

PENNSYLVANIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Date	Thursday December 11, 2025
Time	Meeting starts at 1:00 pm
Location	Virtual – please see the meeting invite for MS Teams link
Purpose/Focus	18th Council Meeting – Review draft recommendations and draft action plan
Facilitators	Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council, Dr. Chris Finello
Attendees	Commonwealth Representatives: - Secretary of Policy and Planning, Akbar Hossain - Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh - Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr. Debra Bogen - Commissioner of Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Michael Humphreys - Secretary of the Department of Aging, Jason Kavulich - Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Dr. Latika Davis-Jones - Special Assistant to the Secretary, Cathy Hall, MPA, on behalf of the acting Secretary of the Department of Education, Dr. Carrie Rowe - Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, Mr. Richard Hamp, on behalf of Adjutant General of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Major General John Pippy - Policy and Legislative Affairs Office Director, Captain Leslie Barr on behalf of Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Christopher Paris - Regional Licensed Psychologist Manager, Corrections, Dr. Elicia Stein on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Dr. Laurel Harry - Secretary of the Department of State, Al Schmidt - Regional Program Outreach Coordinator Sara Gligora on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Russell Redding - Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Kirsten Kenyon - 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 - Digital Services Director at the Governor's Office, Sadie Smiles on behalf of Director of Digital Strategy at the Governor's Office, Annie Newman - Pennsylvania Attorney General's Safe2Say Something Program Dir., Brittney Kline - Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith Representatives with lived or living experiences and family members: - Robert Hamilton, MPPM - Westmoreland DHS Director; Formerly homeless veteran and person in long-term recovery - Kate Favata - Community Engagement Manager, Crossroads, Treatment Advocate - Jennifer Wilt - Parent of a loved one with mental illness, President NAMI of Cumberland & Perry Co. County Representatives: - Tina Clymer, County Mental Health Office, Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties - Pam Howard, County Mental Health Office from Montgomery County - Kristin Varner, Single County Authority from Dauphin County - Lynn Deardorff, Area Agency on Aging from Adams County - Dr. Shannah Gilliam, Area Agency on Aging from Allegheny County Clinical Representatives: - Dr. Amy Kim, an expert in child and family behavioral healthcare - Dr. Margaret Jarvis, an expert in addiction medicine and substance use disorder treatments - Dr. Jack Todd Wahrenberger, an expert in primary healthcare - Dr. Wendy Ross, an expert in treating individuals with co-occurring IDD & autism with mental illness Legislative Representatives from the General Assembly: - Representative Mike Schlossberg (D) - Representative Jim Struzzi (R) - Senator Maria Collett (D) - Senator Michele Brooks (R)

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	Agenda	Facilitator	Time
1.	Call to Order/ Welcome	Dr. Chris Finello/Secretary Akbar Hossain	1:00 pm – 1:10 pm
2.	Overview of Draft Recommendations and Draft Action Plan	Dr. Chris Finello	1:10 pm – 1:55 pm
3.	Closing Remarks	Secretary Akbar Hossain	1:55 pm – 2:00 pm