



Chair:
Vice Chair: Santiago Cortez

Policy Review Committee

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 30, 2026, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Senate Building Room 110

Zoom information:

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/81106392533>

Phone one-tap:

+12532158782,,81106392533# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,81106392533# US (Houston)

	Time/Presenter	Discussion Topics
1	12:00 - 12:15 pm: Megan West	Welcome - Santiago Cortez called the meeting to order - Megan West welcomed attendees and introduced new members: - Tim Whalen, Citizen Representative - Melissa Aitken, new Staff Director with the Behavioral Health Commission Attendance and approval of 4/30/2026 meeting minutes - Motion to approve the April 30, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Marcie Gray and seconded by Carol Ruddell. The motion passed unanimously. <i>(Action required: Vote)</i>
2	12:15 - 12:30 pm: Megan West	Structural Changes to Committee Megan West presented structural changes effective July 1, 2026, and facilitated introductions across all membership seats <i>(Action required: None)</i>
3	12:30 - 12:40 pm: Megan West	Chair Nomination Nomination: Ross VanVranken nominated Tim Whalen to serve as Chair of the Policy Review Committee. Seconded by Marcie Gray. The motion passed unanimously.

		● Leadership Structure: Santiago Cortez (Vice Chair) and Ross VanVranken (Second Vice Chair) will remain in their positions through December 2026. (Action required: Vote)
4	12:40 - 1:15 pm: Melissa Aitken	Final Commission Legislative Recommendations Review Melissa Aitken led the review of the final legislative recommendations submitted to the Behavioral Health Commission Overview & Scoring Mechanics ● Recommendations were generated by various committees (Crisis Response, Prevention and Early Intervention, Treatment and Recovery on June 18, 2026). ● 15 total recommendations were scored and ranked by Commissioners, with voting concluded on July 16, 2026. ● Scoring was evaluated across 4 criteria (max 100 points per recommendation, 1,000 total points across Commissioners): 1. Strategic Alignment (25 Points) 2. Evidence of Problem (35 Points) 3. Likelihood of Success (25 Points) 4. Cost-Effectiveness (15 Points) ● Prioritized results: 5 funding recommendations and 4 policy recommendations. Policy Recommendations (Statute & Rule Changes) 1. First Responder Training: Require substance use training for all first responders to reduce overdose deaths, improve recovery, and protect public safety (<i>Statute Change: Yes</i>). 2. 911 to 988 Protocol: Establish standardized public safety answering point protocols for transfers from 911 to 988 (<i>Statute Change: Yes</i>). 3. Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training Integration: Improve law enforcement utilization of 988 by integrating required module content into CIT training academies (<i>Statute Change: Administrative Request</i>). 4. Temporary Commitment Amendments: Amend Utah Code 26B-5-331, "Temporary Commitment - Requirements and procedures" (<i>Statute Change: Yes</i>). Funding Recommendations (Appropriations Requests)

		1. Utah State Hospital Bed Expansion: \$88,800,000 one-time; \$5,000,000 ongoing. 2. Rural Behavioral Health Receiving Centers: \$2,400,000 ongoing to support operational funding for two additional centers. 3. County Supportive Housing Services Expansion: \$7,500,000 one-time; \$1,000,000 ongoing. 4. Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT): \$800,225 ongoing for one additional MCOT team in Utah County. 5. Firearm & Lethal Means Safety Materials: \$400,000 ongoing for safety materials, locking mechanisms, and secure storage tools. Next Steps • Final ranked recommendations will be published on the Commission's website prior to the August Commission meeting. • Details will continue to be developed by committee members and Commission staff for submission to lawmakers ahead of the 2027 legislative session. <i>(Action required: None)</i>
5	1:15 - 1:55 pm: Vice Chair Santiago Cortez	PRC strategic planning Santiago Cortez presented on Strategy 3: Improve access to high-quality behavioral health treatment services, covering four main objectives: 1. Improve alignment and coordination across public/private systems to reduce service gaps. 2. Improve quality of behavioral health treatment services. 3. Expand behavioral health workforce. 4. Expand integration of behavioral and physical healthcare. Discussion Points & Operational SOPs • Communication with the Commission: Tim Whalen, Evan Done, and Adam Cohen discussed structuring clear communication channels between PRC and the Commission during legislative sessions to ensure real-time responsiveness. • Staff Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): Megan West and Melissa Aitken will serve as direct liaisons between PRC and Commission chairs. Eric Tadehara highlighted that

		SUMH staff are creating explicit SOP guidelines and transition planning to formalize this process. ● Feedback Mechanisms: Tim Whalen requested summaries explaining why certain committee recommendations were not advanced by the Commission to provide transparency for volunteers' time. Legislative Outreach & Meet-and-Greet Proposal ● Discussion around early legislative engagement was raised by Ross VanVranken, Santiago Cortez, and Tim Whalen. ● Liz Klc shared success from the Department of Criminal and Juvenile Justice's "crash course" strategy for legislators during interim sessions and offered to collaborate with staff. ● Action/Motion: Tim Whalen moved that staff work with Liz Klc to schedule a Legislative Meet-and-Greet event during the November interim / tied to the October 29th meeting timeframe. ○ Seconded by: Eric Tadehara. ○ Outcome: Motion passed unanimously. Staff will coordinate room logistics for the October 29th meeting plan. <i>(Action required: None)</i>
6	1:55 - 2:00 pm: Vice Chair Santiago Cortez	Public comment ● Opened; no formal public comments noted. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Tim Whalen; seconded by Liz Klc. Motion passed unanimously. <i>(Action required: None)</i>
Next Meeting: Thursday, October 29, 2026, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Senate Building Room 110		