

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



**Meeting Summary for Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

**Committee Attendance:**

Ms. YakaiYastai Gorman-Etl (Chair), Ms. Dolores Jimerson (Seat 3), Ms. Danika Brown (Seat 2), Mr. Jason Butler (Seat 2).

**Guest Attendance:**

**TCHP Program Staff:** Ms. Katie Hunsberger, Ms. Sasha Jones, Ms. Lisa Griggs, Ms. Kate Denny (Secretary)

**Indian Health Service (IHS) Staff:** Dr. Geniel Harrison, Ms. Bobbi Jo Peltier

**TCHPP Contractor:** Ms. Torie Heart

**Fort Peck Tribe:** Ms. Tanya Firemoon

**Southern Plains Tribal Health Board:** Ms. Kimberlee Burges

**Action Taken:** Quorum was not established at today's meeting. We'll review and approve November's Agenda and October Minutes at the December 17, 2025, meeting, if quorum is established.

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:**

The focus of the PA-BHARC is curricula review, and not the review of BHA certification applications.

**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 for Thursday, December 4, 2025, - Friday, December 5, 2025.
    - The PACCB application deadline was 10/31/2025.
    - No BHA certification applications currently.
  - Ms. Jimerson updated that Yakima Tribe had requested TA specific to the lack of case management training provided at Heritage University.
    - TA request - development of continuing education designed for case management.
  - Ms. Jimerson updated on the Nation CHAP Board (NCHAPB) BHA workgroup, which was held Monday, November 17, 2025.
    - The workgroup is starting with a line-by-line review of the proposed Standards and Procedures (S&Ps).
      - This workgroup is meeting monthly until finalization of the national S&Ps.
    - It was reported at the NCHAPB that the Alaska CHAP Certification Board (CHAPCB) "will not be receiving any additional funding for expansion".
- 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).
- Ms. Hunsberger discussed challenges of finding clinical supervision for BHA students, so at this time students with clinical supervision will be prioritized for the next cohort.
- Ms. Hunsberger also discussed the need for information to help students understand the importance of pursuing BHA certification, post education program completion.
- Ms. Jimerson discussed the contract with NWIC is being drafted to reflect an updated scope of work and increased budget, due to the current BHA program moratorium at Heritage University.
- Ms. Jimerson shared news that the Coquille Tribe is the first tribe in Oregon to create a BHA position and offer clinical supervision practicum.

### **PA-BHARC Discussion Items:**

- Review of BHARC seating matrix. Chair Gorman requested the BHARC consider adding the BHA education programs to the seating matrix.
- Discussion for Vice Chair nominations.
- Initial bylaw review by Chair Gorman.
  - Chair Gorman emphasized the need to indigenize the bylaws to reflect the direction of the BHA program, the PACCB and the PA-BHARC, to be rooted in indigenous values of balance and wellness.
  - Chair Gorman discussed the importance of community-mindedness and involving all voices in the bylaw audit process.
    - A work group is scheduled for December 10, 2025, to do an in-depth review of the bylaws.
      - Suggested edits included editing the seat definitions to better reflect the current needs of the PA-BHARC, BHA Program and PACCB.
        - Suggested additions:
          - Adding a seat for National CHAP Representative.
          - Adding a seat for an elder “culture keeper”.
          - Adding a seat for a behavioral health professional with a work history including the BHA program, or the PA-BHARC.
          - Adding a seat for an out-of-area behavioral health or BHA representative.
    - The proposed bylaw edits will be added to the agenda for the next PA-BHARC.

### **Next Steps:**

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

### **Action Items:**

- Update PA-BHARC recruitment letter.
- Create a PA-BHARC recruitment flyer.
- Review / edit bylaws in workgroup.
- Review seat definitions and update the seating matrix.
  - 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 in PA-BHARC.
- Next PA-BHARC: December 17, 2025, at 1:00 (MST) / 12:00 pm (PST).
  - Meeting minutes will be emailed to committee members.
- File sharing platform for PA-BHARC committee members.
- TA request from Yakima for creation of case management CE.