



Agenda
Coordinating Council on School Behavioral Health
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
10:00 am – 11:30 am
In-Person

I. Welcome

Dr. Bazron opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and extending wishes for a Happy New Year. She acknowledged her absence in December due to illness and emphasized the importance of continuing COVID precautions, including wearing masks in group and social settings and testing when experiencing flu-like symptoms.

Dr. Bazron announced that Dr. Meghan Sullivan will soon transition out of DBH. An interim coverage plan is in place, and recruitment for a permanent replacement will begin shortly. Dr. Bazron commended Dr. Sullivan for her leadership and significant contributions to the organization.

DBH is moving toward an in-house model for school behavioral health services. The process for securing telehealth services is underway, with an anticipated launch in the near future. Dr. Bazron also shared that she has been collaborating with DC Health and the Mayor’s Office to develop a strategy for addressing the recent increase in youth suicidal ideation.

Several individuals have self-nominated for upcoming Coordinating Council term positions. Each nominee will have a few minutes to share their interest in serving on the Council. Voting will be conducted via a link distributed by DBH and will close on February 4, ahead of the February 18 meeting.

Dr. Bazron concluded by reviewing the agenda for the meeting.

Reminder of Upcoming Monthly Meetings – 3rd Monday 10:00 am – 11:30 am
February 18th (Wednesday)
March 16th
April 20th
May 18th

II. Updates, News, and Public Comment

1. Co-Chair Updates

None.

2. Coordinating Council Member News

Dr. Bazron announced the dates for Performance Oversight hearings. St. Elizabeth's Hospital is scheduled for a Public Roundtable on Thursday, 1/22/2026. The Performance Oversight Hearing for public testimony for DBH is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2026 and government testimony is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

3. Public Comment

None.

III. Review of the Minutes

November Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve by Mr. Mark LeVota, seconded by Ms. Sakina Thompson. November meeting minutes were approved.

December Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve by Mr. Mark LeVota, seconded by Dr. Bryant-Mallory. December meeting minutes were approved.

IV. Suicide Prevention Awareness Plan (Dr. Meghan K. Sullivan, Deputy Director, DBH)

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

Dr. Sullivan provided a brief overview of the Suicide Prevention Awareness Plan, which is scheduled to roll out in the coming weeks. She highlighted that the plan was created in collaboration with education sector partners and emphasized the importance of gathering feedback, information, and input from stakeholders. Dr. Sullivan highlighted the urgency of suicide prevention awareness efforts, noting that hospitals have reported a significant increase in youth suicidal ideation among middle school students, rising from approximately one case per week to three cases per day.

Dr. Bazron asked participants if they know of or have providers trained in SOS (Signs of Suicide) or QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) to assist with this initiative. She noted that there are trained QPR facilitators across the city and highlighted that OSSE has trained mental health teams to implement SOS with students.

The request is to provide SOS programming during February, or, if SOS has already been implemented, to offer students a booster session. Dr. Bazron emphasized the importance of a public health model, stating that clinicians should be present in classrooms and hallways to identify individuals needing additional support. She noted that prevention and early intervention efforts are currently not being fully carried out by school-based clinicians. Dr. Sullivan reviewed the identified activities on the Suicide Prevention Awareness Plan and encouraged participants to share ideas and feedback related to the plan.

Questions were raised regarding messaging for the Suicide Prevention Plan. Dr. Sullivan responded that the plan is newly developed and, once it receives final approval, it will be communicated through team members, newsletters, and school leaders. The Charter Board Alliance offered assistance in disseminating information and sharing flyers with charter schools. Dr. Scott noted that she is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Youth Advisory Committee of the State Board of Education.

It was observed that media coverage of suicide often tends to sensationalize the issue. A suggestion was made to proactively engage with the press to provide guidance on how to appropriately discuss and report on suicide.

Dr. Bazron reported that DBH is exploring any possible link between social media and the recent increase in suicidal ideation. She encouraged participants to share any observations or insights that could help identify contributing factors.

