BHASO Region 3 Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting Information:

Date: Monday, September 28, 2026
Time: 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Council Context Statement

This is the BHASO Region 3 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 3. 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 something that has brought them joy recently, either professional or personally.

Learning from Signal: Crisis Services (Guest Katy Donnelly, Signal)

The Regional Advisory Council received a presentation on Colorado's crisis response system, with a focus on Mobile Crisis Response (MCR) and how it differs from other crisis response models. MCR is a statewide behavioral health crisis response service available in all Colorado counties and is accessed through 988. The presentation highlighted that MCR is designed for behavioral health crises where there is no immediate safety threat, while law enforcement co-response models are more appropriate when there are significant safety concerns or active emergencies.

Presenters emphasized ongoing statewide efforts to improve coordination between the 988 behavioral health crisis system and the 911 emergency response system. Colorado's Behavioral Health Administration is working to strengthen interoperability, develop shared response protocols, and increase public awareness of available crisis response options. A key takeaway was that individuals in crisis, their families, and community members should not be expected to determine which specific crisis response model is needed. Instead, community members

should focus on seeking help, with the system responsible for identifying the most appropriate response. The guidance provided was that immediate safety emergencies should be directed to 911, while situations where an individual can safely wait for support should be directed to 988.

Crisis Discussion and Feedback

The Advisory Council identified a lack of awareness and understanding of crisis services as a significant barrier to access. Members shared that many community members do not know about 988, Mobile Crisis Response, or the broader continuum of crisis supports available in the region. Participants also discussed confusion regarding Colorado's behavioral health system and concerns about gaps in care navigation and follow-up services.

To address these challenges, council members recommended expanding community education and outreach efforts, particularly in schools, colleges, and community-based organizations. Members emphasized the need for clear and consistent messaging about available crisis resources, when to access them, and what individuals can expect when seeking help. The group also highlighted the importance of improving care navigation and strengthening connections to ongoing services following a crisis encounter.

Public Comment

- None

Regional Advisory Council Members and Administrators:

Name	Seat	Attendance
Hazel Tan	Expertise in BH needs of children/youth	☒
Leah Jackson	BH Safety Net Provider	☒
Kelly Lewis	Experience with Criminal Justice System	☒
Richelle Gittens	Community Member	☐
Linda Burdick	Connection to K-12 School District	☒
Claire Levy	County Commissioner	☐
Jason Alexander	Lived experience with MH or SUD challenges (and am NOT a BH provider)	☐
Jennifer Reinhardt	Lived experience with MH or SUD challenges (and am NOT a BH provider)	☒
Alison Sbrana	Advisory Council Facilitator	☒
Daniel Darting	Signal/BHASO	☐
Kristy Jordan	Signal/BHASO	☒
Judith Tieku	Behavioral Health Administration	☒