

PENNSYLVANIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL

Date	Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Time	Meeting starts at 1:00 pm
Location	Virtual – please see the meeting invite for MS Teams link
Purpose/Focus	16th Council Meeting – Older Adults and Behavioral Health
Facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director, Behavioral Health Council, Dr. Chris Finello • Secretary of the Department of Aging, Jason Kavulich • Deputy Secretary, Office of Long-Term Living, Department of Human Services, Juliet Marsala • Deputy Secretary, OMHSAS, Department of Human Services, Jennifer Smith • Behavioral Health Policy Specialist, PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Inc. (P4A), Lynn Cooper
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 Adjutant General of the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Major 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, Kirsten Kenyon 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. 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 Gilliam, 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

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	<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/ Welcome	Dr. Chris Finello/Secretary Akbar Hossain	1:00 pm – 1:10 pm
2.	Presentations on Older Adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary of the Department of Aging, Jason Kavulich • Deputy Secretary, Office of Long-Term Living, Department of Human Services, Juliet Marsala • Deputy Secretary, OMHSAS, Department of Human Services, Jennifer Smith • Behavioral Health Policy Specialist, PA Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Inc. (P4A), Lynn Cooper 	1:10 pm – 2:00 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 specific training or certifications should be required for long-term care staff to effectively address complex behavioral health cases? • How can we better coordinate behavioral health and aging services to prevent inappropriate institutionalization or misdiagnosis (e.g., dementia vs. behavioral health)? • What innovative financial or policy solutions could close gaps for older adults who do not qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford behavioral health services? • How can Pennsylvania leverage existing care management infrastructure to support comprehensive capacity evaluations for aging adults? • What best practices from other states could Pennsylvania adopt to improve cross-system collaboration between mental health, aging, and substance use systems? • What other best practices or examples should we be showcasing for older adults, particularly highlighting the funding for those models? Could they be scalable across PA? 	2:00 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.