



**Agenda**  
**Coordinating Council on School Behavioral Health**  
**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**  
**10:00 am – 11:30 am**  
**In-Person**

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**I. Welcome**

Dr. Bazron opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees. She offered words of remembrance and reflection, honoring Reverend Jesse Jackson as a Black change maker, and highlighting his impact on Black student empowerment and leadership. Dr. Bazron noted Reverend Jackson’s influence in her history and during her time as a student at Oberlin College.

Dr. Bazron highlighted the Council’s mission, noting that its focus is now on recommending policies to enhance service delivery, coordinating services, and advising on funding for the school behavioral health program. The Council has unanimously agreed to uphold this policy-focused agenda. Dr. Bazron then welcomed the new members and invited all Council members to introduce themselves and the organizations they represent.

Reminder of Upcoming Monthly Meetings – 3rd Monday 10:00 am – 11:30 am  
March 16<sup>th</sup>  
April 20<sup>th</sup>  
May 18<sup>th</sup>  
April 21<sup>st</sup>

**II. Updates, News, and Public Comment**

**1. Co-Chair Updates**

None.

**2. Coordinating Council Member News**

Dr. Bazron stated that those who served in categories that are no longer on the Coordinating Council were sent letters of thank you for their service. Dr. Bazron also directed Dr. Scott to read a thank you communication on behalf of former Co-Chair Mr. Michael Musante. New Council members who were welcomed:

- Summer Xavier (Youth Advocacy Organization representative)
- William McNulty (School Behavioral Health Practitioner representative)
- Carroll Parks (Community Based Organization representative)
- Carolyn Greenspan (Community Based Organization representative)

**3. Public Comment**

None.

### **III. Review of the Minutes**

A motion to approve the January meeting minutes was made by Ms. Williams and seconded by Ms. Hall. The January minutes were approved.

### **IV. Self-Nominations for Family Organization/2-minute Presentations (Dr. Charneta C. Scott, Project Manager, DBH)**

*(A summary of the presentation is provided below. Please refer to the slide deck for more detailed information.)*

With direction from Dr. Bazron, Dr. Scott opened the floor for self-nominations for the Family Organization representative position; no self-nominations were made. Dr. Scott noted that Ms. Gail Avent of the Total Family Care Coalition and Mrs. Daniela Gonzales-Rious of Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. submitted applications through the provided survey; however, neither was able to attend the meeting to provide a presentation. Dr. Scott clarified that the terms for both the Youth Advocacy Organization representative and the Family Organization representative extend through July 2029. A recommendation was approved to end voting for Family Organization representative on March 6, 2026.

A question was raised regarding a nomination from the floor for Ms. Jenise Patterson from ParentWatch, Inc. Following direction from Dr. Bazron, Dr. Scott stated that she would reach out to determine Ms. Patterson's interest in serving as a Family Organization Representative on the Coordinating Council. If Ms. Patterson is interested, she will be required to complete the survey form so that Coordinating Council members have Ms. Patterson's information for voting.

Dr. Bazron raised for discussion a received concern regarding standing versus term membership for the Youth Advocacy Organization representative and the Family Organization representative positions. During the discussion, it was explained that these seats are permanent representation at the table; however, the organizations holding the seats serve 3-year term limits to allow other organizations the opportunity to contribute diverse perspectives. And it is allowed to again self-nominate. After discussion, a motion was made and approved to maintain the Youth Advocacy Organization representative and the Family Organization representative as 3-year term positions.

### **V. Proposed Bridge Policy and Timeline for Filling Co-chair Vacancy (Dr. Charneta Scott, Project Manager, DBH)**

*(A summary of the presentation is provided below. Please refer to the slide deck for more detailed information.)*

Dr. Scott thanked Ms. Castelaz, Ms. Thompson, Mr. LeVota, and Ms. Travers for their support in the process related to the Co-Chair position and the representatives for the term vacancies.

Dr. Scott outlined the voting timeline and the proposed bridge policy for filling the current Co-Chair vacancy for the Coordinating Council on School Behavioral Health. The proposed bridge policy states that the incoming Co-Chair will serve from April 2026 through July 2027. Self-nominations for the Co-Chair vacancy may only be made by Coordinating Council members. Once the current bridge period is completed, the non-governmental Co-Chair position is a two-year term. The person who serves during the bridge period is allowed to self-nominate once.

