Behavioral Health Planning Council Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
January 2, 2025
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CT
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Present: Melanie Gaebe (Chairperson); Tania Zerr; Megan Indvik; Kurt Snyder; Andrea Hochhalter; Emma Quinn; Rich Smith; Paul Stroklund; and Lorraine Davis

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

Absent: None

Welcome and Call to Order

Chairperson Melanie Gaebe called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM. Roll call confirmed a quorum.

Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve January 2, 2025, agenda was made by Megan Indvik and seconded by Rich Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2024, meeting was reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Tania Zerr and seconded by Megan Indvik. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No members of the public or broader Council offered comments during this segment.

Finalization of Talking Points for Legislative Advocacy Document

Discussion:

- Melanie presented a draft document incorporating priorities discussed at the December meeting.

- Emphasis was placed on ensuring the document clearly communicated legislative priorities while avoiding overly technical language.

- Members debated the inclusion of a QR code linking to the dashboard on the HSRI website. Some expressed concerns that the dashboard might mislead legislators into thinking current behavioral health gaps are less significant than they are. The group agreed to exclude the dashboard and focus on legislative priorities linked to tangible needs and use the link to go to the HSRI study.

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A consensus was reached to prioritize "funding behavioral health programs" at the top of the document.

Actions:

1. Melanie will revise the draft to reflect the group's feedback and circulate it for review by Monday, January 6, 2025. A quick turnaround will be needed for feedback, with requests for editing recommendations provided by close of business on Monday.

2. Janell will provide access to the Council's logo for use in the advocacy document.

Review of Upcoming Legislative Hearings Scheduled

Pre-filed bills closed on 12/20. Other bills are just dropping now. Melanie shared that legislative budget hearings are expected to begin in mid-January, with the Department of Health and Human Services budget anticipated as an early focus.

The P&A Bill tracking document was requested as a reference tool. It will be sent out to committee members once it is available.

Dissemination Plan and Next Steps

Discussion:

- Members agreed to target Appropriations Committee members first while also ensuring that the document reaches all legislators.

- Distribution methods discussed included email, physical handouts for committee meetings, and using digital submissions for legislative testimony.

Actions

1. Tami will determine if there is funding availability for printing materials.

2. Melanie will finalize the dissemination strategy by the January 17, 2025, meeting.

3. Members shared advocacy educational opportunities occurring for peer support staff, Melanie Gaebe offered to do an educational session for BHPC members and others as a refresher. She will work with Janell to identify a date/time and plan for notifications to be placed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM by Chairperson Gaebe.

Respectfully submitted by Janell Regimbal, BHPC Facilitator of Insight to Solutions, LLC

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