

Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Sioux Falls, South Dakota

June 10, 2025

Advisory Council Members Present

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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Matt Glanzer | 12. Jon Sommervold |
| 2. Colleen Campbell-Lane | 13. Kara Graveman |
| 3. Eric Weiss | 14. Faith Goehring |
| 4. Dianna Marshall | 15. Dominique Tigert |
| 5. Kristi Bunkers | 16. Heather Petermann |
| 6. Pamela Bennett | 17. Rosanne |
| 7. Jason Lillich | Summerside |
| 8. Andrea Effling | 18. Melissa Kaiser |
| 9. Wendy Fingoland | 19. Kattie Lail |
| 10. Bryan Harbert | 20. Samantha Freeze |
| 11. Melanie Boetel | |

Advisory Council Members Absent

1. Angie Dammer (Chair)
2. Penny Kelley (Vice-Chair)
3. Joseph Tielke
4. Chuck Frieberg

Behavioral Health Staff Present

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| 1. Andrew Ausborn | 7. Lily Rowe |
| 2. Jeremy Johnson | 8. Vanessa Barnes |
| 3. Colleen Hannum | 9. Brenna Koedam |
| 4. Brittney Lengkeek | 10. Grace Schroder |
| 5. Janell Gowin | 11. Kimberly Mosley |
| 6. Beverly Mentzer | |

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**

June 10, 2025, the Behavioral Health Advisory Council meeting was called to order by Melanie Boetel.

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

Jon Sommervold motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 2024. Dianna Marshall seconded the motion. Motion carried, all approved.

III. **Officer Elections: Chair**

Angie Dammer's term as chair has ended. Bev Mentzer opened the floor for nominations for a new chair. Dianna Marshall nominated Dominique Tigert. Andrea Effling motioned to approve. Kristi Bunkers seconded. Motion carried, all in favor. Dominique Tigert accepted the two-year term of Behavioral Health Advisory Council Chair.

IV. **Behavioral Health Services Update**

Fiscal Update

Fiscal Program Manager Janell Gowin provided an overview of the FY25 Q1-Q3 expenditures in the areas of substance use treatment and mental health services. Melanie Boetel provided updates regarding state and federal budget impacts. Due to a decrease in state revenue, there have been cuts to state agency budgets. In response to the Governor's 2025 budget recommendation and decreased utilization due to Medicaid expansion, the Division has ended the Indigent Medication Program.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which were anticipated to end September 2025, were terminated March 24, 2025. The Division is closely monitoring federal changes and budget proposals to assess potential impacts to other federal funding, including block grants, discretionary grants and Medicaid match changes. FY26 contracts have been right-sized based on historical utilization. The Division will monitor expenditures and adjust as needed.

Treatment Services

Melanie Boetel shared that the Peer Support stakeholder workgroup was held in January 2025 - February 2025 and consisted of 15 stakeholders with interest in peer support, staff from the Division of Behavioral Health, and a Medicaid representative. The workgroup developed state standards for peer support. Areas discussed included training, continuing education, self-attestation, and supervision. A public notice to add peer support services to the Medicaid state plan ended May 28, 2025. The amendment adds coverage and provider qualifications for non-clinical individual and group peer support services to help Medicaid beneficiaries engaged in community mental health centers (CMHCs) and substance use disorder (SUD) agencies become and stay engaged in the recovery process and reduce the

likelihood of relapse. Payment for Peer Support services is outlined on South Dakota Medicaid's fee schedule as follows:

Code	Description	Fee
H0038	Peer services, per 15 minutes	\$17.08
H0025	Peer services 2-10 patients per 15 minutes	\$7.26

A virtual site visit was conducted by SAMHSA for the Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program May 13-14, 2025. The site visit reviewed the overall operation of the programs at Southeastern Behavioral Health, Dakota Counseling Institute, and Human Service Agency. SAMHSA provided overall positive feedback to the Division. The final report will include recommendations for improvement and is anticipated to be received in the next month.

