

**PENNSYLVANIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL**

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| <b>Date</b>          | Tuesday, March 18, 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> | 14th Council Meeting - Criminal Justice: The Entry Point   |
| <b>Facilitators</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council, Dr. Chris Finello</li> <li>• Deputy Secretary of Policy and Planning, Governor's Policy Office, Meghna Patel</li> <li>• Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington &amp; Director of Policy and Planning, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Samantha Koch</li> <li>• Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith</li> <li>• Bureau of Training and Education, Pennsylvania State Police, Lieutenant Alan Zulick; Penn State Health, Stephanie Harvison, LPC &amp; Theresa Brosche, MSN, RN, CHSE</li> <li>• Behavioral Health Administrator, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, Michael Harper</li> <li>• Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty</li> <li>• Berks County District Attorney &amp; Communication Chair of Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association John Adams</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 acting Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Brigadier 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, Michael Pennington</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> </ol> |

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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><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>       |
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| 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"> <li>• Executive Director, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Michael Pennington &amp; Director of Policy and Planning, Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, Samantha Koch</li> <li>• Deputy Secretary, Department of Human Services, OMHSAS, Jennifer Smith</li> <li>• Bureau of Training and Education, Pennsylvania State Police, Lieutenant Alan Zulick; Penn State Health, Stephanie Harvison, LPC &amp; Theresa Brosche, MSN, RN, CHSE</li> <li>• Behavioral Health Administrator, Administrative Office of the Pennsylvania Courts, Michael Harper</li> <li>• Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Kevin Dougherty</li> <li>• Berks County District Attorney &amp; Communication Chair of Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association John Adams</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• 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?</li> <li>• 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?</li> </ul> | 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.**