

## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM (BHC) MEETING GUIDE

February 13, 2025 | Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM | Location: Zoom

(See [BHC Vision/Mission/Strategic Statements](#))

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### 1. Meeting Objectives (7 minutes)

- Build upon the **BHAC discussion**, reinforcing collaboration while addressing key concerns.
  - Clarify the **BHC's structure, governance, and legal role**, particularly in response to BHAC's questions.
  - Strengthen **internal alignment**, ensuring members feel clear, confident, and committed to collective priorities.
  - Reaffirm and refine the **collaborative potential of BHC members**, identifying opportunities for impact.
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### 2. Key Themes from BHAC Discussion (15 minutes)

[Link to meeting packet for the BHC's presentation at the 2/11/2025 BHAC Meeting](#)

#### ◆ What BHAC Recognized as Valuable About BHC

- **Seeded by federal dollars to build a table that has long-term sustainability**
  - **Aligns multiple funding streams** rather than focusing on just one.
  - **Fosters cross-sector collaboration**—This established table convenes a broad range of agencies and organizations who all play a role in serving community members with mental health and/or substance use disorders.
  - **Enables proactive and county-stakeholder-wide strategic planning, and supports innovation through multi-agency project planning, funding pursuit, and project implementation**, which is different than the BHAC's mandate to administer county-specific funding allocation.
  - **BHAC members explicitly recognized BHC's ability to bring in external funding as a valuable function.**
  - **BHAC members agree that BHC's collective insight generation could inform countywide behavioral health strategies.**
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## Key Themes from BHAC Discussion – Cont’d

### ◆ Key Questions & Concerns from BHAC

- **Is BHC a legal entity?** → No, it is being set up to operate under formal governance agreements.
- **Who controls funding?** → BHC does not allocate funds, but members vote on funding priorities and funds are distributed accordingly.
- **What authority does BHC have to receive or manage funds?** → Some BHAC members raised concerns about how BHC is structured to receive and distribute funds transparently.

#### **Example Public Comment from BHAC Meeting:**

“Now that [BHC] is not actually a legal entity nor affiliated with any organization, I'm just wondering what authority the table has to receive or allocate funds moving forward and what transparency measures are in place to ensure accountability for those funds.”

- **BHC’s Response:**
    - BHC does not directly receive or distribute funds—funds are held by fiscal agents (e.g., DBH), who act as financial stewards but do not make funding decisions.
    - Funding decisions are made collectively by BHC members through a voting process, ensuring transparency.
    - The governance structure ensures accountability—funding priorities are set through collaborative decision-making, and all fund use is subject to reporting and oversight.
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3. BHAC vs. BHC – Roles & Responsibilities (12 minutes)

<b>BHAC (Behavioral Health Advisory Committee)</b>	<b>BHC (Behavioral Health Consortium)</b>
Administers county behavioral health funding (1/10th of 1% & opioid settlement funds) and engages in strategic funding alignment.	Aligns agencies, priorities, and strategies to ensure resources are used effectively across multiple funding streams.
Develops strategic funding priorities and distributes funds via an RFP process.	Brings leaders together to identify funding needs, avoid duplication, and maximize access to funding beyond the 1/10th of 1%.
Manages compliance and reporting while considering broader county-level behavioral health strategies.	Provides a collaborative space for agencies to align strategic efforts across sectors, ensuring funding and services are integrated.
Tracks data from 1/10th of 1% funding recipients, focusing on funded projects.	Develops collective metrics and engages in cross-agency data gathering to identify system-wide gaps and opportunities.
Makes funding recommendations to the county based on a formal RFP process.	Supports cross-sector priority setting, project development, and collaborative funding opportunities.
A mandated advisory body required by law, ensuring oversight of county behavioral health tax dollars.	A county-supported collaborative initiative, designed to increase system-wide coordination and access to external funding.
Exists to allocate county-controlled behavioral health funds efficiently	Exists to help Jefferson County agencies and organizations compete for external funding and ensure alignment across local, state, and federal resources.
BHAC members ensure compliance and effective use of local funding.	BHC members collaborate to design, secure, and implement projects—including fulfilling all grant deliverables.

#### 4. BHC Governance, Decision-Making and Transparency Overview (15 Minutes)

 **Why a Governance Structure Matters:** Because BHC members collaborate to apply for multi-agency grants, a voting structure ensures fairness in deciding how funds are distributed when they are received. [See 12/12/2025 BHC Governance Meeting Notes.](#)

- **December Agreement:** Members present agreed on a **hybrid governance model** and a **Fist-to-Five voting process**.
- **Not Yet Formalized:** Will formalize at the next governance meeting where we can confirm or refine, then finalize.
- **BHC itself does not handle funds directly. Instead, fiscal agents (e.g., DBH) hold and administer funds, but all allocation decisions are made by BHC members through a transparent voting process..**

To ensure that these clarifications are formalized, this input will directly inform the MOU between BHC & BHAC, helping us create a shared framework for how we work together.

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#### 5. Key Insights from the HRSA Grant Consideration and Application (15 Minutes)

 Even when we **don't secure funding, our collaborative efforts strengthen our ability to act as a united front for future opportunities.**

##### **What We Learned About BHC Collaborative Priorities from our Prior Grant Pursuits**

- Multi-agency collaboration **to improve patient care coordination** ([RHNDP-P App Overview](#))
- **Integrated Behavioral & Primary Care** → A critical gap that BHC members want to address. ([Feedback from HRSA25038 Rural Health Care Services Outreach Program Grant Consideration, see Item #3 support for Grand Consideration Ideas](#))
- **Youth Mental Health & Early Intervention** → High priority for community stability.
- **Substance Use & Harm Reduction** → Systems and supporting programs need continued funding support.

##### **Challenges Identified**

- **Readiness & capacity concerns**—not all agencies were prepared for the scope of the HRSA Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Consideration grant.
- **Caution in relying on early-stage regional programs** (e.g., Olympic Connect) with uncertain funding.

## 6. What Can We Achieve Together? (15 minutes)

- 💡 What funding or strategic opportunities should BHC pursue next? Beyond funding, what system-wide changes should we work toward together?
- 💡 How can we use this table to create solutions that wouldn't exist otherwise?
- 💡 How can we ensure alignment between BHC, BHAC, and regional/state behavioral health efforts?

### 📌 The Shift in How We Work Together

- Instead of “Why are we working together?” we ask:  
“What can we create together that no one organization could achieve in isolation?”
  - This shift moves us from justification to vision.
  - It invites possibility, co-creation, and alignment.
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## 7. Informing the BHAC-BHC MOU & Next Steps (12 min)

### Why the MOU Matters:

*To ensure that the relationship between BHC and BHAC is well-defined, we are formalizing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** that clarifies how these two tables work together.*

### 🗨️ Goals of the MOU:

- Clarify decision-making processes and funding alignment.
- Address governance concerns raised at BHAC.
- Reinforce the collaborative role of BHC in countywide behavioral health strategy.

### Discussion:

*What key principles should be included in the MOU to ensure clarity and alignment?*

### Next Steps

- Finalize the governance model & voting process with the Governance Members.
  - **Ensure that all input gathered from this discussion informs the development of the MOU between BHC & BHAC**, strengthening the partnership between the two tables.
  - Continue to identify and consider funding opportunities that align with BHC's priorities.
  - Continuing to clarify and reinforce BHC's unique role in Jefferson County.
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