

*****PENDING - SUBJECT TO CHANGE*****

**MINUTES
CENTRAL UTAH COUNSELING CENTER
AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING**

DATE: May 13, 2026

PLACE: 47 E 300 S
Richfield, UT 84701

TIME: 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Commissioner Ralph Brown, Commissioner Dennis Blackburn, Commissioner Marty Palmer, Commissioner Scott Bartholomew, Commissioner Vicki Lyman, Nathan Strait, Richard Anderson, Jace Ellsworth, Jared Kummer, Lynnette Robinson, Chad Williams, Christian Matthews, Kory Meacham, Kristofer Lundeberg, Samantha Payne

EXCUSED: Commissioner Sam Steed, Chad Williams

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made by Commissioner Marty Palmer to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2026 Authority Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Blackburn. Votes by voice included Commissioner Ralph Brown, Commissioner Dennis Blackburn, Commissioner Marty Palmer, Commissioner Scott Bartholomew and Commissioner Vicki Lyman. Commissioner Sam Steed was absent. Motion carried.

III. AREA PLAN APPROVAL and REVIEW:

Overview of behavioral health services and programs provided by CUCC across the 6-county area. Richard Anderson gave an explanation of what the area plan is. Richard also has a part dealing with budget sheets. Commissioner/Board Chair Ralph Brown signed the form.

A motion was made by Commissioner Marty Palmer to approve the Area Plan as presented, and allow Commissioner/Board Chair Ralph Brown to sign the Area Plan Form. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vicki Lyman. Votes by voice included Commissioner Ralph Brown, Commissioner Dennis Blackburn, Commissioner Marty Palmer, Commissioner Scott Bartholomew and Commissioner Vicki Lyman. Commissioner Sam Steed was absent. Motion carried.

IV. NATCON 26 REVIEW:

Nathan Strait asked for feedback on Natcon. Commissioner Marty Palmer stated there was a lot of walking. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew stated for him the highlight was the birthday party! Commissioner Marty Palmer mentioned a class that discussed first responders and the things they go through, and the mental health toll it can take on them. It was an eye opener for him. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew agreed that this class was one that he got the most out of. He does feel like the conferences have gone downhill over the years, and feels like it is a lot of money for what they get out of it. Richard Anderson said Nathan Strait is going to a different conference later in the year. They may possibly start looking at different conferences, or possibly working with other mental health facilities and having our own conference. We are going to have new commissioners coming on, and they are considering what would be most beneficial for them. Commissioner Dennis Blackburn said he enjoys the conferences and spending time with the staff, but he does feel like they are a little radical. Commissioner Dennis Blackburn talked about a deputy who recently resigned due to recent circumstances in the community. He hopes he reaches out for help he may need. Kory Meacham with the MCOT team said he deals with LE and EMS weekly, and he said they are professional and respectable. Richard asked Kory if MCOT ever asks the LE/EMS how they are doing. He said typically, they follow the patient to hospital, and leave the LE behind, but he likes the idea, and said they could make it part of their procedure.

V. FY2026 BUDGET REPORT:

Richard Anderson delivered the budget update, noting that 83% of the fiscal year has elapsed. A primary concern is the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) side, where revenue is currently at 67%. There has been a noticeable shift toward Mental Health (MH) services as SUD utilization declines, resulting in some Medicaid paybacks; however, the MH side is performing well, currently \$1.2 million ahead of budget. While factors like Court Ordered services and JRI can impact SUD financials, the overall MH outlook remains strong. Regarding county matches, invoices are being distributed. In response to an inquiry from Commissioner Marty Palmer about deadlines, Lynnette Robinson clarified that although they are due by June 30, 2026, the center requests payment by June 15, 2026 to ensure they are recorded within the current fiscal year. Conference expenditures are expected to decrease following NATCON reimbursements. While revenues are lower than historical averages, spending remains within budget limits, and IP claims are processing as expected. A new required expense for MH Residential services was noted, alongside concerns that hospitals are promoting these facilities as step-down options without proper coordination with the center. This is significant as MH Residential costs are double those of SUD. The revised budget and the FY27 Budget will be addressed at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Commissioner Scott Bartholomew to accept the FY2026 Budget Report as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vicki Lyman. Votes by voice included Commissioner Ralph Brown, Commissioner Dennis Blackburn, Commissioner Marty Palmer, Commissioner Scott Bartholomew and Commissioner Vicki Lyman. Commissioner Sam Steed was absent. Motion carried.

