

Behavioral Health Commission- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 2026 - 2:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building

Members Present

Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair

Senator Lashrecse Aird

Senator Tara Durant

Senator Russet Perry

Delegate Patrick Hope

Delegate Ellen McLaughlin (virtual)

Delegate Marcia Price

Delegate Vivian Watts

Delegate Rodney Willett

Members Absent

Senator Barbara Favola

Delegate Adele McClure

Delegate Wren Williams

Call to order and opening remarks- Senator Creigh Deeds, Chair

Roll call- Agnes Dymora

BHC analyst Claire Mairead provided a presentation on the staff study of behavioral health services in Virginia jails. Claire presented some background on Virginia jails and the behavioral health services they provide. She discussed findings related to statutory requirements for jail behavioral health standards in jails to be established by the Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ). She also discussed the need for more behavioral health case managers in jails, resources to conduct discharge planning, and assistance with the cost of medications. She provided members with multiple options and recommendations to address the barriers to providing behavioral health services in jails.

At the conclusion of the presentation and during member questions, Kari Jackson (Compensation Board) and Mike Edwards (Kemper Consulting, representing the Virginia Association of Regional Jails) made statements and answered some questions.

Two individuals offered public comments.

Meeting adjourned.

Next Commission meeting will be on November 4, 2026.

Delegate McLaughlin participated virtually due to a medical appointment.