

**Behavioral Health Planning Council**  
**Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 2025  
1:00 PM – 2:05 PM CT  
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present:** Melanie Gaebe (Chairperson); Andrea Hochhalter; Emma Quinn; Rich Smith and Megan Indvik

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

**Absent:** Paul Stroklund; Tania Zerr; Kurt Snyder and Lorraine Davis

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chairperson Melanie Gaebe called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM. Roll call confirmed a quorum.

**Approval of Agenda**

- Motion to approve the March 14, 2025, agenda was made by Megan Andvik and seconded by Andrea Hochhalter. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- Motion to approve the February 14, 2025, meeting minutes was made by Andrea Hochhalter and seconded by Rich Smith. Motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment**

- No public comments were received during the meeting.

**Review of Legislative Calendar Activities-** a quick review of the upcoming schedule occurred.

**Legislative Updates and Key Discussions:**

- Chairperson Gaebe reported that House Human Services Committee is taking a deep dive into Senate bills, delaying movement on key behavioral health priorities.
- **State Hospital Advocacy Discussion:**

- Emma Quinn raised concerns about the growing Senate opposition to funding the State Hospital project. Committee members discussed strategies to emphasize that regional services AND the State Hospital are both necessary rather than mutually exclusive.
- **Action:**
  1. Chairperson Gaebe will update testimony to reinforce "both/and" messaging regarding regional and inpatient services.
  2. Janell Regimbal will draft an advocacy message to encourage individual BHPC members to submit testimony and contact legislators including links to information which may aid in providing talking points on the state of the hospital's infrastructure and need for services.
- **House Bill 1468 (West Central Human Service Center Beds):**
  - Richard Smith reported that HB 1468, which allocates \$16 million for adolescent and adult inpatient beds, passed the House with strong support. The Senate Appropriations Committee hearing is scheduled for March 17, 2025, at 10:30 AM.
  - **Action:** Committee members will monitor the hearing and report on amendments.
- **Senate Bill 2357 (Licensing Board Consolidation Study):**
  - The bill was amended into a study on professional licensure streamlining, to be overseen by **the Attorney General's office**.
  - **Discussion:**
    - Concerns were raised about whether behavioral health boards should be consolidated under Department of Labor rather than the AG's office. Emma Quinn noted feedback from a counselor licensed in both North Dakota and Wyoming, who favored Wyoming's centralized board model due to faster and more efficient licensing.
    - **Action:**
      1. Chairperson Gaebe will explore whether an amendment could move oversight to the Department of Labor instead.
- **House Bill 1430 (Conversion Therapy Licensing Ethics):**

- The bill, which initially allowed conversion therapy as an ethical practice, was amended to explicitly prohibit conversion therapy.
- **Discussion:**
  - The amended version aligns with national ethical standards but may still create grey areas regarding counseling on sexual orientation.
  - **Action:** Committee members will continue monitoring to ensure further amendments do not reintroduce harmful provisions.

### **Setting Remaining Meeting Dates**

- The next meeting was scheduled for **April 4, 2025**, at 1:00 PM CT.
- The committee will decide at the April meeting whether an additional session in May is necessary based on legislative progress. Action: Janell Regimbal will post public notice and distribute calendar invites.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM by Chairperson Gaebe.

**Respectfully Submitted By:**

**Janell Regimbal, BHPC Facilitator**