

**SOUTHWEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER
AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

March 12th, 2025
Cedar City, Utah

PRESENT:

Commissioner Celeste Meyeres
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead
Commissioner Victor Iverson

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mike Deal, Executive Director
Crystal Stock, Executive Assistant
Michael Sherratt, Clinical Director

EXCUSED:

Commissioner Jerry Taylor

CALL TO ORDER/ INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Meyeres, Chairperson of the Authority Board, who welcomed all those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY MINUTES

Commissioner Meyeres asked for a motion to approve the January 2025 Authority Board minutes. Commissioner Iverson moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Hollingshead seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BI-MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT

Mike Deal noted the Bi-Monthly Operations Report had been sent out previously and reviewed Personnel Changes, Major Expenditures, Risk Management, Director's Travel and Public Use of Center Facilities for the time period January – February 2025. Mr. Deal started with highlighting larger checks written on the financial pages. All other payments were not out of the ordinary. Moving on Mr. Deal highlighted key incidents reported on the bi-monthly report and addressed any concerns related to liability. Commissioner Cozzens moved to approve the report and Commissioner Iverson seconded the motion. The report was unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF BI-MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Mike Deal presented the Monthly Financial Status Report as of 1/31/2025 showing total Revenues at 73.51% and Expenses 54.36% which is slightly under budget and on track. He reviewed the areas where there were special notes. Commissioner Hollinghead moved to approve the Bi-Monthly Financial Status Report and Commissioner Cozzens seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous for approval.

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP/SUMMARY

Mike Deal opened up a discussion regarding a wrap up of the State's 2025 Legislative Session. He noted that while little money was available this session, there were lots of bills proposed that touched on many areas of Behavioral Health. Mr. Deal moved on to highlight a number of Senate and House Bills that had passed, and a few that failed, and how they might affect the Center and the counties. Several included areas such as Civil Commitment modifications, Criminal Justice and Mental Health Coordination amendments, Substance Use Treatment and Enforcement amendments, Commitment amendments, Social Services Program amendments, Artificial Intelligence in Behavioral Health amendments, and Medication Assisted Treatment amendments.

HB501 MEDICAID JAIL WAIVER

Mike Deal presented on the CY2024 HB501 Medicaid Jail waiver allowing inmates in our jail or at the prison, 90 days prior to discharge, to qualify for Medicaid. These individuals would be able to have their healthcare services billed to Medicaid on a fee-for-service basis. A discharge and reintegration plan would be set in place before and after their release. Mr. Deal highlighted this could help with offsetting county costs for these inmates. He noted that he and Mike Sherratt had presented this waiver to the County Sheriffs and Jail Commanders over the past number of months. While this waiver covers well beyond just behavioral health services, we are available to assist in any way that we can. Each jail, if interested in pursuing Medicaid coverage, must initially complete a Readiness Assessment Survey, provided by the Department of Health and Human Services. A copy was provided to each Commissioner.

CLINICAL REPORT

Michael Sherratt provided an overview of the Crisis Stabilization (Receiving) Center Report. Mr. Sherratt went over issues the Center is seeing, improvements that could be made, and highlighted where the Center is meeting expectations.

This overview brought up a discussion of how the Center can better educate the public and partners, and disperse information within the community for individuals to know there are resources within their community to receive mental health and substance abuse resources. Mike Deal stated that we are prioritizing public awareness and ensuring that information about the Center is shared with public and private partners in our effort to expand community knowledge of resources. Several suggestions were made by Board members which will be incorporated into our awareness activities.

CLINICAL REPORT- PREVENTION CADCA CONFERENCE

Mike Sherratt shared Prevention's recent experience in Washington, DC with a county Youth Coalition at the CADCA Conference (Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America).

Mr. Sharratt expressed this was an amazing opportunity for members of the Youth Coalition to get involved and present their concerns of flavored vapes to Utah's federal, elected officials, including Senator Mike Lee, Senator John Curtis and Representative Celeste Maloy. These youth members were able to learn more about the political system and see how it operates.

NATIONAL IMPACT ON LOCAL SERVICES

Mike Deal addressed issues related to current changes being made and/or proposed at the federal level by the current Administration, including concerns related to Medicaid funding, FMAP changes, and block grant proposals, and the potential impact we may see. Mr. Deal stated that the federal freezes have not impacted the Center at this point. We are simply monitoring for potential impacts, while focusing on the work at hand within our communities.

COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Deal asked the Commissioners if there are any issues or concerns the Commissioners may have and wish to discuss in future meetings. No comments were made, other than what was stated throughout the meeting in other discussion topics.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mike Deal addressed NATCON 2025 is fast approaching and reminded those Commissioners who are attending of dates and location. Mr. Deal then stated there are two state site visits upcoming the then next few weeks. The State Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health will be on-site next week, and the Office of Licensing will be paying a visit to all our facilities between now and the end of the month. We will report in an upcoming Board meeting on the results.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Iverson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Cozzens seconded the motion. The voting was unanimously in favor of adjournment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. J. S.', is written over a horizontal line.

Southwest Behavioral Health Center Authority Board Chairperson