

PENNSYLVANIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Date	Tuesday, September 17, 2024
Time	Meeting starts at 1:00 pm
Location	Governor's Reception Room – 2 nd Floor Main Capitol Building
Purpose/Focus	10th Council Meeting: Workforce, training issues, and innovations
Facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair of Council, Secretary of the Governor's Office of Policy & Planning, Akbar Hossain • Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council, Dr. Chris Finello • Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith • Executive Deputy Secretary, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Kelly Primus
Attendees	<p>Commonwealth Representatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretary of Policy and Planning, Akbar Hossain 2. Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh 3. Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr. Debra Bogen 4. Commissioner of Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Michael Humphreys 5. Secretary of the Department of Aging, Jason Kavulich 6. Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Dr. Latika Davis-Jones 7. Special Assistant to the Secretary, Cathy Hall, MPA, on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Education, Dr. Khalid Mumin 8. Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, Mr. Richard Hamp, on behalf of Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Maj. Gen. Mark J. Schindler 9. Policy and Legislative Affairs Office Director, Major Patrick Beaver, on behalf of Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Christopher Paris 10. Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Dr. Laurel Harry 11. Secretary of the Department of State, Al Schmidt 12. Exec. Dir. Rural Dev. Council, Western Reg. Dir. PA Dept. of Agriculture, Mr. Mark Critz on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Russell Redding 13. Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington 14. Bureau Director, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, PA Dept. of Labor and Industry, Denise Verchimak, on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Labor, Nancy Walker 15. Digital Services Director at the Governor's Office, Sadie Smiles on behalf of Director of Digital Strategy at the Governor's Office, Annie Newman 16. Pennsylvania Attorney General's Safe2Say Something Program Dir., Brittney Kline 17. Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith <p>Representatives with lived or living experiences and family members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Robert Hamilton, MPPM - Westmoreland DHS Director; Formerly homeless veteran and person in long-term recovery 19. Kate Favata - Community Engagement Manager, Crossroads, Treatment Advocate 20. Jennifer Wilt - Parent of a loved one with mental illness, President NAMI of Cumberland & Perry Co. <p>County Representatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Tina Clymer, County Mental Health Office, Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties 22. Dr. Tamra Williams, County Mental Health Office from Montgomery County 23. Ryan Hogan, Single County Authority from Luzerne County 24. Kristin Varner, Single County Authority from Dauphin County 25. Lynn Deardorff, Area Agency on Aging from Adams County 26. Dr. Shannah Gillam, Area Agency on Aging from Allegheny County <p>Clinical Representatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 27. Dr. Amy Kim, an expert in child and family behavioral healthcare 28. Dr. Margaret Jarvis, an expert in addiction medicine and substance use disorder treatments 29. Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger, an expert in primary healthcare 30. Dr. Wendy Ross, an expert in treating individuals with co-occurring IDD & autism with mental illness

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	<p>Legislative Representatives from the General Assembly:</p> <p>31. Representative Mike Schlossberg (D)</p> <p>32. Representative Jim Struzzi (R)</p> <p>33. Senator Maria Collett (D)</p> <p>34. Senator Michele Brooks (R)</p>
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	Agenda	Facilitator	Time
1.	Call to Order	Dr. Chris Finello	1:00 pm – 1:15 pm
2.	Presentations on Workforce, training issues, and innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith • Executive Deputy Secretary, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Kelly Primus • Dr. Chris Finello <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Behavioral Health Commission Report Workforce Section 	1:15 pm – 1:55 pm
3.	Facilitated Discussion	<p>Dr. Chris Finello</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are some of the most critical barriers to recruiting and retaining a robust behavioral health workforce in Pennsylvania, as highlighted in the report? How can we address these challenges at both the state and local levels? 2. The report recommends expanding the behavioral health career pipeline, particularly through scholarships and loan forgiveness programs. These are the most popular programs nationally. How can Pennsylvania be unique and ensure we recruit and retain talent, making Pennsylvania their home? 3. How can partnerships between educational institutions and behavioral health organizations be strengthened to better align training programs with the current needs of the workforce, as suggested in the commission’s findings? 4. The report emphasizes the importance of addressing workforce burnout and promoting job satisfaction. What specific interventions or support systems could be implemented to improve working conditions and reduce turnover in behavioral health services? 5. How can state and local governments collaborate with private sector stakeholders to create sustainable funding mechanisms that support workforce development and expansion, particularly in rural and underserved areas, as outlined in the recommendations? 	1:55 pm – 2:40 pm
4.	Wrap-Up/Closing Remarks	Secretary Hossain	2:40 pm – 2:45 pm

Future meetings will be scheduled on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 pm.

- October 15, 2024
- November 19, 2024
- December 17, 2024 (IN PERSON)