



BHASO Region 4 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information:

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Council Context Statement

This is the BHASO Region 4 Advisory Council. The council is designed to promote local community input pertaining to behavioral health service needs. The council advises the Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BHASO), in this case Signal Behavioral Health Network (Signal), for Region 4. The council is advisory only – meaning discussions happen during meetings and recommendations are made to Signal. It is then up to Signal’s staff to consider council recommendations and figure out what is realistic or feasible to change. This council follows statutory requirements, meaning that the creation of the council and aspects of how it runs are determined by what the law says. The council has assigned seats for different perspectives (like safety net provider, experience with the criminal justice system, lived experience, etc.), and it is why the meetings are open to the public and there will be a public comment section at the end of each meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

The Regional Advisory Council members and council administrators introduced themselves, specifying their name, location, and shared how access to behavioral health services – whether easy or hard – impacted their life.

Updates and Announcements

The Behavioral Health Administration announced that Commissioner Dannette Smith will be retiring at the end of February, and the Governor is currently recruiting a new Commissioner.

Network Adequacy

BHASOs are responsible for developing and maintaining care that is available for individuals across the continuum. Broadly, this includes crisis behavioral health, mental health, substance use disorder, and recovery support services. BHASOs are entrusted with the responsibility of offering an array of services that meet the needs of the community. Signal provided a presentation to the Regional Advisory Council about network adequacy; both what it means in the general healthcare landscape and what it means to the BHASOs in behavioral health.

Signal, with support from the BHA, are developing a network that addresses access, affordability, workforce and support, accountability, lived experience and local guidance, and whole person care. The goal is to have a network that is responsive and accessible with a focus on individualized access to care. There is work to be done in building strong network adequacy and the Advisory Council will play a vital role in helping us understand local needs and identify gaps in services.

The Advisory Council identified the following topics that they hope to cover in future meetings:

- The intersection of people with intellectual disabilities and behavioral health challenges.
- Infant and early childhood mental health.
- The challenges for people who are working and have coverage but cannot afford mental healthcare.
- Youth mental health.
- Accessibility of behavioral healthcare for everyone in community, especially those with economic and transportation barriers.
- Behavioral healthcare needs among queer and trans community members.
- Needs of people who have immigrated to the U.S. and their available resources.

Signal's Care Access Team

Signal staff provided information to the Regional Advisory Council about the Signal's Care Access Team and what communication strategies they are using to promote this work. Signal's website, specifically the find care page, which was created with guidance from people with lived experience, was shared with the Regional Advisory Council. The webpage features ways in which people can reach out to Signal's Care Access Team, a short informational video explaining what the team does, and a list of frequently asked questions to further explain what people can expect when they reach out.

Signal shared information about the marketing strategies currently used to promote Signal's care access/navigation service. The Regional Advisory Council were asked for recommendations on other information or materials that would be helpful to share with their communities about the Care Access work. They were also asked for recommendations on how Signal can be most successful to reach everyday people to tell them about Signal's Care Access team and what to expect when they reach out.

Comments from the Advisory Council

- Recommendation to consider TikTok as a communication platform to reach younger audiences.
- Thank you for making your website accessible!
- User experience recommendations for the Signal Care Access webpage:
 - In the website FAQ section, consider re-linking the contact form, rather than making people scroll back to the top of the page.
 - The FAQs are long; consider grouping them by topic.
 - Considering rewording the question about language to, "What if English is not my preferred language."

- Consider ways to let communities know about the Care Access team, especially for those who are not on social media, nor familiar with engaging with technology.
- Consider how Signal is going to communicate with people about their care navigation services when people might get confused about who to call (988, Medicaid/RAE, etc.)
- Consider how to let people know that they can reach out for resources regardless of income and whether they have insurance or not.

Public Comment

None.

Regional Advisory Council Members and Administrators:

Name	Seat	Attendance
Jodi Liftin	Expertise in BH needs of children/youth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ellie Carpio	BH Safety Net Provider	<input type="checkbox"/>
Levon Hupfer	Experience with Criminal Justice System	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maníge Blanckbury-Giles	Community Member	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emma Pinter	County Commissioner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Aubrey Valencia	Lived experience with MH or SUD challenges	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michelle Gebhart	Lived experience with MH or SUD challenges (and am NOT a BH provider)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mauro Martinez	Lived experience with MH or SUD challenges (and am NOT a BH provider)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alison Sbrana	Advisory Council Facilitator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Daniel Darting	Signal/BHASO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Kristy Jordan	Signal/BHASO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Judith Tieku	Behavioral Health Administration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>