The survey will remain open until March 11, 2026. On March 12, Dr. Scott will share all SurveyMonkey nominations with the Coordinating Council members for review. At the March 16 Coordinating Council meeting, applicants will have two minutes to speak. At Dr. Bazron's discretion, Council members may ask questions, and Dr. Bazron will open the floor to individuals who did not complete the form but wish to be considered. Anyone speaking from the floor must submit the required form by 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 18. Voting will take place from March 19 through April 2 via SurveyMonkey. DBH will notify candidates before the April 20 meeting, at which time the new Co-Chair will be announced.

Dr. Bazron and the newly elected Co-Chair will meet to determine the division of responsibilities. Dr. Scott also noted that she will recirculate the charter for review, as certain sections require clarification. A motion to approve the Co-Chair selection process was made by Mr. LeVota and seconded by Ms. Greer.

#### **VI. Suicide Prevention Awareness Slogan Contest (Ms. Melissa Willis, Branch Chief, DBH)**

*(A summary of the presentation is provided below. Please refer to the slide deck for more detailed information.)*

Ms. Willis provided an update on recent suicide prevention initiative activities. She noted that DBH has communicated with education partners regarding the details of the initiative. Ms. Willis thanked Dr. Stewart from D.C. Health. She thanked DBH Clinical Specialist Mr. Edwards and DBH Clinical Support Manager Ms. Denny, who with their team trained 120 school health staff managed by D.C. Health in *Question, Persuade, and Refer* (QPR), a suicide prevention intervention for adults working with youth.

Ms. Willis also reported that DBH-hired staff conducted a Suicide Prevention and Awareness Youth Slogan Contest across schools over a 3-week period and there were 22 submissions. Three winners were selected, all from Cardozo Education Campus. Cardozo has a 3 year history in supporting the students in refining youth voice in the area of behavioral health. The winning entries emphasized the importance of youth voice in developing prevention messages.

- **1st place:** "Stay for the person you will become" – 11<sup>th</sup> grade
- **2nd place:** "Your story isn't over - the next chapter needs you" – 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- **3rd place:** "Sometimes involving yourself in a life, can save a life." – 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Ideas for future initiatives to expand youth-driven campaigns in schools and further amplify youth voices included:

- Implementing a "100 Reasons to Stay" campaign.

- Using art, graphics, and video projects to engage students.
- Exploring partnerships with local art galleries for sponsorship opportunities.
- Emphasizing the need to measure the impact of suicide prevention efforts.
- Developing a broader citywide marketing campaign, including messaging on buses and other public spaces.
- Tracking the number of schools implementing suicide prevention initiatives.
- Increasing suicide-prevention literacy among teachers, principals, staff, and parents, as well as increasing the number of students with trusted adult relationships.
- Addressing the challenge of implementing age-appropriate interventions in elementary schools.
- Integrating data across agencies and advocating for full participation of school nurses in student support teams.
- Reducing suicide attempts and completions among youth.
- Incorporating suicide prevention content into school curriculum.

Ms. Willis highlighted the QPR (*Question, Persuade, Refer*) model, noting that it emphasizes how to recognize when to ask the right question and how to encourage youth to seek help. Dr. Bazron acknowledged the existing data and emphasized the need to consider what can be done from a policy perspective. She suggested that the Coordinating Council explore incorporating the collection of multiple data sources to better measure progress toward desired outcomes.

Ms. Willis noted that the *Signs of Suicide (SOS)* program includes a parent portal with extensive resources to support conversations at home. The curriculum also provides materials that providers can share with parents and teachers. She reported that *Yellow Ribbon*, the elementary school suicide prevention curriculum, also includes components designed to strengthen communication between school and home. She added that DBH hopes to launch the *SOS* curriculum for school staff this fiscal year, which will provide self-paced training to help staff recognize signs and symptoms, understand how to seek help, and serve as supportive intervention points for students. Clinicians in schools are being encouraged to host brown-bag lunches or virtual sessions with parents to discuss these topics.

Dr. Bazron invited feedback from the group on defining shared goals, noting the importance of identifying data that can demonstrate reductions in suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. Dr. Bazron emphasized the need for a collaborative, cross-agency approach. She referenced ongoing efforts at the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education related to school and student safety, as well as the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice's focus on hopelessness and gun-violence-related issues. Dr. Bazron encouraged consideration of a dual strategy: using data to identify schools with higher rates of youth suicide attempts and targeting interventions accordingly, while continuing support for schools with lower incidence.

## **VII. Comprehensive Plan for School Behavioral Health (Dr. Barbara J. Bazron, Director)**

*(A summary of the presentation is provided below. Please refer to the slide deck for more detailed information.)*

Dr. Bazron provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan for School Behavioral Health. She noted that feedback has been received regarding the use of *Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)* data and Child Trends data as additional sources of

information. Listening sessions have been scheduled to gather input from youth, parents and caregivers, and school leaders regarding the Plan. Dr. Bazron shared that the Child Trends reports are now available on the DBH website. The Environmental Scan data has been shared with Coordinating Council members; anyone who has not received it and would like a copy was encouraged to request it.

