

December 11, 2025: Legislative Session Processes and Procedures

Scheduling/Notice

Scheduling

- We will meet weekly on Tuesdays from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
 - In-person anchor location: CCJJ Large Conference Room (East Senate Building)
 - Virtual Meeting Location: Google Meets*
- Committee members may attend and vote either in person or virtually
 - Virtual participation may impact ability to use proxy voting

Notice

- Agendas will be sent out at least 24 hours in advance of meeting
- Agendas will include Google Meets link
- Google calendar is the easiest way to keep track of meetings

Meeting Process

Meeting Process

- Bills presented for discussion
- Mia will check Health and Human Services, Law Enforcement, and Judiciary Committee meetings to see what is coming up
 - E-mail Mia with any other priorities
 - Committee members with most expertise in the area will present each bill - or we will just read the summaries
- Motions can be made by any Committee member
- Discussion and vote will follow motions

Meeting Structure

- Mia will do a roll call vote to establish all who is present
- Presentation of bill
- Committee discussion
- Public comment
- Chair will call for a vote, ask for any opposition or abstentions
- Roll call only if it is non-unanimous, Mia will do roll call

Meeting Process

- Attendance and voting
 - Next is an infographic that outlines the differences between member, designee, representative, and proxy

USAAV+ Council Membership as Outlined in UC 63M-7-301

- (2)(a) the attorney general or the attorney general's designee **D**
- (2)(b) one elected county official appointed by the Utah Association of Counties **R**
- (2)(c) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee **D**
- (2)(d) the director of the Division of Integrated Healthcare or the director's designee **D**
- (2)(e) the state superintendent of public instruction or the superintendent's designee **D**
- (2)(f) the executive director of the Department of Health and Human Services or the executive director's designee **D**
- (2)(g) the executive director of the State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice or the executive director's designee **D**
- (2)(h) the executive director of the Department of Corrections or the executive director's designee **D**
- (2)(i) the director of the Division of Juvenile Justice and Youth Services or the director's designee **D**
- (2)(j) the director of the Division of Child and Family Services or the director's designee **D**
- (2)(k) the chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole or the chair's designee **D**
- (2)(l) the director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs or the director's designee **D**
- (2)(m) the director of the Division of Indian Affairs or the director's designee **D**
- (2)(n) the state court administrator or the state court administrator's designee **D**
- (2)(o) one district court judge who presides over a drug court and who is appointed by the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court **R**
- (2)(p) one district court judge who presides over a mental health court and who is appointed by the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court **R**
- (2)(q) one juvenile court judge who presides over a drug court and who is appointed by the chief justice of the Utah Supreme Court **R**
- (2)(r) one prosecutor appointed by the Statewide Association of Prosecutors **R**
- (2)(s) the chair or co-chair of each committee established by the council **R**
- (2)(t) the chair or co-chair of the Statewide Suicide Prevention Coalition created under Subsection 26B-5-611(3) **R**
- (2)(u) one representative appointed by the Utah League of Cities and Towns **R**
- (2)(v) the chair of the Utah Victim Services Commission or the chair's designee **D**
- (2)(w) the superintendent of the Utah State Hospital or the superintendent's designee **D**
- (2)(x)(i) one resident of the state who has been personally affected by a substance use or mental health disorder **R**
- (2)(x)(ii) one citizen representative **R**
- (2)(y)(i) one resident of the state who represents a statewide advocacy organization for recovery from substance use disorders **R**
- (2)(y)(ii) one resident of the state who represents a statewide advocacy organization for recovery from mental illness **R**
- (2)(y)(iii) one resident of the state who represents a statewide advocacy organization for protection of rights of individuals with a disability **R**
- (2)(y)(iv) one resident of the state who represents prevention professionals **R**
- (2)(y)(v) one resident of the state who represents treatment professionals **R**
- (2)(y)(vi) one resident of the state who represents the physical health care field **R**
- (2)(y)(vii) one resident of the state who is a criminal defense attorney **R**
- (2)(y)(viii) one resident of the state who is a military servicemember or military veteran under Section 53B-8-102 **R**
- (2)(y)(ix) one resident of the state who represents local law enforcement agencies **R**
- (2)(y)(x) one representative of private service providers that serve youth with substance use disorders or mental health disorders **R**
- (2)(y)(xi) one resident of the state who is certified by the Division of Integrated Healthcare as a peer support specialist as described in Subsection 26B-5-102(2)(h) **R**

Information from Rule 356-7

Member

M One of 36 specifically outlined in UC 63M-7-301
15 can assign a Designee (indicated with **D**)
21 can assign a Representative (indicated with **R**)
All can assign a Proxy

Designee

D Option only for indicated Members (must email USAAV+ staff)
Can attend electronically or in-person
Counts towards quorum
Votes their conscience
Acts as Member until officially changed (unless Member attends) Can't assign a Proxy

Representative

R Option only for indicated Members (must email USAAV+ staff)
Can attend electronically or in-person
Counts towards quorum
Votes their conscience
Acts as Member until officially changed (even if Member attends) Can assign a Proxy

Proxy

P Option for all Members and Reps (must email USAAV+ staff)
Must attend in-person
Counts towards quorum
Votes as directed by the Member or Representative
Acts as Member for single meeting