VI. FY2027 MEDICAID RATES:

Richard Anderson reported that the process for requesting Medicaid rates has transitioned from a four-request form to data extraction via the Medical Loss Ratio (MLR) process. Although the Center requested \$10.5 million, the received rates totaled \$11.1 million. Despite this increase, the budget remains set at \$10.5 million, as the Center continues its practice of not using County match funds for Medicaid matching. Richard noted that while revenue projections remain conservative, the required match will rise in tandem with Medicaid revenue. During the discussion, Commissioner Vicki Lyman inquired about the "Class I" Medicaid designation, which currently has 18 eligible individuals. Richard clarified that this class refers to medically needy children (ages 0-20) and that such classifications are determined by Workforce Services and Medicaid. Commissioner Scott Bartholomew questioned the \$20,000 increase in the Sanpete County match. Richard explained that the higher figure serves as a budgetary cushion based on current population data to accommodate potential additional state funds; however, he does not anticipate the full amount being required.

VII. PROPOSED FY2027 BUDGET REVIEW:

Budget adjustments for the coming year include a 4% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and the addition of a full-time prescriber. In response to Commissioner Dennis Blackburn's inquiry, it was noted that this addition of a full-time prescriber brings the total to four prescribers, effectively one per team, which helps address gender-specific preferences among clients. Financially, the Center expects \$400,000 in Mental Health (MH) and \$200,000 in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) allocations, with no MH funds moving to reserves. Current reserves stand at approximately \$7.5 million. There is an ongoing proposal to utilize \$800,000 to \$1 million of these reserves for a clinical building expansion in Ephraim. Richard concluded by expressing satisfaction with the new rates, attributing the positive outcome to the MLR process and support from actuaries.

VIII. RECEIVING CENTER UPDATE:

The project budget is approximately \$2.6 million, with current expenditures at about \$2.1 million. Landscaping costs are estimated to be between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

IX. FACILITIES/GROUNDS-SIDEWALKS:

Door alarms will be added to all buildings. Additionally, the insurance company has been encouraging repairs to sidewalks. Sidewalks will be getting lifted as well in all necessary locations.

X. HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT:

Jace Ellsworth presented the Human Resources Report.

A. New Hires/Terminations

Taija Mecham, a therapist on the Millard-Juab (Nephi) team, resigned, and is now working at the prison. Cindy Turner, office specialist on the Millard-Juab (Fillmore) team retired after thirty-five years. The office specialist position was back filled with MaCady Chlarson. Rylan Barton was hired as a new therapist on the Tri-County team.

B. Open Positions

The case manager vacancy remains unfilled, and its base of operations is being transitioned from Delta to Nephi. Additionally, while the Recreational Therapy therapist opening persists, active recruitment efforts for the role have been scaled back for the time being.

C. Mandatory/Required Staff Trainings

Across the Tri-County and Sanpete teams, only three staff members have yet to finish their mandatory training sessions.

XI. QUALITY ASSESSMENT & CLINICAL DATA:

A. Clinical Services

Jared Kummer presented on the audit from The Office of Substance Use and Mental Health (SUMH) that issued three findings in April following a review of missing information. Finding 1: Data indicated an increase in tobacco use among individuals following treatment. The resolution will be that staff will be retrained to enhance the accuracy of tobacco-use reporting during the intake process. Finding 2: 21% of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) client charts remained active in the state reporting system (SAMHIS). The resolution is that open charts were audited, and data submission protocols were adjusted to ensure SAMHIS reflects CUCC records accurately. Finding 3: Youth peer support services were not provided in FY25 (0% compared to the 0.7% rural average), resulting from the loss of a certified staff member. The resolution for this finding is a staff member will be trained and certified to restore Youth Peer Support Services. Commissioner Marty Palmer inquired about potential penalties. Jared Kummer clarified that the state requires a corrective action plan, which has already been implemented.

XII. CLOSED SESSION:

Not Needed

XIII. CLOSED SESSION ACTION:

Not Needed

XIV. MEETING SCHEDULE:

June 10, 2026 (BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING), location TBD

June 15, 2026 Retirement Party for Lynnette Robinson 1:00 pm

XV. MATTERS FROM THE BOARD:

A motion was made by Commissioner Marty Palmer to move to close the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ralph Brown. Votes by voice included Commissioner Ralph Brown, Commissioner Dennis Blackburn, Commissioner

**Marty Palmer, Commissioner Scott Bartholomew and Commissioner Vicki Lyman.
Commissioner Sam Steed was absent. Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:02 p.m.

Samantha Payne, AP Clerk