

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

**January 14th, 2025
Cedar City, Utah
96 N Main Street, Suite 100, Room 5**

PRESENT: Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead
Commissioner Celeste Meyeres
Commissioner Gil Almquist

ABSENT: Commissioner Victor Iverson

STAFF MEMBERS: Mike Deal, Executive Director
Rita Cervantes, Executive Assistant
Michael Sherratt, Clinical Director

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIRPERSON

Mike Deal reminded the Board that in the Center's Bylaws it states "At the new year's first monthly meeting of the Center Authority Board, the Chairperson of the Board shall be appointed, which office shall last for one (1) year. The Chairmanship of the Board will be identified by an alphabetical county order, starting with a designated county. The vice-chairman will be from the county whose name follows alphabetically the county of the chairperson". In 2026 Commissioner Iverson moves to Chairmanship and Commissioner Hollingshead moves to Vice-chair. Commissioner Iverson of Washington County is not present at this meeting to accept the position. Commissioner Hollingshead moved to vote to approve the appointment of Commissioner Iverson as Chairperson and Commissioner Hollingshead would accept the Vice-Chair position. Commissioner Taylor made the motion and Commissioner Cozzens seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

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

APPROVAL OF BI-MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT

Mike Deal noted the Bi-Monthly Operations Report for November - December 2025 had been sent out previously and reviewed Personnel Changes and Major Expenditures. Mr. Deal started with the payment list stating there was nothing that stood out.

The Commissioners noted that the Select Health monthly payment seems high. Mr. Deal discussed a possible change in healthcare providers through our broker, Gallagher. Beaver County uses a broker other than Gallagher and is with PEHP. Garfield County uses Seletchealth, Iron County is with PEHP and Kane County is also with PEHP. Discussion ensued regarding health insurance options. It was noted that our counterparts in Weber and Davis County added Nice Health in addition to their Selecthealth plans, which is free telehealth services to the employee. SBHC pays 90/10 premiums. We will begin looking in February to be ready for decisions in March.

Moving on to the Risk Management report, Mr. Deal highlighted a few items of client injuries. Mr. Deal will submit his travel reimbursement before the next reports are due and then he discussed the Public Use of Center Facilities for the time period.

Commissioner Hollinghead requested a motion to approve the Bi-Monthly Reports as presented by Mike Deal. Commissioner Cozzens made the motion and Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF BI-MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Mike Deal presented the Monthly Financial Status Report as of 11/30/2025 showing total Revenues at 46% which is up and expenditures which are under budget. He reviewed the areas where there were special notes.

Commissioner Hollingshead requested a motion to approve the Bi-Monthly Financial Status Report and Commissioner Cozzens Made the motion and Commissioner Meyeres seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous for approval.

FISCAL YEAR 2025 AUDIT PRESENTATION/CERTIFICATION

Mike Deal reminded the Commissioners of the audit Kevin Jones, of Hafen, Buckner, Everett and Graff, completed and presented at the December 2025 Authority Board Meeting. Mr. Deal stated there is a Certification of Audit review by County Form needing to be signed by all Commissioners. He goes on to say the form certifies everyone has received a copy of the audit and has reviewed the report. Mr. Deal ends with asking anyone who may have questions to reach out to him at any time.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. Deal discussed the recommendations for the 2026 General Session. No new revenues are projected for this year. The governor's budget for a new accountability center in Salt Lake County with 1300 beds, is asking for less than the projected \$75 million to build and \$40 million ongoing. The governor suggests that the difference is

covered by local government or private donations. Mr. Deal highlighted his concerns about this proposed facility, including that without addressing housing, this new facility won't fix the homeless issue as the people will just end up back out on the streets without housing options. What is needed is affordable housing. Mr. Deal discussed the priority of increasing the numbers of beds at the State Hospital. The number of beds we managed 25 years ago is one less than we have now. He also noted the State priority for two additional rural receiving centers being proposed. Commissioner Meyeres believes that #3 for the rural areas should have some push back as there may not be enough need for the facilities; not seemingly very cost effective. Mr. Deal noted that by per capita, Washington County is close to what Davis County is providing. Mr. Deal went on to review #5 "Improve transportation for behavioral health crises". It was discussed how to improve this situation, ensuring a safe situation. Discussed possible safety barriers in transport vehicles. Commissioner Meyeres noted some concerns with #10, which is expanding behavioral health screening for children. Particularly that a "red flag" of sorts doesn't follow them throughout their lives. Mr. Deal went on to discuss the Medicaid TAM population, which was primarily focused on the low income, homeless or Justice involved, which will now roll into Expansion Medicaid, beginning January 2027. If questions come up please contact Mr. Deal.

Commissioner Gil Almquist has joined the Meeting.

CLINICAL REPORT

Michael Sherratt provided an overview of the MCOT program and the Crisis Stabilization Center (CSC). He noted that Sheriff Brooksby has been promoting the facility and option with law enforcement in Washington County. CSC numbers have been very consistent over the past 1.5 years.

Mr. Sherratt discussed that most of the MCOT calls come from the crisis line. MCOT is still performing as they should. The budget dropped and options are being looked into on how to best manage this change. He noted that both programs are sustainable. Commissioner Cozzens asked how the MCOT team is doing overall. Mr. Sherratt discussed the staff and possible combining of departments, teams or duties.

Mr. Sherratt discussed changes to the Civil Commitment process. Pink Sheet can be signed by a Mental Health Officer and allows for a 72 hour hold, then law enforcement should transport to a medical facility. Blue sheet from ER to go to B-Med and then the determination if a white sheet is needed, which then goes to Court. Mr. Sherratt then went over the criteria for a person to be Civilly Committed, what it means to be civilly committed and how it affects them and their future. Yellow Sheet authorizes law enforcement to transport a person already committed involuntarily to a medical facility to be evaluated. About 99 people on commitment at this time.

CLUBHOUSE FUNDRAISING

Mr. Deal discussed our two programs, Elev8 in Washington County and Oasis House in Iron County. They are day treatment programs so clients are in these facilities for a portion of the day. They are learning Daily Living skills and these facilities are called Clubhouses. Elev8 has an Advisory Board including Former Mayor Randall. They would like to begin Fundraising, and there is discussion about becoming a 501(c)3 to be able to receive charity donations. Commissioner Meyeres suggested working with 5 Counties about foundations. Mr. Deal discussed why he is not supportive of the 501(c)3 option

at the moment, and highlighted options to fundraise for specific Clubhouse needs without the separate non-profit status. He will keep the Board informed as the discussion continues.

COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Mike Deal created this discussion item for the Commissioners to share any issues, concerns, or data they are particularly interested in and want to see more of in future meetings. Commissioner Almquist discussed concerns about how to reach out to homeless Veterans and others in need on the street. SBHC does partner with Switchpoint and Iron County Care & Share.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Deal mentioned that it will be Southwest's 40 year Anniversary on January 21 and that there will be an Open House for staff in St. George on 2/27 and Cedar on 2/28 and he invited the Commissioners to join. SBHC will be opening time capsules that were put in when the buildings were built, 2000 in Cedar and 2003 in St. George. Commemorative Challenge Coins were handed out to commemorate the anniversary. He also noted that NATCON26 is scheduled for April 27-29, hotels are booked from April 25 - 29. Let Rita Cervantes know if those dates need to be adjusted.

March 11, 2026 Board Meeting. Mike Deal won't be present but Mike Sherratt will fill in for all items needed.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hollingshead Adjourned the meeting. The adjournment was unanimous.

Southwest Behavioral Health Center Authority Board Chairperson Date