

Purpose and Structure of the Behavioral Health Committee

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of the Behavioral Health Committee is to review and recommend priorities of the Wyoming Judicial Branch in the area of behavioral health to the Wyoming Judicial Council. The Committee will develop recommended strategies and programs to assist the courts in addressing the behavioral health issues they encounter. These include the use of treatment courts and diversion programs where possible.

Section 2. Committee Membership, Meetings, and Voting.

1. Membership. The Behavioral Health Committee membership will include two circuit judges; two district judges; and two Supreme Court Justices. The State Court Administrator will staff the Committee.
 - a. Membership terms will be three years. Initial terms will be staggered for each of the conferences to ensure continuity.
 - b. Members may serve two consecutive terms.
 - c. A chairman will be elected at the first meeting and will serve for a three-year term. At the end of the term, a new chairman will be elected from the membership. A chairman may serve two consecutive terms.
2. Meetings. The Behavioral Health Committee will meet at least quarterly, but may meet more frequently as necessary upon the request of a member. No action of the Committee may be taken without a quorum of the Committee present. Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
3. Voting. Voting shall take place in a meeting of the Committee or via email if necessary.

Section 3. Roles and Responsibilities.

1. The Committee staff will be responsible for:
 - a. Facilitating Committee meetings;
 - b. Developing and distributing meeting agendas no later than one week prior to the scheduled Committee meetings;
 - c. Compiling and distributing meeting minutes;
 - d. Monitoring behavioral health actions in Wyoming and nationwide and reporting back to the Committee; and
 - e. Acting as liaison to Executive Branch agencies and legislators in the area of behavioral health.

2. The Committee members will be responsible for the following:
 - a. Review of information provided in preparation for Committee meetings;
 - b. Communication of Committee decisions to their respective conferences;
 - c. Receive information and concerns from conferences to help establish behavioral health priorities; and
 - d. Presentation of Committee recommendations to the Wyoming Judicial Council when deemed necessary by the Wyoming Judicial Council.

Dated this 29th day of July, 2024.

BY THE WYOMING JUDICIAL COUNCIL:

Kate M. Fox

Kate M. Fox, Chief Justice
Chair, Wyoming Judicial Council