

SOUTHWEST BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**July 8, 2026
Cedar City, Utah**

PRESENT:

Commissioner Victor Iverson, Chairperson
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead, Vice Chair
Commissioner Jerry Taylor
Commissioner Paul Cozzens
Commissioner Celeste Meyeres

STAFF MEMBERS:

Mike Deal, Executive Director
Rita Cervantes, Executive Assistant

GUEST:

Kevin Jones, Auditor

EXCUSED:

Mike Sherratt, Clinical Director
Matt Gardiner, Controller

CALL TO ORDER/ INTRODUCTIONS

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

APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES

Commissioner Iverson asked for a motion to approve the June 2026 Authority Board minutes. Commissioner Taylor moved to adopt the minutes and Commissioner Cozzens seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

BI-MONTHLY OPERATIONS REPORT

Mike Deal reviewed the Bi-Monthly Operations Report for May & June 2026. Mr. Deal highlighted the key areas of personnel, major expenditures and risk management reporting, including any property damage, client/staff injuries or reportable deaths. Of note, licensing requires that any client deaths, whether natural, accidental or other, must be reported to the State. Commissioner Iverson asked questions regarding the contract we have with Cherish Families and several other subcontractor expenditures. Mr. Deal discussed payment to Cherish Families and the way the Cherish Families contract was established. He answered several other expense-related questions as they arose.

Mr. Deal highlighted the several key areas of the risk report including the category of client deaths. We track the status of all clients, open or closed, and if a death has occurred, we note it in the closed record. These do not necessarily represent client deaths within our Center programs. There were 5 listed in this report; none were in Center programs at the time and are all from natural causes. Mr. Deal read through a

few of the client complaints noted in the report, at Commissioner Hollingshead's request.

Mr. Deal discussed the use of the conference/meeting rooms at our facilities that are free to the communities that are meeting for SUD and/or MH groups as needed.

BI-MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Deal excused Mr. Sherratt and Matt Gardiner as they were not in attendance today, he then distributed the Monthly Financial Status Report, estimated year-end, as of 6/30/2026 showing total Revenues and Expenses. He reviewed the areas where there were special notes. On track for revenue and under on expenditures and about 96% on personnel.

A motion to approve the Bi-Monthly Operations Report and Financial Report was made by Commissioner Hollingshead and seconded by Commissioner Cozzens. The voting was unanimous in favor.

FY2026 FINANCIAL AUDIT

Mike Deal referenced Utah State Code related to annual independent audits and required Audit Entrance Conference provisions. The Authority Board serves as the Audit Committee for the Center. Mr. Deal introduced Kevin Jones with Hafen, Buckner, Everett and Graff. The purpose of the Audit Entrance is to kick-off the annual audit and allow funding partners an opportunity to ask any questions or have the audit team review any specific areas of interest. The State Office of Substance Use and Mental Health (OSUMH) provided a letter to Mr. Jones with specific areas they would like addressed in the audit. A copy was provided to Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones handed out the annual fraud questionnaire to the Commissioners for them to complete if they have any concerns and get it returned. The audit is underway.

UAC JUSTICE SUMMIT SUMMARY

Mr. Deal summarized the Justice Summit, held at the end of June and hosted by UAC, sharing who was there and what was discussed and mentioned the Forensic Social Work Program presented by Weber County. Mr. Deal also summarized the homelessness update that was presented by the Utah Department of Workforce Services.

HR1 OBBBA IMPACT

Mr. Deal briefly discussed the federal House Resolution 1, (HR 1), the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) and the impact it will have on our Medicaid population, including any potential work requirements to maintain Medicaid coverage, and those who may not meet the definition of a "Qualified Immigrant" but may potentially lose their Medicaid coverage. The State is actively moving forward with these policies and will ensure we know who is and who is not impacted in the coming months.

RURAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION GRANT

Mr. Deal summarized the three federal grants that SBHC may seek. He noted that we do not seek grants merely to go after additional dollars. We hold true to our mission and seek funds that bolster that mission, with an expectation that we will eventually be able to sustain the added efforts and programming. Mr. Deal discussed the Federal Rural Health Transformation Grant, the Suicide Prevention Among Rural Communities and the Federal SAMHSA Tribal Behavioral Health Grant focusing on Suicide Prevention and Substance Use Prevention. SBHC will be a partner with Family Health Care and the Tribe on these grants if approved.

STATE SATISFACTION / OUTCOME SURVEY

Mr. Deal presented a slideshow summarizing the Center's annual State Satisfaction Surveys that were conducted at the beginning of 2026. Our data represented a response rate of about 14%. Overall the Center has seen an increase in general satisfaction from the prior year. Most individual categories saw a positive increase within the last year. Mr. Deal highlighted several areas where improvement could be made and also discussed a few of the written comments that were submitted on the surveys. He noted that the few negative comments did not represent the majority, but that we do our best to remedy any of the noted issues.

COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH / DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Deal opened the floor to the Commissioners if they have any concerns or other questions to bring up at this time that can be addressed. He noted that he has a meeting with the Washington County Commissioners next week, and a planned meeting with the Kane County Commissioners at the end of August.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Iverson moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Meyeres seconded the motion. The voting was unanimous in favor of adjournment.

JULY MINUTES APPROVAL

The July 8th, 2026 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved at the September 9th, 2026 Board Meeting.



Southwest Behavioral Health Center Authority Board Chairperson

9-16-26