

MEETING MINUTES

Committee	Utah Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Committee (USAAV+)
Date Time Location	Thursday October 30, 2025 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm MASOB Room 1045
Agenda Item	Welcome, Attendance and Approval of Minutes
Notes	Welcome: Mia and Pat called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Roll Call: Javier Alegre, Kim Gibb (Comm. Jess Anderson), Eric Tadehara, Lena Gustafson (Rebecca Brown), Carla Weise, Susannah Burt, Igor Limansky, Jeremy Christensen, Santiago Cortez, Rebecca Dutson, Pat Fleming, Judge Dianna Gibson, Marcie Gray, Chief Lance Haight, Liz Klc (Tom Ross), Comm Patty Kubeja, Shanel Long, Alyn Mitchell, Jennifer Mitchell, Dr. Gray Otis, Jesse Higgins (April Graham), Andrew Riggle, Clarissa Stebbing, Kim Myers (Dr. Mason Turner), Ross VanVranken, Erin Wynn, Judge Rick Westmoreland, Sgt. Chad Wilkins Staff: Mia Nafziger, Dr. Stacy Eddings, Kimberlie Raymond Approval Of Minutes: Pat moved into roll call and to approve the minutes. Approvals were voiced and noted in chat, the decision to approve the previous minutes were unanimous.
Agenda Item	Involuntary medication legislation
Notes	Jeremy Christensen summarized prior legislation that allowed involuntary medication orders tied to competency to continue when a person returned to jail from the Utah State Hospital. He explained that a similar continuity problem exists for Harper hearings, which authorize involuntary medication based on danger to self or others. Utah currently lacks a statewide mechanism allowing such orders to follow individuals across hospitals, jails, and prisons. Jeremy emphasized that this was still a conceptual proposal without drafted language and that his intent was to gather early feedback. During the discussion, members asked whether the concept would apply beyond competency cases. Jeremy confirmed that it would apply to all Harper orders and could also include competency-related orders without limiting either category. Questions were raised about legislative sponsorship; Jeremy said he intended to raise the concept with Senator Abbott. After discussion, a motion was made by Santiago and seconded by Lena to support the concept. Clarissa, Andrew, Sgt. Wilkins and Judge Westmoreland abstained. The motion passed with no opposition. Jeremy then shared that the Forensic Mental Health Coordinating Council was exploring a statewide task force to support jails with the involuntary medication process, including pilot projects and virtual hearing options.

Agenda Item	Parents Empowered Annual Report
	The committee then heard the Parents Empowered annual report. Doug Murakami and Ericka Evans, Director of the Dept. of Alcoholic Beverage Services, presented the findings, noting the campaign's strong performance and the lowest rates of youth alcohol use recorded in 2023. They reviewed the media strategy, statewide prevention partnerships, and coalition engagement. Ericka emphasized the campaign's focus on family-strengthening messaging. Doug described successful outreach, including a partnership with Lagoon, and addressed questions about activity in Grand County, explaining that a new coalition coordinator had been hired. He also reviewed compliance-check data, noting high participation among law enforcement agencies and highlighting Utah's strong compliance rates. Members asked clarifying questions about participation in Utah County and reimbursement processes. After discussion, a motion was made by Santiago and seconded by Rob & Eric to approve the annual report. No opposition was voiced, and the motion passed unanimously.
Agenda Item	Beer tax proposal
Notes	Susannah Burt then presented the beer tax proposal. She explained that many municipalities and counties have accumulated large unspent balances, totaling approximately \$2 million among cities and about \$500,000 among counties. The proposal aimed to clarify statutory definitions for allowable uses, ensure beer tax funds support prevention, treatment, prosecution, confinement, and law enforcement, and establish accountability for entities that retain funds for more than three years without a spending plan. Susannah outlined a proposed carry-forward threshold that would pause future distributions for entities holding more than three times their annual allocation and more than \$50,000. She also noted the Tax Commission's estimate of a one-time implementation cost. Members discussed the need for educational outreach to municipalities, the importance of flexibility for small communities, and the need to correct a drafting error involving the word "or" versus "and." After discussion, a motion was made by Patty and seconded by Liz to approve the proposal. Clarissa abstained. The motion passed with no opposition.
Agenda Item	University of Utah Addiction Consult Service
Notes	The committee then received an update regarding the University of Utah's addiction consult service. With Dr. Ashworth unavailable, Mia summarized his report, explaining that the hospital had reallocated 0.5 FTE from the addiction consult team to meet psychiatric needs in the emergency department. Internal discussions were underway to restore the position. The broader concern was that addiction consult services remain financially unstable because reimbursement rarely covers the cost of care. Dr. Ashworth wanted to encourage consideration of future legislative or policy strategies to protect and expand such services. Committee members asked for

	additional information, and the topic was deferred to a future meeting when Dr. Ashworth and Evan Done could attend.
Agenda Item	Updates on the Behavioral Health Commission
Notes	Mia provided updates on the Behavioral Health Commission. She explained that the Commission had adopted a new committee structure aligned with the behavioral health continuum: Prevention and Early Intervention, Crisis Response, Treatment and Recovery, and a revised policy review committee to replace the current USAAV structure. She noted that the Commission plans to shift committee membership from statute to administrative rule to increase flexibility and ensure active participation. Members expressed concern about losing statutory seats representing youth, criminal justice partners, rural areas, and early childhood behavioral health. Others emphasized the importance of retaining USAAV's ability to review and take positions on legislation during the session. Mia confirmed that the committee would continue meeting during the legislative session as usual and that the Commission encouraged proactive communication with bill sponsors. Members discussed the need to maintain alignment between the committee, the Forensic Behavioral Health Coordinating Council, and the Commission. Pat added that the existing membership structure would remain in place through the upcoming legislative session.
Agenda Item	Updates from subcommittees
Notes	The committee then heard updates from subcommittees. No extended reports were presented, but members briefly referenced ongoing work, including continued efforts in forensic mental health coordination, prevention initiatives, and policy development.
Agenda Item	Public Comment & Adjourn
Notes	No public comments were offered. Pat reminded the committee that December's meeting would include leadership elections and preparation for the legislative session. A motion to adjourn was made by Santiago and seconded, and the meeting concluded.
Next Meeting	The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday Dec. 11, 2025 from 12 pm - 2 pm at: MASOB, 195 N 1950 W Salt Lake City, in room 1020 A & B.