Dr. Bazron also reported that meetings with schools are underway to better understand their needs, particularly among schools that do not have DBH-funded resources. She emphasized that changes to the Plan will be made based on school leader feedback.

Dr. Bazron asked participants for feedback on additional types of data that would be valuable to include on the DBH website. She also asked whether LEAs had preferences for information that LEAs would like reflected on their own websites. Discussion included the importance of posting updates on the Comprehensive School Behavioral Health Plan, integrating feedback from YRBS data, Child Trends, and listening sessions, and ensuring environmental scan data remains accessible. Participants suggested considering timelines, evidence-based practices, hiring status, and other relevant indicators.

The group discussed the need to balance transparency and the availability of public data with the autonomy of LEAs to manage the content on their own websites. A suggestion was made to standardize school websites so parents can easily find information on available services, with schools responsible for keeping that information up to date. It was noted that DBH and DC Health are developing a dashboard that will provide a centralized navigation system for locating resources, including services available at each school. The formation of a Health and Wellness Working Group was proposed to support this effort. DCPS shared that its School Mental Health website lists all school-based staff as well as any CBO or DBH clinicians assigned to the building.

**VIII. Mid-Year Evaluation (Ms. Monica Hammock, Program Manager, DBH)**

Due to time limitations, this agenda item was not discussed.

**IX. Staffing Update, DBH Transition Update and RFA Update (Dr. Charneta Scott, Project Manager, DBH)**

Due to time limitations, this agenda item was not discussed.

Dr. Bazron concluded the meeting by thanking all participants for their feedback and emphasized that the Council's work has evolved. She encouraged members to consider the policy and process discussions underway and to focus on shifting from questions of quantity and school coverage to the quality of services being provided within schools.

**Meeting Adjourned**

### Coordinating Council Members

Name	Affiliation/Designation	Attendance	Designee	Attendance
Dr. Barbara J. Bazron (Co-Chair)	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Ms. Erica Barnes	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Dr. Deitra Bryant-Mallory	District of Columbia Public Schools	Not Present		
Dr. Danielle Dooley	Children's National Health System	Not Present	Ms. Monieya Maynor	Present
Ms. Carolyn Greenspan	Community Based Organization representative	Present		
Ms. Sharra Greer	Children's Law Center	Present	Ms. Leah Castelaz	Present
Ms. Carla Hall	DC Public Schools	Present		
Councilmember Christina Henderson	Committee on Health	Not Present	Ms. Marcia Huff	Not Present
Mr. Mark LeVota	DC Behavioral Health Association	Present		
Dr. Taiwan Lovelace	School Behavioral Health Practitioner representative	Present		
Dr. Amy Mack	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education	Present		
Mr. William McNulty	School Behavioral Health Practitioner representative	Present		
Mr. Carroll Parks	Community Based Organization representative	Present		
Ms. Rachel Sadlon	Office of the State Superintendent of Education	Present	Ms. Jessica Duncan	Present
Ms. Colleen Sonosky	Department of Health Care Finance	Present		

Ms. Nicole Travers	DC Charter School Alliance	Present	Mr. Andrew Renard	Not Present
Ms. Sakina Thompson	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services	Present		
Dr. Treemanisha Stewart	Department of Health	Present		
Dr. Michelle J. Walker- Davis	DC Public Charter School Board	Not Present	Ms. Audrey Williams	Present
Ms. Melissa Willis	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Ms. Summer Xavier	Youth Advocacy Organization representative	Present		

**Government Attendees****Public Attendees**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Agency/Position</b>
Ms. Monica Hammock	DBH	Ms. Candice Besmen	Hillcrest
Ms. Nicole Denny	DBH	Ms. Christian Albertie	MBIHS
Ms. JoAnn Brandon	DBH	Dr. Olga Price	GW
Ms. Sesilia Conchola	DBH	Dr. Marie Morilus-Black	MBIHS
Dr. Charneta C. Scott	DBH	Ms. Keira Brown	PTWMSI
Ms. Jennifer Murphy	DBH		
Ms. Philippa Stuart	DBH, DPM		
Mr. Che Keens-Douglas	DBH		
Ms. Claudia Price	OSSE		
Ms. Celeste Brown	OSSE		
Ms. Elyse Holtz	DC Health		
Ms. Ellen Livingston	DBH		