A concern was raised regarding consent requirements for the Signs of Suicide (SOS) program. Ms. Hammock clarified the following:

Passive Consent applies to the informational component of the program. This involves sending a letter home to inform parents that their student will participate. If parents do not respond to opt out, students may receive the informational portion.

Active Consent is required for the screening component. Before a student can be screened, the school must receive a signed consent form from the parent.

Dr. Bazron and a Council member agreed that the School Behavioral Health Coordinator should serve as the liaison and that school leaders should be informed about this work.

Dr. Sullivan committed to sharing this information with the Coordinating Council so it can be distributed to affiliate organizations. She also confirmed that school health staff are included in QPR training currently being conducted in schools.

V. Coordinating Council on School Behavior Health Charter Discussion - Use of Designee (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 reviewed guiding questions to clarify Charter discussions and the role of the designee.

Key points discussed:

- There is a need for a clear understanding and consensus regarding how the primary representative is identified, emphasizing that having a consistent primary representative is critical to maintaining the continuity and values of the Coordinating Council.
- It was proposed during discussion that sending a designee does not negate the

absence of the primary representative; however, if a primary representative frequently needs a designee, their role may need reconsideration.

- The group agreed that a designee can speak and vote on behalf of the primary representative without negating the absence.
- A member cautioned against discussing attendance without also considering in-person and virtual meeting options.
- Suggestions included possibly changing meeting dates to accommodate those teleworking.
- It was agreed to create clear guidelines on the use of a designee.

Dr. Scott announced that five individuals self-nominated for vacant term positions and will present today:

- 1 School Behavioral Health Practitioner
- 3 Community-Based Organization (CBO) representatives
- 1 Youth Advocacy representative

One additional submission was received after the deadline. That individual was advised they could self-nominate from the floor; however, they are unable to attend today. This position was for a School Behavioral Health Practitioner.

Dr. Scott opened the floor for any additional self-nominations. If individuals wish to self-nominate from the floor during today's meeting, the deadline to submit the completed form is January 23, 2026.

Voting for Coordinating Council members will take place from January 26, 2026, through February 4, 2026, via SurveyMonkey, and results will be announced during the February 18 meeting.

The School Behavioral Health Practitioner and CBO Representative term seats will have staggered end dates. The Family Organization Representative and Youth Advocacy Organization Representative seats will end in July 2029. For the CBO representative, the determination of which term ends in 2027 or 2028 will be made by Dr. Bazron.

Self-Nomination Candidates:

- William McNulty (School Behavioral Health Practitioner)
- Summer Xavier (Youth Advocacy Organization)
- Carol Parks (Community-Based Organization)
- Carolyn Greenspan (Community-Based Organization)
- Jessica Rice Longenecker (Community-Based Organization)

VI. Follow-up to Stakeholder Feedback Discussion (Dr. Meghan K. Sullivan, Deputy Director, DBH)

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

Dr. Bazron emphasized that DBH has worked diligently to gather stakeholder feedback, clarifying that while not all suggestions can be incorporated, DBH remains committed

to ongoing engagement and input.

Dr. Sullivan provided a brief follow-up on the stakeholder feedback discussions from December, noting that DBH will begin joining existing meetings starting in February. She shared that some meetings with school leaders have already occurred and that needs and gaps data continue to be collected and updated to reflect current gaps and priorities.

Dr. Bazron announced she is scheduled to meet with the Chancellor and highlighted that DBH is analyzing data trends to inform decision-making. Based on feedback, DBH has added crisis and risk assessments to its data snapshots. Links to the Child Trends Evaluation Reports have been posted on the DBH website. A question was raised regarding 988 data and whether there is a way to link that information. DBH will explore if it is possible.

Dr. Bazron opened the floor for questions and comments. A question was raised regarding whether data snapshots are shared with school leaders. Ms. Hammock clarified that the snapshots are sent to CBO leadership, with the expectation that CBO leadership will share it with their supervisors, the supervisors will share with school leadership and review with their clinicians.

