

Portland Area Behavioral Health Academic Review Committee (PA BHARC)
Subcommittee of the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB)



Meeting Summary for Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Committee Attendance: YakaiYastai Gorman-Etl, Dr. Danica Brown, Sarah Cook-Lalari, LeeAndria Whitcraft, Megan Bolan and Dolores Jimerson.

Guest Attendance: Torie Heart, Katie Hunsberger, Lisa Griggs, Kate Denny, and Dr. Geniel Harrison.

Action Taken: Quorum reached. Review and approved today's agenda and previous minutes. Motioned by Sarah Cook-Lalari, and 2nd by Dolores Jimerson.

Opening blessing by Chair Gorman-Etl.

Meeting Purpose: Review Portland Area Behavioral Health Academic Review Committee (PA BHARC) updates and discuss key issues related to Behavioral Health Aide (BHA) program development.

Key Takeaways

- Audit bylaws and seating matrix.
- Develop a PA-BHARC recruitment flyer.
- Update the BHA recruitment flyer.

Today's Topics:

Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB) Updates

- Portland Area CHAP Certification Board update provided by Dolores Jimerson.
 - The next PACCB meeting, August 25th - 26th, 2025.
 - No BHA applications this round.
 - Concerns regarding lack of PACCB's authority to certify BHA/P level IV.
 - Hybrid meeting options will be available.
 - Technical Advising (TA) request by Oklahoma City Area for attending PACCB and onsite visit at NWIC's BHA program.
 - PACCB application deadline was Friday, July 25, 2025.
 - The first read of applications was August 12, 2025.
- BHA student updates provided by Ms. Katie Hunsberger.
 - Five BHA students started in Spring Term and three starting in September. Cohort five currently has 9 students.
 - Open recruitment for the sixth cohort with prioritization of seats for the Portland Area.
 - BHA wellness event update:
 - BHA Wellness event was held 08/11 – 08/15/2025 at Northwest Indian College (NWIC).
 - The gathering included grounding and introductions, a certification overview, and a presentation by Dr. Felix on "Walking Between Worlds".
 - Dolores and Katie shared the importance of building community and addressing the students' needs.

- Heritage University (HU) moratorium
 - The 1-year pause will begin August 1, 2025.
 - Ms. Jimerson is requesting a formal response from HU regarding the moratorium.

Continuing Education CE Update, Ms. Dolores Jimerson

- Ms. Jimerson discussed progress towards CE credits for BHAs.
 - Creation of a CE Workgroup compiled of BHA Providers and Clinical Supervisors.
 - Look at sponsors for CE in each state; OR, WA and ID.

BHARC Discussion Items, Chair Gorman-Etl

- Proposed BHARC bylaw audit.
- Review of BHARC seating matrix. Chair Gorman requested the BHARC consider adding the BHA education programs to the seating matrix.
 - Review definitions of seat assignments.

Next Steps

- Draft BHARC recruitment flyer.
- Update BHA recruitment flyer.
- Get BHARC access to TCHPP website for committee members.
- Work on increasing committee engagement.

Action Items

- Review bylaws.
- Review the seating matrix.
 - Specifically, Ms. Jimerson's and Dr. Brown's seat assignments.
- Identify nominations for BHARC Vice Chairperson.
- Schedule an internal BHARC follow-up meeting for Thursday, September 4, 2025.
- Next BHARC: October 15, 2025, at 1:00 (MST) / 12:00 pm (PST).
 - Ms. Denny will compile meeting minutes and email them to committee members.