Prevention Services

Assistant Director Vanessa Barnes provided updates on the expansion of prevention services in the central region of South Dakota. Through the Strategic Prevention Framework- Partnerships for Success (SPF PFS) grant funding, a Central Prevention Resource Center (CPRC) has been established with a 15-county catchment area to include Corson, Dewey, Ziebach, Sully, Haakon, Stanley, Hughes, Jones, Jackson, Lyman, Mellette, Bennett, Todd, Tripp, and Gregory Counties. Capital Area Counseling Service (CACS) in Pierre was chosen through the RFP process to house the CPRC. An RFP was released on April 28th soliciting proposals to establish or expand 5 community coalitions in the CPRC's catchment area. Each coalition will seek to expand access to evidence-based substance use prevention and mental health promotion services. Proposals are due June 17th with an anticipated award decision and contract negotiation on July 11th, 2025.

A 988 Peer Supports program was recently established in March 2025. The 988 Peer Support Program helps people who have chronic mental health and/or substance use struggles work toward recovery. Referrals to the program come directly through 988 contacts identified as candidates by the 988 counselor for the Peer Support Program.

Through grant funding, DBH launched a transportation pilot in March 2025 for individuals under an involuntary hold for mental health to the Human Services Center (HSC) through September 2026. Having transportation services designed for individuals with mental health issues, rather than relying on law enforcement, is crucial for several reasons related to reduced stigma and increased dignity, better resource allocation and improved mental health outcomes. Human Services Center (HSC) staff arranges transport after assessment of eligibility. Red River Transport staff utilizes vehicles that are secure and drivers that are certified in Mental Health First Aid, CPR and First Aid.

A requirement of the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) block grant is to conduct a Synar coverage study every three years as part

of the Synar amendment. This amendment to the block grant requires states to enforce laws prohibiting the sale of tobacco products to minors and report on their compliance efforts. This coverage study is a process where states confirm a comprehensive list of all tobacco retailers to ensure accurate sampling for compliance checks that are done yearly. The last coverage study was completed in 2022. The Division is currently contracting with Mountain Plains Evaluation for this.

The Department of Social Services established a contract beginning March 24, 2025 with Emily's Hope to augment existing naloxone distribution efforts led by the State of South Dakota by focusing on anonymous distribution of 20,000 naloxone kits across South Dakota. Anonymous distribution will be met through free public access naloxone boxes that will be strategically placed in high-traffic areas across the state in alignment with the State's data-driven naloxone saturation efforts that prioritize locations with higher rates of overdoses. In addition to the placement and support of naloxone boxes, Emily's Hope will serve as a point of distribution for businesses and nonprofits to request naloxone kits to be distributed to high-risk populations and placed near AEDs. To date, 2,158 naloxone kits have been distributed.

The 2025 "Your Journey Matters" Behavioral Health Conference will take place August 4th-5th, 2025 in Sioux Falls, SD. This year, the Division expanded its annual suicide prevention conference to encompass all behavioral health. Tracks include prevention, treatment, recovery supports, burnout, and compassion fatigue. Registration is open through July 21st at <https://sdbehavioralhealth.gov/conference> where you will also find the conference agenda.

Data/Outcomes

Assistant Director Andrew Ausborn shared the work the Division is doing around fund source corrections to maximize Medicaid utilization. The Performance Management team continues to check for data entry errors that in some cases allow for state contract funds to be utilized instead of Title XIX. Each month, they continue to pull approximately 4% of a possible eligible client population (based on income) and inform providers on updates needed to prevent accidental claims to contract and enforce controls already in place.

- MH – Up 27.8% from April, FY24. This is total of \$4,739,393 more spend than Last Year (LY) in Title XIX.
- SUD – Up 168.4% from April, FY24. This is total of \$11,710,006 more spend than LY in Title XIX.

