

**PENNSYLVANIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL**

<b>Date</b>	Tuesday, June 17, 2025
<b>Time</b>	Meeting starts at 1:00 pm
<b>Location</b>	Governor's Reception Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Main Capitol Building
<b>Purpose/Focus</b>	17th Council Meeting – Ensuring Equity in Behavioral Health: Emphasizing impact amongst rural populations
<b>Facilitators</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council, Dr. Chris Finello</li> <li>• Jeanmarie Perrone, MD FACMT, Professor, Emergency Medicine, Medical Toxicology and Addiction Medicine Initiatives; Director, Center for Addiction Medicine and Policy, University of Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Michael Lynch, MD, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; Attending Emergency Physician and Medical Toxicologist, UPMC</li> <li>• Richard Neff, MD, CPE, MBA, Chief Medical Officer &amp; Designated Institutional Official, Indiana Regional Medical Center</li> <li>• Wendy Haislip, MSN, RN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Indiana Regional Medical Center</li> </ul>
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Commonwealth Representatives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Secretary of Policy and Planning, Akbar Hossain</li> <li>2. Secretary of the Department of Human Services, Dr. Valerie Arkoosh</li> <li>3. Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr. Debra Bogen</li> <li>4. Commissioner of Pennsylvania Insurance Department, Michael Humphreys</li> <li>5. Secretary of the Department of Aging, Jason Kavulich</li> <li>6. Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Dr. Latika Davis-Jones</li> <li>7. Special Assistant to the Secretary, Cathy Hall, MPA, on behalf of the acting Secretary of the Department of Education, Dr. Carrie Rowe</li> <li>8. Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, Mr. Richard Hamp, on behalf of Adjutant General of the Department of Military &amp; Veterans Affairs, Major General John Pippy</li> <li>9. Policy and Legislative Affairs Office Director, Captain Leslie Barr on behalf of Commissioner of Pennsylvania State Police, Colonel Christopher Paris</li> <li>10. Regional Licensed Psychologist Manager, Corrections, Dr. Elicia Stein on behalf of Secretary of the Department of Corrections, Dr. Laurel Harry</li> <li>11. Secretary of the Department of State, Al Schmidt</li> <li>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</li> <li>13. Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Kirsten Kenyon</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>16. Pennsylvania Attorney General's Safe2Say Something Program Dir., Brittney Kline</li> <li>17. Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith</li> </ol> <p><b>Representatives with lived or living experiences and family members:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18. Robert Hamilton, MPPM - Westmoreland DHS Director; Formerly homeless veteran and person in long-term recovery</li> <li>19. Kate Favata - Community Engagement Manager, Crossroads, Treatment Advocate</li> <li>20. Jennifer Wilt - Parent of a loved one with mental illness, President NAMI of Cumberland &amp; Perry Co.</li> </ol> <p><b>County Representatives:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21. Tina Clymer, County Mental Health Office, Carbon, Monroe, and Pike counties</li> <li>22. Dr. Tamra Williams, County Mental Health Office from Montgomery County</li> <li>23. Ryan Hogan, Single County Authority from Luzerne County</li> <li>24. Kristin Varner, Single County Authority from Dauphin County</li> <li>25. Lynn Deardorff, Area Agency on Aging from Adams County</li> <li>26. Dr. Shannah Gilliam, Area Agency on Aging from Allegheny County</li> </ol>

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	<p><b>Clinical Representatives:</b></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 &amp; autism with mental illness</p> <p><b>Legislative Representatives from the General Assembly:</b></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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	<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Facilitator</b>	<b>Time</b>
1.	Call to Order/ Welcome	Dr. Chris Finello/Secretary Akbar Hossain	1:00 pm – 1:10 pm
2.	Presentations on Ensuring Equity in Behavioral Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council, Dr. Chris Finello</li> <li>• Jeanmarie Perrone, MD FACTMT, Professor, Emergency Medicine, Medical Toxicology and Addiction Medicine Initiatives; Director, Center for Addiction Medicine and Policy, University of Pennsylvania</li> <li>• Michael Lynch, MD, Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; Attending Emergency Physician and Medical Toxicologist, UPMC</li> <li>• Richard Neff, MD, CPE, MBA, Chief Medical Officer &amp; Designated Institutional Official, Indiana Regional Medical Center</li> <li>• Wendy Haislip, MSN, RN, Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Indiana Regional Medical Center</li> </ul>	1:10 pm – 1:55 pm
3.	Facilitated Discussion	<p>Dr. Chris Finello, Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council</p> <p><b>Questions for discussion:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What barriers are preventing the replication and scaling of successful pilot programs statewide, particularly in rural areas?</li> <li>2. How can Pennsylvania strategically use telehealth to close behavioral health access gaps, and what policy or regulatory changes are required?</li> <li>3. Which innovative workforce strategies have proven effective in rural settings, and how can they be scaled up across the Commonwealth?</li> <li>4. What additional data or resources are needed to accurately measure health equity and behavioral health disparities in rural Pennsylvania?</li> <li>5. How can we sustainably fund promising local pilot programs to transition them into permanent, statewide solutions?</li> </ol>	1:55 pm – 2:40 pm
4.	Closing Remarks	Secretary Akbar Hossain	2:40 pm – 2:45 pm

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