DBHDS
Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

DRAFT MINUTES

State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

REGULAR QUARTERLY BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

DBHDS Central Office, 13th Floor South Large Executive Board Room
Jefferson Building, 1220 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219

The meeting was held in person with a physical quorum present and with electronic or phone connection available.

MEMBERS PRESENT	R. Blake Andis *(departed at 9:35 a.m.)* Sandy Chung, MD Caroline Coster, MD Rebecca Graser Jane McDonald Nina Schroder Tony Vadella	**MEMBERS ABSENT**	None
DBHDS STAFF present for all or part of the meeting	Mary Broz-Vaughan, Regulatory Affairs Director/State Board Liaison Lauren Cunningham, Communications Director Taneika Goldman, State Human Rights Director Madelyn Lent, Public Policy Manager Crystal Lipford, Quality & Risk Management Director Meghan McGuire, Deputy Commissioner, Policy and Public Affairs Nathan Miles, Chief Financial Officer Kelly Murphy, State Opioid Treatment Authority Dev Nair, Assistant Commissioner for Provider Management Chaye Neal-Jones, Enterprise Management Services Director Sivani Nemani, Intern Heather Norton, Deputy Commissioner, Community Services Susan Puglisi, Regulatory Research Specialist Isaiah Rhoe, Intern Candace Roney, Addiction, Recovery & Wellness Supports Director Kari Savage, Office of Child and Family Services Director Alyssa Ward, Chief Deputy Commissioner Daryl Washington, Commissioner *(arrived at 9:50 a.m.)*		
INVITED GUESTS	Jennifer Faison, VACSB Executive Director		
OTHER ATTENDEES	Mark Blackwell; Melanie Bond-Artis, Hampton-Newport News CSB; Tynesha B; Ron Clark, Hampton-Newport News CSB; Daphne Cunningham; Catherine Ford, MSV; Tom Jackson, Virginia Recovery Advocacy Project; Cara Kaufman, DARS; Catherine Powell; Beverly Smith, Hampton-Newport News CSB; Teresa Smith, OSIG; Israil Steen.		

CALL TO ORDER	Sheriff Andis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
Determination of Quorum	Ms. Broz-Vaughan called the roll and reported a quorum was present.
Remote Participation	Sheriff Andis, whose principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location, participated electronically from his office in Abingdon. Dr. Chung participated electronically from her principal residence in Sterling, which is more than 60 miles from the meeting location.
Adoption of Agenda	A motion was made by Ms. McDonald and seconded by Dr. Chung to adopt the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.
Approval of Minutes	Ms. McDonald moved to approve the minutes from the April meetings en bloc. Ms. Graser seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
Officer Elections	Sheriff Andis reported that the Nominating Committee held an all-virtual meeting on June 29, 2026, and voted unanimously to nominate a slate of candidates with Jane McDonald for the position of board chair and Tony Vadella for vice chair. In accordance with the board's bylaws, Sheriff Andis opened the floor for any additional nominations. Hearing none, Ms. Graser moved to elect Jane McDonald as Board Chair. Ms. Schroder seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. On a motion by Ms. McDonald, properly seconded by Dr. Chung, the board unanimously elected Tony Vadella as Board Vice Chair.
TRANSFER OF CHAIR	Sheriff Andis congratulated the newly elected officers and passed the gavel to Ms. McDonald. Ms. McDonald thanked Sheriff Andis and assumed the chair.
Public Comment	Ms. McDonald opened the floor for public comment. Mark Blackwell and Tom Jackson addressed the board regarding peer recovery services and offered written comments for the record. Ms. McDonald closed public comment.
Standing Committee Reports	Ms. Broz-Vaughan reported that the Planning and Budget Committee did not have a quorum because only one member was physically present. Although unable to discuss or transact public business, committee members reviewed the draft Board Engagement and Liaison Activities and guidelines provided in the agenda packet.

