

Meeting Minutes
Behavioral Health Advisory Council
June 24, 2026
1:00 PM-3:00 PM (CT)

Human Services Center
South Training Center
3515 Broadway Ave
Yankton SD

Advisory Council Members Present

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|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Angie Dammer | 10. Wendy Figland |
| 2. Eric Weiss | 11. Bryan Harberts |
| 3. Dianna Marshall | 12. Michelle Worden, designee for
Melanie Boetel |
| 4. Sara Sheppick | 13. Kara Graveman |
| 5. Penny Kelley (Vice-Chair) | 14. Faith Goehring |
| 6. Jason Lillich | 15. Dominique Tigert (Chair) |
| 7. Joseph Tielke | 16. Dr. Melita Rank |
| 8. Samantha Freeze | |
| 9. Kaittie Lail | |

Advisory Council Members Absent

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Josette Church | 6. Dr. Melissa Dittberner |
| 2. Kristi Bunkers | 7. Chuck Frieberg |
| 3. Andrea Effling | 8. Jon Sommervold |
| 4. Melissa Kaiser | 9. Heather Petermann |
| 5. Mickayla Hanzlik | 10. Rosanne Summerside |

Behavioral Health Staff Present

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Brenna Koedam | 7. Simone Kane (intern) |
| 2. Bev Mentzer | 8. Drew Ausborn |
| 3. Shaina Smykle | 9. Vanessa Barnes |
| 4. Jeremy Johnson | 10. Molly Brown |
| 5. Gretchen Stai | 11. Jennie Englund |
| 6. Danielle Minsaas (Intern) | |

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.

Agenda

I. Call Meeting to Order / Welcome and Introductions

June 25, 2026, the Behavioral Health Advisory Council meeting was called to order by council chair Dominique Tigert.

II. Review and approval of October 2025 meeting minutes

- Dominique Tigert motioned to approve the meeting minutes for October 2025. Jason Lillich seconded the motion.
- Faith Goehring indicated she attended the October meeting. Meeting minutes will be updated to reflect Faith in attendance.
- Motion to approved minutes carried, all approved.

III. Review of public meeting guidelines

Bev Mentzer sent a copy of the meeting guidelines to all members. The meeting guidelines will be formally reviewed at the fall meeting.

IV. Behavioral Health Services Update

Fiscal Update:

DBH Assistant Director Drew Ausborn reviewed FY26 Q3 behavioral health contract expenditures. FY27 contracts were structured for full utilization with inflationary adjustments and targeted rate-modeling in 2 areas (Prevention and Transition Aged Youth).

Treatment and Recovery Support Services

Assistant Director Michelle Worden shared SAMHSA issued new guidance on allowable activities and services using federal funding in alignment with current administrative priorities. Some items—like fentanyl test strips—can no longer be purchased with federal funds for use by active substance users, though they remain allowable for law enforcement or laboratory use. SAMHSA also reinforced that MOUD must be delivered within a comprehensive, holistic care model rather than as medication-only treatment, with prescribers expected to review annually whether continuation or tapering is appropriate. DBH is actively working to interpret these federal changes and communicate updates to providers.

Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services program

Park Haven, a new 18-bed residential PPWWC program (Pregnant and Parenting Women with Children) operated by Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health, is expected to open in August and will expand South Dakota's treatment capacity for pregnant and parenting women. The facility will offer specialized SUD treatment and recovery supports within a 3.1 clinically managed low-intensity residential treatment level of care, serving mothers with up to four children under age 14. Pregnant and parenting women are a block grant priority population.

Treatment Capacity / Access to Services

Assistant Director Worden shared the DBH is actively evaluating statewide behavioral health capacity in key service areas, including residential SUD treatment beds, short-term crisis stabilization resources, psychiatric hospital beds, and psychiatric residential treatment facilities. This systemwide monitoring, paired with a real-time treatment-availability registry, helps providers quickly identify open placements, reduce delays, and improve coordination across the behavioral health continuum.

Recovery Support Services

Assistant Director Worden shared DBH supported 97 SHARE beds and 12 Mental Health Room & Board beds in FY26, helping ease pressure on higher-intensity SUD treatment programs and the Human Services Center while offering flexible recovery pathways. In FY27, West River Mental Health will open a new 12-bed Mental Health Room & Board facility for adults with serious mental illness—including those with co-occurring SUD—who need daily support such as medication administration, transportation assistance, and independent-living skill development. This new facility expands statewide capacity and helps reduce discharge delays at HSC.

Board of Addiction and Prevention Professionals (BAPP) Credentialing Changes

The South Dakota Board of Addiction and Prevention Professionals (BAPP) is formalizing peer support specialist credentialing, creating standards for certification, ethics, continuing education, and verification to professionalize the peer workforce and expand recovery-oriented services statewide. The Board is also restructuring pathways for SUD clinicians and prevention professionals by introducing a supervised "Supervisee" status and updating trainee rules—current trainees will be grandfathered under the most favorable requirements but must follow a supervision plan. Rule changes are expected to go before the interim rules review committee in September, with implementation targeted for September 28. DSS will be defining scope of practice for each role and evaluating Medicaid and DBH reimbursement adjustments tied to these credentialing updates.

