

Behavioral Health Planning Council

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2025

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM CT

Virtual via Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Melanie Gaebe (Chairperson), Andrea Hochhalter, Tania Zerr, Kurt Snyder

Also Present: Janell Regimbal (Facilitator)

Absent: None

Quorum was established.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Chairperson Melanie Gaebe called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM CT. Roll call confirmed a quorum.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Kurt Snyder, second by Andrea Hochhalter, to approve the September 29, 2025 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Past Meeting Minutes (August 25, 2025)

Motion by Andrea Hochhalter, second by Kurt Snyder, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Letters of Support Policy/Procedure

Facilitator Janell Regimbal presented draft policy options outlining risks, benefits, and possible frameworks for council letters of support.

Discussion highlights:

- Members reviewed the context: a past request during the legislative session for a council letter raised questions due to lack of policy guidance.
- Risks noted included perceptions of favoritism, conflict of interest, and transparency concerns.
- Benefits discussed included strengthening council impact, visibility, and alignment with strategic priorities.

- Members emphasized that:
 - Criteria must ensure fairness, alignment with the strategic plan, and avoidance of selecting “winners or losers.”
 - Multiple letters of support may be issued if multiple applicants request and qualify.
 - Applicants must demonstrate alignment with council aims and provide sufficient lead time for consideration.
 - Process should not rely on electronic voting outside established council procedures.

Action: Motion by Kurt Snyder, second by Tania Zerr, to recommend to the full Council the development of a policy allowing selective letters of support under defined criteria. Motion carried unanimously. It was noted if members were in support of this, details would need to be worked out with further action taken by the Executive Committee.

5. Vision Statement Revision

The committee revisited options drafted in July to strengthen the Council’s vision statement, with emphasis on inclusion “across the lifespan.”

- Members discussed whether to narrow options as the Executive Committee or gather wider council input.
- Consensus: circulate a poll to all Council members to gather input prior to the October meeting. Results will inform discussion and potential adoption.

6. Legislative Interim Studies

Chairperson Gaebe provided updates on interim committee activities, including:

- Stakeholder sessions regarding the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) and federal funding allocations.
- Concerns raised that rural voices and behavioral health priorities must be reflected in planning, not solely large hospital networks.
- A special legislative session will be needed to authorize federal funding authority.

Action: BHPC members will receive links to upcoming HHS listening sessions to encourage participation.

7. Additional Discussion (Not on Agenda)

Conference Visibility: Members discussed ways to increase BHPC visibility at the upcoming statewide Children and Family Services/Behavioral Health Conference. Options included:

- Having BHPC handouts at the Behavioral Health Division booth.
- Future consideration of a dedicated BHPC booth or council-led presentation.
- Exploring whether BHPC could sponsor or present an award in future years.

This topic will be placed on a future Executive Committee agenda for further discussion with Behavioral Health Division leadership.

8. Adjournment

Chairperson Gaebe adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Regimbal
Facilitator