

PENNSYLVANIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Date	Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Time	Meeting starts at 1:00 pm
Location	Governor's Reception Room – 2 nd Floor Main Capitol Building
Purpose/Focus	14th Council Meeting - Criminal Justice: The Entry Point
Facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council, Dr. Chris Finello • Deputy Secretary of Policy and Planning, Governor's Policy Office, Meghna Patel • Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington & Director of Policy and Planning, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Samantha Koch • Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith • Bureau of Training and Education, Pennsylvania State Police, Lieutenant Alan Zulick; Penn State Health, Stephanie Harvison, LPC & Theresa Brosche, MSN, RN, CHSE • Behavioral Health Administrator, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, Michael Harper • Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty • Berks County District Attorney & Communication Chair of Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association John Adams
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 the acting Secretary of the Department of Education, Dr. Carrie Rowe 8. Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, Mr. Richard Hamp, on behalf of acting Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Brigadier General John Pippy 9. Policy and Legislative Affairs Office Director, Captain Leslie Barr on behalf of Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Christopher Paris 10. Regional Licensed Psychologist Manager, Corrections, Dr. Elicia Stein on behalf of 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

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	<p>25. Lynn Deardorff, Area Agency on Aging from Adams County</p> <p>26. Dr. Shannah Gilliam, Area Agency on Aging from Allegheny County</p> <p>Clinical Representatives:</p> <p>27. Dr. Amy Kim, an expert in child and family behavioral healthcare</p> <p>28. Dr. Margaret Jarvis, an expert in addiction medicine and substance use disorder treatments</p> <p>29. Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger, an expert in primary healthcare</p> <p>30. Dr. Wendy Ross, an expert in treating individuals with co-occurring IDD & autism with mental illness</p> <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	Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel/Dr. Chris Finello	1:00 pm – 1:10 pm
2.	Presentations on Criminal Justice – The Entry Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington & Director of Policy and Planning, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Samantha Koch • Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith • Bureau of Training and Education, Pennsylvania State Police, Lieutenant Alan Zulick; Penn State Health, Stephanie Harvison, LPC & Theresa Brosche, MSN, RN, CHSE • Behavioral Health Administrator, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, Michael Harper • Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty • Berks County District Attorney & Communication Chair of Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association John Adams 	1:10 pm – 1:55 pm
3.	Facilitated Discussion	<p>Dr. Chris Finello, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council</p> <p>Questions for discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most significant barriers preventing early diversion for individuals with behavioral health needs, and how can we improve collaboration between law enforcement, crisis response teams, and community-based services to address these barriers? • How can we standardize the process of behavioral health assessment and referral at the earliest points of contact to ensure timely and appropriate care rather than incarceration? • What role does judicial discretion play in shaping outcomes for individuals with behavioral health conditions, and what strategies can be implemented to encourage person-centered, rehabilitative approaches over punitive measures? • What promising models or best practices exist in Pennsylvania or other states that effectively divert individuals with behavioral health conditions away from the criminal justice system? 	1:55 pm – 2:40 pm
4.	Closing Remarks	Deputy Secretary Meghna Patel	2:40 pm – 2:45 pm

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