



Utah Behavioral Health Commission Ad-Hoc
Draft Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2025, 7:30 - 8:00 a.m.
[Virtual](#)

Commission Chair: Ally Isom
Vice Chair: Tammer Attallah
Second Vice Chair: Kyle Snow

Commission Members:

Tracy Gruber	Jordan Sorenson
Evan Done	Adam Cohen
Mike Deal	Elaine Navar
Dr. James Ashworth	Josie White

Other Attendees: Mia Nafziger, Eric Tadehara

	Time/Presenter	Discussion Topics	Action Items/Notes
1	Ally Isom	Welcome	The Behavioral Health Commission convened virtually on October 28, 2025, through a publicly posted Zoom link. Chair Ally Isom opened the meeting shortly after 7:30 a.m., welcoming participants and confirming that quorum was present. She explained that although the meeting was brief, the Commission needed to finalize the committee membership proposal and vote on each item to keep the structural review process on schedule.
2	Mia Nafziger	<p>Present Committee Structure Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moving the membership of committees into administrative rule, with specific guiding principles.• Finalizing the membership of the Prevention and Early	<p>Mia Nafziger provided Commissioners with the most recent version of the consolidated committee membership document, sharing the file in the Zoom chat so all members could work from the same material. She explained that the agenda included five separate votes, beginning with the shift of committee membership and responsibilities into administrative rule, followed by votes on the membership of each of the four primary committees.</p> <p>Before beginning the formal votes, Mia reviewed the first section concerning placement of committee membership and responsibilities in administrative rule and the description of the guiding principles. Tammer commented that the guiding principles read more like instructions than high-level principles, but clarified he was not requesting substantive revisions. Mia noted these details would be</p>

		<p>Intervention Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalizing the membership of the Crisis Response Committee. • Finalizing the membership of the Treatment and Recovery Committee. • Finalizing the membership of USAAV+/the Policy Review Committee. 	<p>adjusted during the rulemaking phase if needed. No additional comments were raised.</p>
3	Ally Isom, Mia Nafziger	Vote on each of the 5 structures	<p>As discussion shifted into the Prevention & Early Intervention Committee membership, Mia noted comments submitted by Commissioners. Tammer raised two concerns: clarifying the phrase “parent of someone experiencing behavioral health challenges” by adding “or guardian,” and questioning the meaning of “representative of mental illness prevention,” which Mia explained referred to individuals working directly in that field.</p> <p>Ally asked whether Tammer wished to make a formal motion to amend the membership language to include “or guardian.” Tammer moved, and Tracy seconded. The Commission voted unanimously to adopt the amendment, and the phrase “or guardian” was added.</p> <p>Ally raised a broader issue regarding committee seats tied to the Youth and Young Adult Advisory Subcommittee. She noted the ages listed (14–17) created concerns about minor participation and stated she was not comfortable formally establishing a youth subcommittee without further discussion about safeguards and trauma-informed participation, especially for minors.</p> <p>Commissioners discussed several alternatives. Mike suggested replacing the youth subcommittee reference with a more general young adult seat. Tracy and Josie supported making lived-experience seats <i>optional</i> (“may include”) to avoid excluding committees from functioning if no appropriate youth were available. Commissioners discussed ensuring guiding principles were still met by</p>

having lived-experience representatives elsewhere on the committee.

The Commission reached consensus: youth seats would not be formally included, and instead, the Prevention and Early Intervention Committees could include two young adults ages 18–26 with lived experience in mental illness or substance use. This change would be reflected when voting on the Prevention and Early Intervention Committee later in the meeting.

Mia next reviewed the general appointment process for seats filled through open applications. Josie suggested adding language allowing staff to interview potential finalists to ensure preparedness and suitability. Tracy recommended making interviews optional rather than required, noting workload and variations in applicant volume.

After discussion, Commissioners agreed the language should state that staff may interview potential finalists, and that the Executive Committee would nominate candidates to the full Commission for vote.

Adam moved to adopt the revised language including interviews for finalists, and Josie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

A follow-up motion was needed to adopt the broader appointment section as amended. Evan moved to adopt the full appointment process, and Tracy seconded. That motion also passed unanimously.

As the Commission reviewed committee membership structures, Mia noted recent edits to the Crisis Response Committee. Tracy pointed out that the Executive Director of DHHS had been removed from the proposed membership and suggested that the position should remain, given the committee's budget and systems implications. She proposed striking the seat for the Director of OSUMH and instead maintaining a seat for the Executive Director of DHHS "or designee."

Tracy moved to amend the membership accordingly. Josie seconded. With no objections, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the amendment.

A full vote was then taken to adopt the complete Crisis Response Committee membership, as amended. Tracy moved, Mike seconded, and the Commission approved the committee membership unanimously.

Mia presented the Treatment & Recovery Committee, noting only one clarification: that the State Hospital representative would be the superintendent or a designee. No members raised concerns.

			<p>James moved to adopt the membership, Adam seconded, and the Commission voted unanimously to approve the committee composition.</p> <p>The Commission then reviewed the Behavioral Health Policy Review Committee. Tracy proposed additional changes: she recommended allowing the Executive Director of DHHS to appoint two members to this committee and striking statutory seats that limited flexibility (specifically the positions tied to the Directors of Juvenile Justice & Youth Services and Office of Substance Use & Mental Health, and the Superintendent of the State Hospital).</p> <p>Kyle expressed concern that certain roles—especially the OSUMH Director—were important to retain for behavioral health policy work. After discussion, Tracy amended her motion to allow the Executive Director to appoint two individuals while retaining the statutory seat corresponding to the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health.</p> <p>Tracy amended her motion, Mike seconded, and the Commission approved the amendment unanimously.</p> <p>A subsequent vote was taken to adopt the Behavioral Health Policy Review Committee membership as fully proposed and amended. Adam moved, Evan seconded, and the Commission approved the committee membership.</p> <p>Ally recommended postponing any vote on statutory language until Commissioners could review it with legislative partners. No objections were raised.</p> <p>At the end of the meeting, Mia realized the Commission had not yet voted on the very first item: adopting the language that places committee membership and responsibilities into administrative rule.</p> <p>Tammer moved to adopt it, Dr. Ashworth seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.</p>
4	Ally Isom, Director Tracy Gruber	Announcement	Tracy announced that Eric Tadehara had been appointed as the new Director of the Office of Substance Use and Mental Health. Ally and Commissioners congratulated him, and Eric briefly thanked the group for their support.
5	Ally Isom	Adjournment	With all business completed, Tracy moved to adjourn. Elaine and Mike both seconded. The Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

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