

Behavioural Health Advisory Council (BHAC)

August 20, 2025 Minutes DRAFT

MEETING DETAILS	
Date/Time	August 20, 2025 at 10:00am
Venue	Virtual through Zoom
COUNCIL DEMOGRAPHICS	
Present	Martin Mash, Interim Executive Director, Vocal Virginia, Heather Orrock, Executive Director, Mental Health Virginia, Nathanael Rudney, DBHDS, State Block Grant Planner, Patrice Beard, VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities, Bently Wood, Advocate, Kristinne Stone, VDOE, School Mental Health Grant Manager, Kiersten Szymecki, MSW Intern, Mental Health Virginia, Hannah Sower, NAMI Programs Senior Manager for NAMI Virginia, Karen Grabowski, Office of Child and Family Services, DBHDS, Cameron Hart, DBHDS, Virginia Management Fellow, Cristy Corbin, Advocate and President of Family Support Partners of Virginia, Sheamekah Williams, TA Consultant, Mary McQuown, DBHDS< Recovery Services Workforce Development Coordinator, Tanya Nesgoda, DBHDS, Project Coordinator, Justin Wallace, OFHS, VDH, Jason Lowe, ARTS Program Manager, DMAS, Robin Binford-Weaver, DJJ< Behavioural Services Unit Treatment Director, Rhonda M. Bryant, Governance Committee Chair, Clinician, Ellen Radis, Advocate,
Guest(s)	
Unexcused Absence	
Excused Absence	
Minutes Taken By	Justin Wallace, Secretary
Presiding Officer	Nicholas Pappas, 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"> • Nicholas Pappas– opens meeting • Quorum was established 	Presiding Officer: Nicholas Pappas
	Approval of Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Approval of June 2025 Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passed 	Voting Members

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10:05am	Financial Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Balance: \$16,713.83 (\$17,688.83 once DHBDS payment received) 	Heather Orrock, MHV
10:10am	Committee Updates		
	Executive Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christy has stepped down as the chair for the advocacy committee, Bently Wood will be the new advocacy committee chair. • Discussed holding a vote to open membership applications for the BHAC • Established an agenda for the BHAC meeting 	Nicholas Pappas, President
	Governance Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed moving bylaws forward – TA has been identified and will move forward • Question: do we know who will move application processing forward? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ There is a process in place with the Governance Committee • Question: Do the bylaws determine who the individuals are within the Governance Committee? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Chair would direct this work • Note: Interviewers can be anyone on the Council, direction comes from the Governance Committee chair. • Motion: move to reopen the membership process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Passed 	Rhonda Bryant, Chair
	Monitoring & Evaluation Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliverables: Letter to be drafted for the Commissioner this month (August 2025). • Reviewed outcomes measures and SUD services for pregnant women • Discussed the restructure at DBHDS 	Kristinne Stone, Chair

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explored Nathanael's ability to connect the subcommittee with the DBHDS Office of Child and Family Health. • Question for Sub: Bently Wood – request to have DBHDS changes explained as far as the reorganization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ General agreement among the council to have an explanation of the reasons behind the change 	
	Advocacy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Christy to explore priorities • Advocacy Committee supports reopening the membership process 	Bently Wood, Chair
10:30am	DBHDS Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will review letter to the commissioner this session • Application for public comment has been posted, public hearing scheduled for the 28th of August • Nathaneal will work across DHBDS offices to respond to public comment • Question: Are there updates on recovery housing shifts within Virginia? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ We can request DBHDS staff who work within this space to provide a presentation to BHAC • Question: are housing first principles supported by the current administration, is there a funding risk? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Nathaneal will bring any questions the BHAC has to DBHDS and can request someone from the housing office to present to the council. 	<p>Nathaneal Rudney, DBHDS</p> <p>To Do:</p> <p>Request DBHDS present on Recovery Housing</p> <p>Request for DBHDS housing office presentation</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions: high need support waver – GA did not approve continuation of this waver in 2024 	
10:40am	Discussion – BHAC Bylaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have started TA with a new consultant • Shamika Williams will function as the TA consultant for BHAC moving forward • Primary tasks: review all aspects of BHAC 	Nathaneal Rudney, DBHDS
10:50am	Review of Letter to the Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over federal cuts impacting recovery community jobs – possible for Virginia to step in • Second request for attention to peer run funding needs/gaps • Desire to have non-profit input within this space at future events • Request to include supportive employment • Additional edits can be viewed in board spot • Letter due to Nathaneal August 29th. 	All Members To Do: Nathaneal to draft 2025 letter and submit to Governance Committee for final review
12:05pm	Adjourn		Nicholas Pappas, President

Next Full Council Meeting: October 15th, 2025