	Ms. Lent summarized the morning's Policy and Evaluation Committee meeting, reporting that committee members reviewed technical revisions to Policy 1030 (SYS) 90-3 – Consistent Collection and Utilization of Data in State Facilities and Community Services Boards. After confirmation of continued alignment with cross-referenced code sections, the committee will consider the revised draft at its next meeting. Committee members also revised an initial draft of technical and substantive amendments to Policy 1040 (SYS) 06-3 – Involvement and Participation of Individuals Receiving Services and Family Members. The revised draft will go out for field review for the committee to take up at its next meeting.
Unfinished Business	Ms. McDonald directed members to amendments recommended by the Policy and Evaluation Committee at the April meeting. On a motion by Ms. Graser, properly seconded by Mr. Vadella, the board unanimously approved the revisions to Policy 3000 (CO) 74-10 – Appointments of Department Employees to Community Services Boards. Ms. Schroder moved the revisions to Policy 6005 (FIN) 94-2 – Retention of Unspent State Funds by Community Services Boards. Mr. Vadella seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
Commissioner's Report	Deputy Commissioner Heather Norton provided an overview of the Community Services Division and an update on licensing and provider engagement initiatives. *Presentation available from board office upon request.
Regulatory Affairs Report	Ms. Puglisi and Dr. Roney explained the Office of Addiction, Recovery, and Wellness Supports request to incorporate a central registry requirement into the Licensing Regulations applicable to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) treatment providers. **MOTION:** Mr. Vadella moved to authorize a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to amend 12VAC35-105 to mandate participation in a Central Registry by MOUD treatment service providers. Dr. Coster seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
Emergency/NOIRA Revisions	Ms. Broz-Vaughan, Ms. Puglisi, and Dr. Ward reviewed the background and rationale for recommending withdrawal of the board's previously authorized Behavioral Health Redesign actions. The updated regulatory packages, developed in collaboration with DMAS, align the Licensing Regulations with the most recent changes to Medicaid policy drafts as well as the extended implementation timeframe for redesigned services.

	MOTION: Ms. Schroder moved to adopt revised emergency regulations amending 12VAC35-105 to align with Medicaid behavioral health services redesign for Community Psychiatric Support and Treatment (CPST), as presented, and to issue a NOIRA for permanent replacement regulations. Mr. Vadella seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. **MOTION:** Dr. Coster moved to adopt emergency regulations amending 12VAC35-105 to align with Medicaid behavioral health services redesign for Coordinated Specialty Care (CSC), as presented, and to issue a NOIRA for permanent replacement regulations. Ms. Graser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. **MOTION:** Ms. Schroder moved to adopt revised emergency regulations amending 12VAC35-105 to align with Medicaid behavioral health services redesign for Recovery and Empowerment Center (REC), as presented, and to issue a NOIRA for permanent replacement regulations. Ms. Graser seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
Upcoming Regulatory Activity	Ms. Broz-Vaughan notified members of regulatory actions anticipated to come before the board later this year resulting from legislation during the 2026 Session of the General Assembly. • Emergency medical simulations exempt action (HB 1370) • Certified Recovery Residences standard action (HB 931/SB270)
New Business	Ms. McDonald asked members to review the proposed meeting plan for Fiscal Year 2027. On a motion by Mr. Vadella, properly seconded by Dr. Coster, the board unanimously adopted the annual meeting schedule.
SHRC Appointments	Ms. Graser moved to appoint Valjean M. Roberts, Jr., to the State Human Rights Committee. Mr. Vadella seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. On a motion by Dr. Coster, properly seconded by Ms. Schroder, the board unanimously reappointed Renee F. Valdez to the State Human Rights Committee. On a motion by Dr. Coster, properly seconded by Mr. Vadella, the board unanimously reappointed John B. Shepherd to the State Human Rights Committee.
The Board recessed at 10:50 a.m. to reconvene at 11:00 a.m.	
The Board reconvened at 11:00 a.m.	
VACSB Quarterly Update	Ms. Faison briefed the board on Virginia Association of Community Services Boards (VACSB) advocacy efforts, noting HR 1 changes to Medicaid affecting SUD and medically fragile populations, elimination of community stabilization services, and recommendations related to CPST.