Prevention Services

Strategic Prevention Framework- Partnerships For Success: Updates from RFP

Program Manager Shaina Smykle shared that another round of Requests for Proposal was released in April 2026 to seek substance use prevention coalitions in identified underserved counties of Bennett, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Charles Mix, Corson, Custer, Davison, Dewey, Fall River, Gregory, Haakon, Hughes, Jackson, Jones, Lyman, Mellette, Oglala Lakota, Roberts, Stanley, Sully, Todd, Tripp, and Ziebach counties. Awards will be made to Brookings United Way, Wagner Communities That Care and Custer RISE to implement and expand substance use prevention and mental health promotion activities within their areas. This continues to expand the awards already made to Michael Glynn Memorial Coalition to expand their coalition efforts in alignment with the grant and to Capital Area Counseling to become a Central Prevention Resource Center.

Prevention Rate Setting update

DBH's prevention rate-setting project with contracted provider, Guidehouse resulted in a standardized, streamlined payment structure for prevention services. Provider wage surveys, cost reports, and national benchmarks informed the new rate of \$17.23 per 15-minute unit, aligned with national BLS rate data. All CSAP strategies will now be reimbursed consistently, and professional development and administrative activities have been folded into the unified rate to reduce administrative burden while ensuring they remain reimbursable.

Behavioral Health Conference

The Behavioral Health Conference will take place August 11–12 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center and will again offer a comprehensive, statewide behavioral health focus rather than centering solely on suicide prevention. Attendees can expect sessions spanning prevention, treatment, recovery supports, specialty populations, and ethics. Keynote speakers bring expertise in both substance use and suicide. Registration is already strong, with over 575 participants signed up.

Rural Health Transformation

Strategic Program Initiative Specialist Molly Brown provided an overview of South Dakota's Rural Health Transformation (RHT) initiative—funded through a federal \$189.4M grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. DBH's behavioral health initiatives aim to expand behavioral health access statewide over the next five years. DBH's priorities include establishing at least one Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) in every region. The state also plans to grow the Collaborative Care. Early progress includes a 13-member cohort meeting twice monthly, ongoing CCBHC development, and continued internal review of Collaborative Care billing and case-management challenges.

Human Services Center

HSC Administrator Jeremy Johnson reported a stable daily census of 140–145 patients. The Human Services Center has finalized a new 5-year strategic plan, shaped by feedback from the board, staff, and patients, with priorities focused on patient-driven care, supportive caregiving, and improved use of data and technology to enhance therapeutic services.

Members in attendance were provided with a copy of the HSC Patient's Rights Handbook.

WICHE – IVC system improvement process

Collaboration is under way with the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education to look at the mental health involuntary commitment laws of South Dakota and opportunities to improve the current process.

HSC Treatment Mall:

Jennie Englund, Clinical Services Director, shared HSC is developing a centralized treatment mall model that will offer up to three group sessions every half hour, delivered by an interdisciplinary team including occupational therapists, spiritual aides, job specialists, SUD counselors, dietitians, and human rights advocates. Patients are assigned groups based on their treatment plan but retain the autonomy to choose alternatives. While the primary focus is psychosocial rehabilitation, the hospital-wide design allows participation from adult acute and potentially geriatric patients depending on individual needs.

V. Work Force Development Website

Program Manager Bev Mentzer shared The South Dakota Behavioral Health Careers website launched on January 12, 2026, and has already drawn 1,200 new visitors. The most-viewed [Explore Careers](#) page provides descriptions of behavioral health occupations, while the [Job Board](#) allows publicly funded providers to post open positions through the provider hub. The [From Spark to Service](#) video series features interviews with behavioral health professionals sharing what inspired them to enter—and stay in—the field, offering guidance for those considering behavioral health careers.

Behavioral Health Campaign updates

[Blue Collar Toolkits](#)- DSS and DOH created a blue-collar mental health and substance use toolkit through the 988 and Let's Be Clear campaigns to address the elevated suicide and overdose rates among construction workers, manufacturers, truck drivers, and other skilled trades in South Dakota. The toolkit is designed to encourage open conversations, reduce stigma, promote resources, and raise awareness of behavioral health risks unique to blue-collar environments. It will be available in both digital and physical formats, including stickers, flyers, and window clings.

988 Parking Lot Signs: Over 100 permanent 988 awareness signs are being installed across South Dakota at no cost to participating businesses or organizations. Mounted on existing outdoor fixtures, these aluminum signs promote the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and are now visible at locations statewide, including shopping centers, medical facilities, universities (USD, Augustana, Black Hills State), and Sioux Falls high schools.

VI. Open Discussion / Council Member Updates

- Dominique Tigert asked council members how we can fill the current openings on the council. There are currently 4 positions open in the council, 2 applications have been received and are under consideration for addition to the council.
- Possible addition to council: student/young person, representation across the state (Rapid City)
- Wendy Figland suggested DBH provided quarterly reminders of open positions to BHAC members.
- Penny Kelley shared her appreciation for council, treatment providers, and available services. Penny would like to understand resources available for family members supporting young adults, specifically while awaiting outpatient treatment services after inpatient treatment.

- Kaittie Lail, Face It Together shared information on their loved one program as an option to support families.
- Dominique Tigert shared there is a weekly NAMI meeting (virtual) to provide support to caregivers. The meeting is held every Thursday at 12 PM MT (1 PM CT) and can be accessed through this [link](#).
- Faith Goehring shared she has participated in "[Partners in Policy Making](#)" and found the information useful for self-advocacy.

VII. Public Comment / Testimony

There was no public comment received.

VIII. Discuss Future Meeting date:

- a. October 2026, entirely virtual

IX. Adjourn