Data and Outcomes Program Manager Brittney Lengkeek provided a demonstration of the newly developed data dashboard expected to launch October 2025. The dashboard will take the place of the previous annual state and agency profiles. This solution allows for real-time data to be displayed and provides a comprehensive look at the data regarding various treatment services, demographics, and performance measures. The dashboard is intended to be made public on the DSS website in October 2025.

Priority Indicators

Bev Mentzer provided an update on priority indicators collected by the Division for block grant reporting in December. (See attachment for more information.)

Andrew Ausborn provided a look at the FY25 Access to Services Survey data. (See attachment for more information.)

Vanessa Barnes shared that the Prevention team is working towards a reporting template to streamline data collection for prevention services. (See attachment for more information.)

QMHP

The Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP) training was recently updated and includes videos and a workbook. The new training provides additional information around safety planning, Appropriate Regional Facilities (ARFs), and information for making a referral when an involuntary commitment is not deemed appropriate. Guides about the involuntary commitment process have also been updated.

- QMHP Training:
https://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/professional_trainings.aspx
- Guide for Professionals:
https://dss.sd.gov/docs/behavioralhealth/services/Guide_for_Professionals.pdf
- Guide for Family and Friends:
https://dss.sd.gov/docs/behavioralhealth/services/Guide_for_Family_and_Friends.pdf

Human Services Center

HSC Administrator Jeremey Johnson reported on the number of clients served (see attachment).

Through a University of South Dakota Grant, HSC has worked to recruit nurses to the behavioral health field. HSC continues to accommodate schooling schedules and provide tuition assistance for developing their staff. In August, HSC will welcome post-doctoral psychology students to showcase the work they do in hopes of attracting potential staff.

An Environment Care Committee comprised of HSC staff has been assembled to ensure a safe environment for both staff and patients. Recent improvements have been made to the facility including new door hinges and windows to reduce risk of self-injury and an alert system for notifying staff across the building of a medical or behavioral health crisis.

V. Break

VI. Work Force Development

Program Manager Bev Mentzer provided an update on workforce development efforts which include the creation of an educational flyer on behavioral health careers. A website dedicated to help build South Dakota's behavioral health workforce is in its beginning stages. The Division has also partnered with various

career fairs and Scrubs Camps across the state which educate middle and high school students on healthcare careers.

VII. SD SEOW Executive Summary

Epidemiologist Collen Hannum provided a preview of the 2025 SEOW Executive Summary. A webpage is being built to soon house epidemiological data and the completed summary.

VIII. Behavioral Health Campaign Updates

An updated SDBehavioralHealth.gov website was launched in April and includes features such as filterable [maps](#) for finding services, a [crisis services data dashboard](#), and an array of behavioral health resources.

For Mental Health Awareness Month in May, a sticky note wall instillation was placed at the Washington Pavilion with over 13,000 notes of encouragement representing the 13,000 contacts made to 988 in 2024. [988 testimonial videos](#) were filmed in front of the wall to share real stories of South Dakotans who've utilized 988.

[Testimonial videos](#) have also been created for the Let's Be Clear campaign aimed at educating on substance use and providing information on prevention, treatment, and recovery.

IX. Staffing Updates

Melanie Boetel introduced Brenna Koedam, the new Chief of Behavioral Health. Randee Peterson stepped down as the Substance Use Disorder Program Manager in May. Gretchen Stai will be filling this vacant position, and the Division will be working to hire for her previous role as the Recovery Support Services Program Manager. The Division is also working to fill the position previously held by Jennifer Humphrey who has transferred to the Medical Services division.

X. Open Discussion / Council Member Updates

None.

XI. Public Comment / Testimony

None.

XII. Future Meeting

October 2025 has been identified as a tentative time for the next council meeting which will occur virtually.

XIII. Adjourn

Bryan Harberts motioned to adjourn. Kristi Bunkers seconded the motion. All approved.

XIV. Tour of the State One Stop Building in Sioux Falls