

Apr 13, 2026

Bear River Behavioral Health Advisory Council

Attended [Holly Budge](#) [willtroutanna@gmail.com](#)
[ashton.bennion@promontoryschool.org](#) [Joshua Barson](#) [jjeffries@bgcnu.org](#)
[Jeni Buist](#) [misty@capsa.org](#) [rmilne@btech.edu](#) [Alden Jack](#)
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Excused [trevorc@brmh.com](#) [Jordan Mathis](#)

Attachments  [Bear River Behavioral Health Advisory Council](#)  [BHAC - Bylaws](#)

 [April 13 2026 Agenda](#)

 [Behavioral Health Advisory Council - 2026_01_05 16_22 MST - Notes by Gemini.pdf](#)

 [Area Plan - Substance Use Disorder.pdf](#)  [Area Plan - Mental Health.pdf](#)

Meeting records  [Transcript](#)

Summary

The council approved existing minutes and bylaws, unanimously electing a new Chair and Vice Chair amidst discussion of upcoming organizational changes involving Bear River Health Department and Bear River Mental Health.

Leadership and Bylaw Updates

Holly Budge will assume the role of secretary starting July 1st. Following the unanimous approval of the existing bylaws and minutes, a motion to add an amendment for non-voting members to the bylaws will be on the next agenda.

Chair and Vice Chair Elected

Jeni Buist was unanimously approved as the new Chairperson, and Alden Jack was unanimously approved as the new Vice Chair. The terms for both the Chair and Vice Chair are set for 1 year.

Substance Abuse Capitation

Substance Abuse capitation update was provided, capitation under Bear River Mental Health will begin on July 1st, becoming capitated for both mental health and substance use services. This change is expected to increase funding and improve integrated services through co-located care.

Next steps

- ☐ [The group] Draft Amendment: Draft amendment text for non-voting members; add discussion item to the next meeting agenda.
- ☐ [Holly] Establish Workflow: Reach out to the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair; figure out optimal working flow.
- ☐ ~~[Holly] Send Meeting Link: Send the virtual link for the Salt Lake Behavioral Health Advisory Council meeting scheduled for April 29th.~~
- ☐ [Joshua Barson] Send Organization Chart: Send the organizational chart detailing the new anticipated structure to all council members.
- ☐ [Joshua Barson] Send Area Plan Documents: Send updated Area Plan documents received from the state to council members; send the completed Area Plan for later review.
- ☐ [Joshua Barson] Define Client Base: Determine and clarify the definition of a client for each specific area within the Area Plan document.
- ☐ [Holly] Arrange Tour: Ask about setting up a tour of the receiving center location for the BHAC members.

Details

- **Introduction and Attendance:** Joshua Barson opened the meeting. A round of introductions was conducted so participants could state their name and the

organization they represented, with attendees including probation officers, school social workers, program directors, and a self-advocate.

- **Upcoming Organizational Changes and Leadership Transition:** Holly will assume the role of secretary starting July 1st, replacing Joshua Barson. Holly will manage organization, scheduling, and communications, serving as the primary contact for the chair and vice chair.
- **Discussion on Non-Voting Members in Bylaws:** The participants discussed having Trevor Cook, CEO of Bear River Mental Health, as a non-voting member, which raised the issue that the bylaws do not currently include provisions for non-voting members. It was suggested that having non-voting members could fill gaps, such as representation from the medical field, and that the council would need to define the guidelines for how non-voting members are recruited and approved. The council agreed to approve the current bylaws and minutes and then add an amendment for non-voting members to the next agenda.
- **Review and Approval of Minutes and Bylaws:** The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and approved by a motion from Michael Crane and seconded by Alden Jack. A motion to approve the existing bylaws was made by Jeni Buist and seconded by JeuNelle Jeffries, which was passed by a unanimous vote. The addition of an amendment for non-voting members will be added to the next agenda.
- **Leadership Nominations and Elections:** The council began the process of nominating and voting for a Chair and Vice Chair, with terms set for one year. Jeni Buist was nominated for the Chairperson position by Renee Milne, and JeuNelle Jeffries seconded the nomination. The motion to approve Jeni as Chairperson was passed by a unanimous vote. Alden Jack was nominated for the Vice Chair position by Misty Hewitt, seconded by Ashton Bennion, and approved by a unanimous vote.
- **Behavioral Health Services Merger and Capitation:** On July 1st, counseling services will combine with Bear River Mental Health, which will become capitated for both substance use and mental health counseling. This capitation model, which is already in place for mental health, will now apply to substance use services, which will also change their name to Bear River Behavioral Health Services. This change is expected to increase funding and improve integrated services.
- **Discussion of Client Access and Receiving Center:** The integration will allow for more seamless, co-located services. The new receiving center, which is

anticipated to open in the summer, was not the reason for the capitation push but will contribute to integration.

- **Area Plan Review and Future Advisement:** The area plan is submitted every three years, and the next plan is due on May 15th, covering mental health, substance abuse, and prevention. The council was asked to identify gaps or provide feedback on the current area plan. Given the timeline of the merger, the council decided that focusing their efforts on advising on the execution and operational aspects for the next year would be more valuable than revising the current plan.
- **Looking Ahead to Council Structure and Future Meetings:** The Salt Lake Behavioral Health Advisory Council will meet virtually on April 29th, and members are invited to attend to observe how a more established council operates. The area plan is dictated by state requirements for funding and service delivery, which govern the programs provided by the local authority.