children and families, while also identifying potential issues that may warrant deeper attention as BHPC prepares for the upcoming

legislative session. This topic has been raised many times as a needed area of focus. A panel will allow us to focus on several facets of this population group.

2. North Dakota Cares Coalition / Veterans Behavioral Health. Veterans are a designated focus population for BHPC. A Council member recommended bringing this work before the Council. The coalition's work appears closely aligned with BHPC interests, including identifying behavioral health gaps and barriers affecting military members and veterans, reducing stigma, increasing awareness and use of behavioral health resources, and strengthening community support.
3. North Dakota State Hospital Update. BHPC had previously advocated for the new State Hospital project but had not received a focused update since earlier architectural/planning presentations. The proposed October segment would cover both the status of the building project and a current service-delivery update, with time for Council questions.
4. IMD Waiver Follow-Up. The Committee discussed continued education regarding the Institution for Mental Diseases (IMD) waiver. Janell noted that the issue remains complex and that the Council has heard differing perspectives over time. She reviewed discussion from the previous BHPC meeting and proposed that the October agenda focus on information that members had identified as still needed before further consideration of BHPC's existing position. An update from North Dakota Medicaid, addressing follow-up actions Medicaid had previously discussed with providers and providing an update on changes related to the medical expense payment process and inviting Hector Hernandez-Delgado to provide a broader, independent educational perspective. He recently presented on the topic and appeared familiar with North Dakota's ongoing consideration of the issue. The Committee discussed the ongoing question of potential cost and administrative burden associated with pursuing and maintaining a waiver. Members acknowledged that different stakeholders have presented differing cost perspectives. It was noted that while an outside presenter may not be able to estimate a precise cost for North Dakota, such a presenter could explain the waiver development process, the multi-year administrative work involved, renewal requirements, and the demands placed on Medicaid staff. The committee expressed their goal of providing Council members with additional information and perspectives rather than presuming a particular outcome regarding BHPC's position.
5. Legislative Advocacy Implementation Planning- This discussion time will be carried forward due to being unable to complete it at its prior meeting. The proposed October segment will ask members to identify what they need to participate effectively in advocacy, what activities they are willing to undertake,

and how members might engage legislators beyond work conducted by the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee members expressed support for the overall October agenda framework with refinements recommended noted.

Update on Annual Meeting Election

Nominations were scheduled to close at the end of the day on Sept. 11. At the time of the meeting, two candidates had placed their names on the ballot. Following the closure of nominations, Janell will distribute an electronic ballot to members.

Adjourn

Chair Zerr asked whether there was any additional discussion. Hearing none, she officially adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:03 p.m. CT.

Minutes provided by: Janell Regimbal, Insight to Solutions/BHPC Contracted Facilitator