

# **Behavioral Health Advisory Council**

Virtual Meeting  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025

## **Advisory Council Members Present**

- |                           |                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Angie Dammer           | 11. Chuck Frieberg           |
| 2. Matt Glanzer           | 12. Wendy Figland            |
| 3. Eric Weiss             | 13. Bryan Harberts           |
| 4. Dianna Marshall        | 14. Melanie Boetel           |
| 5. Kristi Bunkers         | 15. Jon Sommervold           |
| 6. Jason Lillich          | 16. Dominique Tigert (Chair) |
| 7. Joseph Tielke          | 17. Rosanne Summerside       |
| 8. Andrea Effling         | 18. Melissa Kaiser           |
| 9. Dr. Melissa Dittberner | 19. Samantha Freeze          |
| 10. Dr. Melita Rank       | 20. Kaittie Lail             |

## **Advisory Council Members Absent**

1. Pamela Bennett
2. Josette Church
3. Penny Kelley (Vice-Chair)
4. Mickayla Hanzlik
5. Kara Graveman
6. Faith Goehring
7. Heather Petermann

## **Behavioral Health Staff Present**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Bev Mentzer    | 6. Michelle Worden  |
| 2. Lily Rowe      | 7. Brenna Koedam    |
| 3. Vanessa Barnes | 8. Xanady Schlotter |
| 4. Carmen Kasin   |                     |
| 5. Brandi Hansman |                     |

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to review the state's comprehensive behavioral health services plan and provide recommendations to the Department of Social Services; to serve as an advocate on behalf of persons served; and to monitor and evaluate the adequacy of behavioral health services in the state.

## **Minutes:**

### **I. Call to Order / Welcome and Introductions**

October 22, 2025, the Behavioral Health Advisory Council meeting was called to order by council chair Dominique Tigert.

## **II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Dominique Tigert motioned to approve the meeting minutes for June 2025. Wendy Figland seconded the motion. Motion carried, all approved.

## **III. Review of public meeting guidelines**

Bev Mentzer shared an overview of the guidelines for South Dakota's open meetings laws.

## **IV. Behavioral Health Services Update**

### **Fiscal Update**

Melanie Boetel shared the Fiscal Year 25 reports for both contracted and Title XIX services at Community Mental Health Centers and Substance Use Disorder treatment providers. These reports are available in the meeting materials.

The Division of Behavioral Health received all grant awards prior to the federal government shutdown and has continued services as usual. Grant Project Officers are furloughed and unavailable for any assistance the division may require, however, there has been no impact to behavioral health services due to federal government shutdown.

The state is currently finalizing an application for the Rural Health Transformation Program. Input was received from the RFI and five regional in-person meetings with stakeholders to inform the proposal. The application is due to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) by November 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Opioid Abatement**

Chief of Behavioral Health, Brenna Koedam, provided an update regarding opioid settlement funds.

An opioid needs assessment is underway with 2 vendors, USD and the Steadman Group. A dashboard outlining the usage of South Dakota's National Opioid Settlement funds is available to view on the [DSS website](#). The dashboard provides an overview of the share, the funds received, projections, approved uses, and the priority strategies and allocations.

Also, the Opioid Advisory Committee and DSS worked together to develop updated funding opportunities for communities and entities to request opioid settlement funds. These will be made available on the website the first week of November.

### **Data/Outcomes**

Brandi Hansman and Carmen Kasin shared treatment outcomes for FY25 utilizing the live, interactive dashboard which is anticipated to become available on the DSS website by the end of October.

Melanie Boetel shared block grant priority indicator outcomes regarding evidence-based trainings and agency staff vacancy rates, both goals to ensure access to treatment.

## **Treatment Services**

DBH's SUD Treatment Services Program Manager position, previously held by Randee Peterson, has been filled by Gretchen Stai. The Recovery Support Services Program Manager position, previously held by Gretchen, has been filled by Dez Kincaid.

An update was provided regarding the CCBHC Planning Grant activities.

## **Prevention Services**

DBH did not receive responses to the original RFP to solicit five new prevention coalitions for expanding capacity in the central region of the state. After targeted outreach, the RFP has been re-published with a due date of December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The transportation pilot for individuals under a mental health commitment has expanded to anyone over 70 miles from the Human Service Center that meets eligibility criteria beginning in October 2025. A bed registry will be launched on October 27<sup>th</sup> for the four short-term crisis centers and four inpatient hospitals. This bed registry is an effort to support timely access to care by listing bed availability as reported by each facility. The bed registry is updated daily by each facility and will be available only to the facilities at this time.

A [crisis services data dashboard](#) is now available online and updated on a monthly basis.

The [2025 SEOW Executive Summary](#) is now complete and posted on our website.

An update was provided regarding naloxone saturation modeling and naloxone distribution activities.

## **Human Services Center**

The daily census has remained steady at an average of 148 patients. Since the implementation of Appropriate Regional Facilities, admissions have been trending towards longer stays with the average adult acute admissions stays increasing from 17 days to 19 days.

HSC has continued to utilize partnerships with schools to recruit workforce and spread the word about the behavioral health field.

Staff are working with DBH on the civil mental health commitment process that needs to be updated. A central intake pilot will begin for all mental health referrals across the state if deemed feasible.

HSC is working to transform their psych units to a "treatment mall" model intended to be a more healing, recovery-focused environment. The treatment mall will allow for patients to move through various therapeutic spaces and choose their activities rather than be confined to their rooms. The treatment mall will include activities such as art therapy, group therapy, medication education centers, sensory rooms, and more. Advisory committee members shared ideas that could be incorporated into the treatment mall model.

## **V. Work Force Development Website**

Lily Rowe shared a brief overview of the new workforce development website – [SDBehavioralHealthCareers.sd.gov](http://SDBehavioralHealthCareers.sd.gov) with launch anticipated the last week of October. The website features resources for current behavioral health professionals as well as education on the field, the various occupations, licensure requirements, and more.

**VI. Behavioral Health Campaign Updates**

Vanessa Barnes shared updates on the 988 and Let's Be Clear campaigns.

A sign-up form will soon be available on [SDBehavioralHealth.gov](https://SDBehavioralHealth.gov). for individuals to opt into receiving occasional positive affirmations and encouraging messages via text.

A perception study was conducted to gauge awareness of 988 and inform marketing strategy. An overview of the perception study results can be viewed in the meeting materials.

**VII. Open Discussion / Council Member Updates**

Andrea Effling shared the Department of Education has [Mental Health posters](#) available on their website for anyone to download and print.

**VIII. Public Comment / Testimony**

No public comment.

**IX. Future Meeting**

DBH will send out a doodle poll to the council to determine a date for the next meeting to be held in person in May or June.

**X. Adjourn**

Melanie Boetel motioned to adjourn. Bryan Harberts seconded the motion. All approved.