DBHDS Presentation	Ms. Savage provided an overview of school-based mental health programs. *Presentation available from board office upon request.
Lunch Break	Ms. McDonald recessed the meeting for lunch.
The Board recessed at 11:40 a.m. to reconvene at 12:00 p.m.	
The Board reconvened at 12:00 p.m.	
DBHDS Presentation	Mr. Miles updated the board on significant items from the 2026-2028 biennial state budget. *Presentation available from board office upon request.
Announcements	Ms. Broz-Vaughan directed members to the budget report for Fiscal Year 2026. The handout was for informational purposes only and did not require any action. Ms. Broz-Vaughan reminded members of the quadrennial bylaws review for the September meeting.
ADJOURNMENT	Ms. McDonald adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.
The State Board adjourned at 12:15 p.m.	

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
DBHDS Piedmont Geriatric Hospital
5001 E. Patrick Henry Hwy., Burkeville, VA 23922

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comments to the DBHDS State Board – July Board Meeting

Subject: Response to April Board Meeting Minutes and Peer Recovery Concerns

At the April Board Meeting, I used the public comment period to share concerns synthesized from surveys and focus groups involving a substantial number of Virginia recovery advocates. Those comments were intended to elevate the perspective of the peer recovery workforce and the broader recovery community.

- The decision to close the Office of Recovery Services was made without meaningful stakeholder input and appears inconsistent with national best practices for state agencies utilizing peer recovery services.

- Following the announcement, recovery advocates organized a grassroots effort asking DBHDS to reconsider the closure. DBHDS indicated that communication-focused work groups with the peer community would be initiated. We hope that this will be a priority.

- Since the Office of Recovery Services closed, recovery-oriented funding and service decisions no longer appear to be prioritized or overseen from a peer-led perspective. Instead, these decisions are made through multidisciplinary structures that ultimately operate under clinical oversight.

- In a February 2026 survey, 75.1% of the peer workforce reported confusion about who to contact at DBHDS for answers, and 48.8% reported actively struggling to secure technical assistance.

- Current and former recipients of recovery-related funds have also expressed fear about raising concerns because of potential consequences for future funding opportunities.

If the intent of our April comments was misunderstood, I want to clarify that our purpose was not to point fingers or assign blame. We remain hopeful that Commissioner Washington's strong record of championing recovery-oriented services in Fairfax will carry forward at DBHDS. At the same time, the peer recovery community needs clear communication, meaningful engagement, and transparent pathways for technical assistance and decision-making.

A positive result of this consensus-building advocacy is the formation of the One Voice for Recovery Coalition, supported through SAARA of Virginia. This coalition elevates the voice of the peer recovery workforce and fellow recovery advocates and professionals. The One Voice for Recovery Coalition is ready to partner with DBHDS and the Board to

PUBLIC COMMENT

strengthen communication, accountability, and peer-informed decision-making across Virginia’s behavioral health system.

PUBLIC COMMENT

tom.jackson@varecoveryadvocacy.org
434-249-0851

15 July 2026

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Virginia Recovery Advocacy Project, I want to second what Mark submitted, and add our thanks to the Commissioner for the prompt replies he sent.

While we still have some substantially different views on past events, we are looking forward and will continue to monitor recovery-related actions and funding by the Department, and comment appropriately when required.

Thomas A. Jackson
Co-Lead Organizer

652 W Frederick St
Staunton VA 24401

Recovery Advocacy Project
VIRGINIA
V-RAP is working to build an impactful grassroots advocacy network in demand of community and public policy-based solutions to the ever-expanding mental health and substance use crises we face.

DRAFT MINUTES

State Board of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 15, 2026

DBHDS Central Office, 13th Floor South Large Executive Board Room
Jefferson Building, 1220 Bank Street, Richmond, VA 23219

The meeting was held in person with a physical quorum present and with electronic or phone connection available.

