

Minutes

Behavioral Health Council

Date August 20, 2024

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Time 1:00 PM – 2:45 PM

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Meeting called to order by Dr. Christina Finello, Esq., Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council

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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. Special Assistant to the Secretary, Cathy Hall, MPA, on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin
8. Spec. Asst. to Adj. Gen. Richard Hamp on behalf of Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Maj. Gen. Mark J. Schindler
9. Policy and Legislative Affairs Office Director, Major Patrick Beaver on behalf of Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Christopher Paris
10. Regional Licensed Psychologist Manager, Corrections, Dr. Elicia Stein on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Dr. Laurel Harry
11. Secretary of the Department of State, Al Schmidt
12. Exec. Dir. Rural Dev. Council, Western Reg. Dir. PA Dept. of Agriculture, Mr. Mark Critz, on behalf of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Russell Redding
13. Director, Office of Research, Evaluation, & Strategic Policy Development, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Kirsten Kenyon Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington
14. Bureau Director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, PA Dept. of Labor and Industry, Denise Verchimak, on behalf of Secretary of Department of Labor and Industry, Nancy Walker
15. Digital Services Director at the Governor's Office, Sadie Smiles, on behalf of Director of Digital Strategy at the Governor's Office, Annie Newman
16. Pennsylvania Attorney General's Safe2Say Program Director, Brittney Kline
17. Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Jennifer Smith
18. Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs, Sally A. Kozak, MHA, RN
19. Director, Office of Safe Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Dr. Scott Kuren
20. Office of Safe Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Dr. Dana Milakovic
21. Special Assistant, Complex Needs Planning, Dept. of Human Services, Jonathan McVey

Representatives with lived or living experiences and family members:

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

#### County Representatives:

25. Tina Clymer, County Mental Health Office representing Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties
26. Dr. Tamra Williams, County Mental Health Office from Montgomery County
27. Ryan Hogan, Single County Authority from Luzerne County
28. Kristin Varner, Single County Authority from Dauphin County
29. Lynn Deardorff, Area Agency on Aging from Adams County
30. J.R. Jones on behalf of Dr. Shannah Gillam, Area Agency on Aging from Allegheny County

#### Clinical Representatives:

31. Dr. Amy Kim, an expert in child and family behavioral healthcare
32. Dr. Margaret Jarvis, an expert in addiction medicine and substance use disorder treatments
33. Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger, an expert in primary healthcare
34. 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:

35. Representative Mike Schlossberg (D)
36. Representative Jim Struzzi (R)
37. Senator Maria Collett (D)
38. Senator Michele Brooks (R) (Adam Gingrich)

#### Additional Speakers:

39. Psychiatrist-in-Chief & Chair of the Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania, Dr. Tami Benton
40. Executive Director, Children's First, Donna Cooper, MPA, MIM

#### REPORTS

Dr. Finello took roll call. Dr. Finello gave some opening remarks and introduced the topic for the meeting, which was child and adolescent wellbeing and addressing gaps in care. She mentioned that there will first be some presentations to help our understanding of the topic, then a discussion with Council members led by her.

The speakers were from the state: Jennifer Smith, Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS); Sally A. Kozak, MHA, RN, Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, Office of Medical Assistance Programs; Dr. Scott Kuren, Director, Office of Safe Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education; Dr. Dana Milakovic Office of Safe Schools, Pennsylvania Department of Education; Kirsten Kenyon, Director, Office of Research, Evaluation, & Strategic Policy Development, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency; and Jonathan McVey, Special Assistant, Complex Needs Planning, Department of Human Services. To provide a community perspective, the two speakers were: Dr. Tami Benton, Psychiatrist-in-Chief & Chair of the Department of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Children's Hospital of Pennsylvania and Executive Director of Children's First, Donna Cooper, MPA, MIM.

After the presentations, Dr. Finello led a facilitated discussion with questions that were given to Council members prior to the meeting. The results of the discussion will be used as part of the Statewide Action Plan.

Dr. Finello ended the meeting with some closing remarks and thanked the Council members for their time.

#### 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 September. The next meeting of the Council is September 17, 2024, and it will be in person.

NEXT MEETING

September 17, 2024, 1 PM, Governor's Reception Room