

MEETING MINUTES
UTAH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BOARD
FEBRUARY 5, 2026
HEBER M. WELLS BLDG. RM 474
GOOGLE MEETS AND ROOM 474 – 9:00 AM
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84114

CONVENED: 9:01 AM

ADJOURNED: 12:42 PM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jared Ferguson, Chairperson
Dr. Shelli Yearsley
Cheral Chivers
Dr. Amanda Rapacz
Dr. Fernando Wilson
Dr. Verl Pope
Dr. Elizabeth Fawcett
Tiffany Lipscomb
Dr. Philip Baese

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Dr. Cade Charlton

DOPL STAFF PRESENT:

Brian Pedersen, Bureau Manager
Avery Wright, Board Secretary
Jennifer Avila Johnson, Compliance Specialist
Brent Erikson, Investigations
Silmara Charlesworth, Investigations
Mark Anderson, Investigations
Russell Godfrey, Investigations
Camille Farley, Chief Investigator
Kelli Jacobsen, UPHP

GUESTS:

Libby Sales
Crisanta Darcy
Terrakay Bodily, USBE
Austin Dyskstra
Harlee Danielson
Celia Ale
Tiana McCall
Kristine Naylor
Kiani Ruiz
Kelly Hoffman
Josh Whatcott
Leonard Ahmu
Candice Gonzalez
Denise Groves
Krisanne Lewis, USBE

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

J Ferguson opened the meeting.

MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL:

C Chivers made the motion to approve the minutes with corrections. A Rapacz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PROBATION AND COMPLIANCE REPORT:

B Pedersen presented the report and recommendations written by P Baese in his absence. A Rapacz made the motion to accept. V Pope seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

QUALIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REPORT:

E Fawcett presented the report and recommendations. J Ferguson made the motion to approve. S Yearsley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BACKGROUND AND INVESTIGATIONS REPORT:

C Chivers presented the report and recommendations. T Higbee made the motion to approve and accept the recommendations. E Fawcett seconded. C Chivers abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS:

NOAA- CELIA ALE:

J Ferguson conducted the Notice of Agency Action. J Ferguson stated that this board does not represent a court of law and the board will not be re-adjudicating the court agreement. C Ale was present for the meeting. A Rapacz requested to hear from C Ale. C Ale gave an explanation of the incident that took place and the court process. C Ale stated that the legal advice that she received from the attorney she used for counsel was inadequate. V Pope made the motion to recommend a probationary license with a year of probation starting from the meeting date 02/05/2026 and a division approved supervisor with direct clinical supervision and 12 hours of ethics of reporting duties and that she cannot be considered an approved supervisor. T Higbee seconded the motion. E Fawcett, T Higbee, T Lipscomb, F Wilson, V Pope, and S Yearsley voted in favor of the motion. A Rapacz, C Chivers, and J Ferguson opposed the motion. P Baese abstained from the vote. The motion passed.

KELLY HOFFMAN- Supervisor Approval:

K Hoffman gave a brief explanation for why she believes that she should be allowed to be approved to become a supervisor earlier than the two-year minimum requirement. A Rapacz stated that while she is empathetic to K Hoffman's case, the rule is clear in the requirements. P Baese asked for clarification on the supervision course that she will be taking. K Hoffman

provided that clarification. A Rapacz made the motion to uphold the rule and not make an exception. C Chivers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BREAK: 10:50AM – 11:00AM

UPHP PRESENTATION:

K Jacobsen presented a slideshow for UPHP. After a division audit was conducted, it was found that there were inconsistencies with adherence issues and how they were addressed by the differing boards and committees. The program became established in 2020 due to the extensive overhaul of the former diversion program. UPHP is a non-disciplinary pathway for voluntary participants. P Baese stated that he did take notice of the time reduction that has occurred in the subcommittee now that more people are participating in UPHP.

SOCIAL WORK CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN SCHOOLS:

Counseling services are considered short term. Assessment, diagnosis, treatment planning, are all clinical therapy. B Pedersen asked the board if the lack of diagnosis in a school setting still allows it to be considered counseling. J Ferguson asked the board members if they believe that it is the board's decision that clinical work does include a diagnosis. J Ferguson, speaking as an LCSW, operated for a long time thinking that diagnostics were required but more recently discovered that diagnostic courses are not required for a CSWE Accredited program. The Board agreed that the Diagnostics are necessary. E Fawcett asked for clarification on if schools are now an appropriate setting for CSW's to accrue the supervision hours. T Bodily provided information regarding the changes that were implemented by HB281. K Lewis states that school social workers are not providing medical diagnosis but they are able to provide educational diagnosis. T McCall states that the diagnosing they are completing in the school settings is still formulating a diagnosis even though there is not a formal DSM Code. J Ferguson states that the board goes based on the definition in statute. T McCall states that there are advocacy efforts in school districts pertaining to the lack of existence in laws pertaining to diagnosing in schools. J Ferguson made a statement regarding the social work specialty and that the laws are not currently considerate of school situations. B Pedersen quoted the unprofessional conduct social work section regarding practicum.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

No public comment was submitted.

BOARD MEMBER TRAINING:

The Behavioral Health Board was reminded to submit the Board Member Training to the Division.

SCHEDULE IN PERSON MEETING:

Tentatively scheduled for the April or May 2026 meeting.

Meeting adjourned 12:42 PM

NEXT MEETING:

March 05, 2026

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

Cade Charlton

[Cade Charlton \(Apr 6, 2026 12:28:31 MDT\)](#)

Chairperson, Behavioral Health Board

04/06/2026

Date Approved

Brian Pedersen

Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing

04/06/2026

Date Approved