Dr. Bazron noted that one of the comments received indicated some CBOs felt their efforts were misrepresented. She explained that this was partly due to incomplete data submissions, as some organizations did not enter the required data in the system. Dr. Bazron emphasized that it is critical for DBH to receive accurate and complete data, as decisions can only be made based on the information provided.

Dr. Sullivan emphasized that supervisors should meet with school leadership—or their designee—at least monthly to discuss the public health model, focusing on key questions:

- What's going on?
- What are your needs?
- Are those needs being met?

A question was raised about whether principals and directors could have direct access to the data. Dr. Bazron responded that while it is possible, the process for making that happen is unclear. She also cautioned that data can be easily misconstrued without proper context.

An attendee suggested that School-Based Health Coordinators (SBHCs) and supervisors share data directly with school leaders. One CBO noted that they already provide monthly updates and share data with school leaders via email.

VII. Staffing Update (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 reported that as of January 16, 2026, 76% of schools have a provider or someone connected to provide resource information, and there are 2 CBO clinician vacancies that have not yet been filled.

VIII. Telehealth RFA Update (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 reported that DBH received four applications. The review panel finalized its recommendation on January 20, 2026, and the packets will be routed to Dr. Bazron this week for review.

IX. DBH Transition Update and RFA Update (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 reported that two DBH clinicians have been hired, along with one DBH supervisor. Dr. Sullivan explained that under the new grant agreement, if a vacancy is not filled within 90 days, the associated funds must be returned to DBH. She noted that the current vacancies have not yet reached the 90-day threshold—one will reach it in February and the other in March.

Dr. Bazron concluded the meeting and invited any final comments or follow-ups. A Council member expressed appreciation and thanked those who self-nominated for positions. Dr. Bazron extended well wishes to Dr. Sullivan, recognizing her tireless service and contributions over the years.

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	Not Present		
Mr. Abdul-Karim Ewing-Boyd	Office of the Deputy Major for Education	Not Present	Dr. Amy Mack	Not Present
Dr. Deitra Bryant-Mallory	District of Columbia Public Schools	Present	Ms. Carla Hall	Not Present
Ms. Kimberly Cobb	Child and Family Services Administration	Not Present	Ms. Tiffany Williams Ms. Anderson Crenshaw	Not Present Not Present
Ms. Alyssa Conti	District of Columbia Public Charter School Teacher	Not Present		
Dr. Danielle Dooley	Children's National Health System	Not Present	Ms. Monieya Maynor	Present
Ms. Carolyn Greenspan	Mary's Center	Present		
Ms. Sharra Greer	Children's Law Center	Present	Ms. Tami Weerasingha-Cote Ms. Leah Castelaz Ms. Danielle Robinette	Not Present Present Not 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	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Dr. Chioma Oruh	DC Public School Parent	Not Present		
Ms. Maggie Koziol	Non-Core Services Agency	Not Present	Ms. Megan Hunt	Not Present

Mr. Carroll Parks	Core Services Agency	Present		
Mrs. Rachel Sadlon	Office of the State Superintendent of Education	Present	Ms. Jessica Duncan	Present
Dr. Charneta Scott	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Ms. Colleen Sonosky	Department of Health Care Finance	Present		
Dr. Meghan Sullivan	Department of Behavioral Health	Present		
Ms. Nicole Travers	DC Charter School Alliance	Present	Ms. Emma Tacke Mr. Andrew Renard	Not Present Not Present
Ms. Sakina Thompson	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services	Present		
Dr. Treemanisha Stewart	Department of Health	Present	Ms. Gloria Mensah	Not Present
Dr. Michelle J. Walker- Davis	DC Public Charter School Board	Not Present	Ms. Audrey Williams	Present
Mr. Raymond Weeden	DC Public Charter School Principal Representative	Not Present		
Ms. Tiffany Williams	Child and Family Services Agency	Not Present	Ms. Anderson Crenshaw	Not Present
Ms. Melissa Willis	DC Public Charter School Principal Representative	Present		