Bill Positions - *Draft for discussion*

- **Support:** Support the bill
- **Support In Concept:** Support but there is an area of concern
- **Request Revisions:** Request revisions to the bill
 - Will need a statement outlining the requested revisions
- **No Position:** Neutral
- **Hold:** Hold the bill for further information
 - Someone will need to follow up
- **Priority Support:** Priority for passage
- **Beyond Scope:** Not within the scope of the group's purview

Bill Priority

- For the 2026 General Session, USAAV+ will prioritize review of bills that relate to the Behavioral Health Commission's strategic plan
 - See the [strategic plan](#) on the Commission's [website](#)
- If there is a bill you would like to elevate, please let Mia (mnafziger@utah.gov) know prior to the meeting or let Mia know during the meeting
 - USAAV+ may not have the capacity to review all requested bills

Running Documents

USAAV+ Committee Bill Tracker

- A list of bills tracked by the USAAV+ Committee
 - Includes current position (if any), notes on discussion, vote totals, etc.
 - Will discuss after this presentation
- If you want a bill added to the tracker, ask Mia
- Will be updated at least weekly

Committee Comment vs. Public Comment

Committee Discussion vs. Public Comment

- Presentation
 - Anyone with expertise may describe / present a bill to the Committee
- Committee discussion
 - Committee members will be given an opportunity to discuss the bill in advance of a vote
- Public comment
 - Members of the public will be given an opportunity to comment in advance of a vote

Engagement with the Behavioral Health Commission

Communication with the Commission - *Draft for discussion*

- Staff will send the weekly USAAV+ bill tracker to commissioners
- Staff will email commissioners to flag any bills that:
 - USAAV+ deems as high priority for Commission to review
 - Explicitly impact the Commission
- USAAV+ will invite commissioners to attend all weekly meetings
 - Commissioners may comment on bills as members of the public during weekly meetings
 - Commissioners may communicate input on bills via email to staff
- USAAV+ members are considered representatives of the Behavioral Health Commission

Commission process during session - *Draft for discussion (not yet approved by Commission)*

- Invite legislators to present legislation to Commission at 1/15/2026 meeting
- Commission conducts two - three votes (voting by email as needed) to support priority legislation
 - Maximum of ten bills
- Commissioners testify on behalf of legislation directly related to Commission's strategic plan or annual priorities

OPMA Processes

OPMA Processes - Generally

- Notice of each meeting posted publicly
 - Public meeting website
 - USAAV+ [website](#)
- Recording and minutes of each meeting posted publicly on both websites

Voting Records

- We must keep a record of the vote total AND of each individual vote ([UCA 52-4-203\(2\)\(a\)\(iv\)](#))
 - Will be done through the spreadsheet
- For non-unanimous votes, we must take a roll-call (UCA 52-4-207(9))

Staff vs. USAAV+ Member Responsibilities

Staff vs. USAAV+ Member Responsibilities

- Staff
 - Maintain meeting minutes, agendas, and bill tracker
 - Ensure proper protocol is followed according to statutes and bylaws
 - Develop revision statements
- USAAV+ members
 - Testifying at legislative meetings (as requested)
 - Participating in weekly meetings
- Shared responsibilities
 - Discussing issues with legislators / working groups

Key Bills from Interim

Health Plan Provider Directory Amendments (V011) - Rep. Eliason

- Requires covered insurers to:
 - assist enrollees in accessing BH services in a timely manner;
 - facilitate an insured obtaining BH services from an out-of-network provider if an in-network provider is not available in a timely manner;
 - publish health care provider directories;
 - regularly update health care provider directories; and
 - take certain steps to ensure the accuracy of provider directories;
- Authorizes insurance commissioner to make rules/impose penalties;
- Requires providers to respond to an insurer's request for verification of provider directory information within a certain period of time; and
- Requires DHHS to establish similar requirements for Medicaid.

Health Data Amendments (V009) - Rep. Thurston

- Removes requirement for a health data plan;
 - Instead, DHHS would create a health data strategic plan;
- Clarifies and amends provisions related to the All Payer Claims Database;
- Repeals certain reporting requirements;
- Allows DHHS to share data within DHHS and with public health authorities and local behavioral health authorities;
- Extends the repeal date for DHHS' health data authority; and
- Creates a repeal date for the Health Data Committee.

Kratom Adjustments (V005) - Sen. McKell

- Schedules kratom as a schedule I controlled substance.
- Repeals the Kratom Consumer Protection Act
 - Created a regulatory framework for selling kratom.

Correctional Health Services Amendments (V008) - **Rep. Eliason**

- Requires DHHS to contract for a new electronic health record system for inmate care, based on the recommendations of a working group.
- Provides that money appropriated to DHHS for unanticipated high-cost correctional health expenses is non-lapsing.
- Requires DHHS, in consultation with DOC, to prepare and implement a plan for providing SUD treatment to all inmates with an SUD
- Requires health care facilities under DHHS to meet requirements for accreditation by National Commission on Correctional Health Care.
- Allows Board of Pardons and Parole to appoint designated examiner and consider their reports when determining an offender's parole, and allow assisted outpatient treatment as a condition of parole.