MEMBERS PRESENT	R. Blake Andis Sandy Chung, MD Tony Vadella
MEMBERS ABSENT	None
STAFF PRESENT	Mary Broz-Vaughan, Regulatory Affairs Director/State Board Liaison Susan Puglisi, Regulatory Research Specialist

CALL TO ORDER	Blake Andis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.
Determination of Quorum	With only one member physically present, the committee lacked a quorum. Sheriff Andis explained that committee members would be limited to receiving information about agenda items and not be able to discuss or transact public business.
Remote Participation	Sheriff Andis, whose principal residence is more than 60 miles from the meeting location, participated electronically from his office in Abingdon. Dr. Chung participated electronically from her principal residence in Sterling, which is more than 60 miles from the meeting location.
REVIEW OF DRAFT REVISIONS TO BYLAWS LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS	Ms. Broz-Vaughan reviewed the draft "Board Engagement and Liaison Activities" and guidelines provided in the agenda packet.
NEW BUSINESS	Lacking a quorum, the committee did not act on the revisions. Sheriff Andis noted that the draft proposal would be included as part of the full board's comprehensive quadrennial review of the bylaws in September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	Ms. Broz-Vaughan directed committee members to the budget report for Fiscal Year 2026. Sheriff Andis reminded members that the next meeting will be on September 23, 2026.
ADJOURNMENT	Sheriff Andis adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

STATE BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Policy and Evaluation Committee
DRAFT MINUTES
JULY 15, 2026
DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES CENTRAL OFFICE
1220 BANK STREET RICHMOND, VA 23219
This meeting was held in person with a physical quorum present, with electronic or phone connection available.

Members Present: Jane McDonald (Committee Chair), Nina Schroder, Caroline Coster, M.D.
Members Absent: Rebecca Graser

DBHDS Staff Present: Madelyn Lent, Director, Public Policy (Committee Liaison)
Nicole Gore, Assistant Commissioner, Behavioral Health Services
Chaye Neal-Jones, Director, Enterprise Management Services
Rebecca Bodanske, Director, Data Analytics and Visualization
Benjamin Marks, Director, Facility Data Analytics and Evaluation (virtual)
Vikas Mehta, Senior Project Manager (virtual)

I. Call to Order

Jane McDonald called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

II. Welcome and Introductions (5 min)

III. Adoption of Agenda, July 15, 2026

Dr. Caroline Coster moved to adopt the agenda. Nina Schroder seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

IV. Adoption of Minutes, April 22, 2026

Dr. Caroline Coster moved to adopt the minutes. Nina Schroder seconded the motion. The minutes were adopted unanimously.

V. Review Policy Plan for FY2025 - FY2030 (5 min)

Madelyn Lent presented the policy plan and the committee briefly reviewed.

VI. Introduce Draft Revisions

The committee reviewed and discussed draft revisions recommended by the Department for Policy 1030 (SYS) 90-3 Consistent Collection and Utilization of Data in State Facilities and Community Services Boards. Staff characterized proposed revisions as technical in nature with the primary changes including updating references to the information systems utilized by the Department. Members requested staff review of code references in the Background section to confirm continued alignment. Confirmation will be provided at the September meeting. Members noted a field review would not be necessary for this policy given the technical nature of the proposed changes.

The committee received background review and draft revisions recommended by the Department for Policy 1040 (SYS) 06-3 Involvement and Participation of Individuals Receiving Services and Family Members. Staff noted that proposed revisions included both substantive and technical changes. Members requested that staff revise Policy section to clarify training requirements for individuals providing peer support services and conduct a field review to provide Community Services Boards with an opportunity to share comments on the proposed revisions. An updated draft of the revisions and comments received from the field review will be presented at the September meeting.

VII. Next Quarterly Meeting: September 23, 2026.

VIII. Adjournment

Jane McDonald adjourned the meeting at 9:05 am.

All current policies of the State Board are here: https://dbhds.virginia.gov/about-dbhds/Boards-Councils/state-board-of-BHDS/bhds-policies/.