

Portland Area Behavioral Health Academic Review Committee (PA BHARC)

Subcommittee of the Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB)



Meeting Summary for Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Committee Attendance: YakaiYastai Gorman-Etl (Chair), LeeAndria Whitcraft (seat I), Maegan Bolin (seat I), Jason Butler (seat II), and Dolores Jimerson (seat 3).

Guest Attendance: TCHPP Staff: Katie Hunsberger, Lisa Griggs, Kate Denny, Torie Heart (TCHPP Contractor), Dr. Geniel Harrison (PA-IHS Chief Medical Officer),

Action Taken: Quorum reached. Review and approved today's agenda and previous minutes. Motioned by Dolores Jimerson, and 2nd by Maegan Bolin.

Opening blessing by Dolores Jimerson.

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

- Increase committee engagement.
- The focus of the BHARC is curricula review and not review of BHA certification applications.
- Identify process for monitoring BHAs who are applying for certification renewal.
- Review and redefine committee seat definitions.
- Update PA-BHARC recruitment / engagement documents.

Today's Topics:

Portland Area CHAP Certification Board (PACCB) Updates:

- Portland Area CHAP Certification Board updates provided by Dolores Jimerson.
 - The next PACCB meeting is scheduled Thursday, December 4, 2025, - Friday, December 5, 2025.
 - Next PACCB application deadline: 10/31/2025
 - The first read of applications: 11/20/2025
 - No BHA certification applications currently.
- BHA student updates provided by Ms. Katie Hunsberger.
 - Northwest Indian College (NWIC) open recruitment for the sixth cohort with prioritization of cohort seats for Portland Area Tribes and Tribal Organizations.
 - Application due date: 11/26/2025
 - Cohort start date: 01/05/2026
 - Cohort recruitment goal: 14 students from the Portland Area (WA, OR, and ID).
 - Heritage University (HU) moratorium.
 - The 1-year moratorium began August 1, 2025.
 - Ms. Jimerson has requested a formal response from HU regarding the moratorium.

PA-BHARC Discussion Items:

- Proposed BHARC bylaw audit.
- Review of BHARC seating matrix. Chair Gorman requested the BHARC consider adding the BHA education programs to the seating matrix.
- Nomination discussion for Vice Chair.
 - Ms. Jimerson nominated Ms. Bolin, who declined due to capacity.

Next Steps

- TCHPP website and BHARC SharePoint file access for committee members.
- Work on increasing committee engagement.

Action Items

- Update PA-BHARC recruitment letter.
- Create a PA-BHARC recruitment flyer.
- Review bylaws.
- Review the seating matrix.
 - Review seat definitions.
 - Specifically, Ms. Dolores Jimerson's and Dr. Brown's seat assignments.
 - Contact BHARC committee members to solicit recommendations for potential new members.
- Identify nominations for BHARC Vice Chairperson.
- Contact new Idaho Medicaid Tribal Liaison to participate on PA-BHARC.
- Next PA-BHARC: November 19, 2025, at 1:00 (MST) / 12:00 pm (PST).
 - Meeting minutes will be emailed to committee members.
- PACCB letter to Heritage University regarding moratorium and recertification of BHA program.
- File sharing platform for PA-BHARC committee members.