

**Behavioral Health Advisory Council (BHAC)
December 11, 2024 Minutes DRAFT**

MEETING DETAILS	
Date/Time	December 11, 2024 at 10:00am
Venue	Virtual through Zoom
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
Present	Jason Lowe, VA Medicaid; Kristinne Stone, VDOE; Mary McQuown, DBHDS; Dr. Rhonda Bryant, Private Practice; Hannah Sower, NAMI Virginia; Bently Wood, RBHA; Justin Wallace, VDH; Bruce Crusier, MHV; Adam Creveling, VDSS; Dietrich Bragg; Bright Days Mental Health Services; Margie Millner, DARS; Cristy Corbin, FSA of VA; Karen Grabowski, DBHDS; Nicholas Pappas, Peer; Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS; Heather Orrock, Vocal, Rita Utz, MHV
Guest(s)	Susan Fincke, Advocate; Rebekkah Bodanske, DBHDS; Benjamine Wakefield, DBHDS; Eric Billings, DBHDS
Unexcused Absence	Robin Binford-Weaver, Kate Flinn, Margie Millner, Dreamel Spady, Sandra Nichols, Kristin Vaughn
Excused Absence	
Minutes Taken By	Justin Wallace, Secretary
Presiding Officer	Heather Orrock, President
Order Called	Council convened at 10:00am

Time	Item	Discussion/Action	Responsibility/Follow-up (if applicable)
10:00am	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Orrock welcomes attendees 	Presiding Officer: Heather Orrock
10:05am	Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Approve Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion: Bently Wood ○ Second: Nicholas Pappas ○ All Approved 	Voting Members
10:10am	Financial Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Account Balance: \$14,763.83 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Income: \$975.00 ○ Current Expenditures: None ○ End Balance: \$15,738.83 	Bruce Crusier

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		<p><i>Budget 2024 – 2025</i> <i>\$15,900 TOTAL</i> <i>\$12,000 Administration and Fiscal Agent</i> <i>\$3,900 BHAC expenses</i> <i>\$2,700 BoardSpot online board meeting platform (one-time payment)</i> <i>\$1,200 Training allowance</i></p>	
10:15am	Committee Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	Bruce Cruser and Voting Members
	Governance Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two bylaws changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update vision and mission statement (previously approved by council) ○ Current amended version of bylaws is located in BoardSpot • Bently Wood (comment) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request for Governance Committee to prioritize addressing stigmatizing language (consumer) • Dr. Rhonda Bryant (new Governance Committee Chair) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Welcome and thank you 	<p>Bruce Cruser, MHV</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Onboard new committee chair and set priorities
	Monitoring & Evaluation Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data, evaluation, and fiscal process – engaged DBHDS staff to present annually on these elements to inform the block grant and general assembly letters • Worked to align with the Advocacy Committee – communication process under development • Considering a July/August date for the annual general assembly letter in subsequent years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking to align this with the state budgeting process 	<p>Kristinne Stone, VDOE</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize alignment and communication plan with Advocacy committee

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	Advocacy Committee Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not able to meet in November, will discuss the general assembly letter in breakout rooms with the monitoring & evaluation committee 	Cristy Corbin, FSP of VA
10:30am	Committee Breakout Rooms – Report Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cristy Corbin – Advocacy and the Monitoring & Evaluation committees discussed recommendations for the advocacy letter to the general assembly – proposing multiple letters next year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Summary Letter ○ Commissioner Letter – explore breakout of topics with individual letters to each appropriate GA committee • Request VACSB representative attend meetings in the future • Heather Orrack – Governance committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worked to onboard new chair (Dr. Rhonda Bryant) ○ Discussed technical assistance (TA) need (waiting DHBDS commissioner approval) ○ Considering use of funding to hire a consultant while TA is waiting to be approved 	<p>All committee chairs</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <p>Advocacy/Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore new timeline for letter drafting and distribution • Connect with VACSB to establish new BHAC liaison <p>Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heather Orrock to draft letter to DBHDS re: moving TA request forward • Confirm next steps for consultant hire – approval by committee
11:00am	Updates from DBHDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defining the difference between advocacy and lobbying (met with DBHDS legislative affairs manager) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cannot physically go to the general assembly and lobby ○ Can draft letters to the general assembly and other governmental agencies as needed 	Nathanael Rudney

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner response to the BHAC Commissioner Letter is being drafted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Clarification – BHAC is required to submit a letter to the commissioner in August of each year. Requirement is for a response within 60 days. 	
	DBHDS Presentation on Data, Research, and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Behavioural Health Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation available in BoardSpot • Newly launched Virginia CSB performance dashboard and Virginia well-being dashboard (demographic info on behavioural health issues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://dbhds.virginia.gov/about-dbhds/csb-performance-dashboard/ ○ https://vawellbeingdashboard.org/ 	<p>Rebekkah Bodanske, Director of Research and Evaluation, DBHDS</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure presentation is uploaded to BoardSpot
	DBHDS Presentation on Block Grant Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Grants Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presentation available in BoardSpot • Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feedback on how the switch to reimbursement funding may have impacted service delivery – department has worked to increase frequency of reimbursements 	<p>Benjamin Wakefield, Federal Grants Manager, DBHDS Eric Billings, Director of Grants Management, DBHDS</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure presentation is uploaded to BoardSpot
11:55am	BoardSpot Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to time constraints, Rita will email out this training to members 	<p>Rita Utz</p> <p>Follow-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email BoardSpot training to committee members

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12:05pm	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Fincke <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strongly encourage members to review the new DBHDS dashboard ○ Uniform Reporting Summary – SAMHSA compares Virginia to other states re: mental health outcomes ○ FOIA submitted to DBHDS by Susan to understand amount of block grant money returned unexpended each year – raised concerns over returned funds since 2015 	Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rita to upload documents shared by Susan Fincke
12:10pm	Adjourn		Follow-up: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm whether a motion to adjourn is required. No motion was carried in this meeting.
Next Full Council Meeting: February 19, 2025.			