

MEMBER ORGANIZATION: COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**Representative:** Greg Brotherton**Sector Represented:** County Commissioner**BHC Role Description**

The County Commissioner plays a critical role in connecting the Behavioral Health Consortium (BHC) with broader county and regional policy discussions while also overseeing the county's financial commitment that sustains the BHC table. As a key representative, they advocate for behavioral health priorities across multiple platforms, amplifying the insights and needs identified within the Consortium. The Commissioner is instrumental in ensuring that BHC initiatives align with county objectives and brings valuable insights back to the Consortium to guide its long-term goals. Within the BHC, they serve as a grounding presence, facilitating dialogue between stakeholders, reinforcing the importance of collaboration, and supporting the Consortium's mission through their experience and influence.

Interest Represented (Organizational; Sector Expertise; Broader Community Needs):

Represents county governance with a focus on advocating for behavioral health needs across the community. Through their role, they enhance visibility for the Consortium's work, ensuring that insights and policy recommendations are communicated effectively to other key tables, particularly those related to funding and policy. Their position enables them to both represent the Consortium's interests and monitor the use of county funds, thereby maintaining accountability and alignment with community objectives.

Exploring Potential Data Contribution:

While not a direct source of data, the Commissioner's role is pivotal in providing context on the county's behavioral health priorities and funding landscape. They offer insight into policy impacts and broader funding mechanisms, bridging information gaps between local and regional stakeholders.

Organizational Feedback from July '24 Survey:

- **Why BHC?** "I have been at this table since the beginning and continue to see its value. Great community building within a BH space is tough but really important."
- **Impact Sought:** "I just talk organizationally since I am not in a direct service role, and hope that together we can get our arms around the problem. How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time."
- **Primary Activities:** "Public Health is more involved in the day-to-day, but as a policy leader in the county, I'm focused on sustaining what we have as a BHC and growing the good it does."

- **Specific Initiatives:** “See public health initiatives. The county itself is motivated to help all residents of the county.”
- **Governance Role:** “Public Health should have a louder voice than the county itself, though therapeutic courts and potentially other law and justice departments (juvenile justice for example).”

Primary Activities within BHC

The County Commissioner is an essential contributor to the BHC’s Strategic Planning, participating in the Assessment and Action Plan development, as well as providing input on funding strategies to support the Consortium’s Vision, Mission, and strategic intentions. Their presence reinforces the Consortium’s work and aligns it with county priorities. Additionally, the Commissioner plays a key role in endorsing resources and initiatives, facilitating strategic collaboration among stakeholders, and ensuring that the county’s financial contributions are used effectively to advance BHC goals.

Governance Role

In their governance role, the Commissioner serves as a steward of the county’s investment in the BHC, promoting transparency and accountability in the Consortium’s operations. They contribute to decision-making processes, help drive coordination among county departments (such as therapeutic courts and public health), and advocate for the BHC’s long-term vision across different policy forums. Their oversight ensures that county funds directed to the BHC are utilized to meet both the Consortium’s objectives and broader community needs.

Alignment & Areas to Explore:

- **Enhancing Cross-Departmental Coordination:** Leverage the Commissioner’s position to strengthen ties between therapeutic courts, public health, and other county services for a cohesive approach to behavioral health.
- **Strategic Funding Advocacy:** Utilize the Commissioner’s role to support funding pursuits and resource allocations that address behavioral health service gaps, reinforcing the county’s investment.
- **Promoting the BHC Vision Across Platforms:** Encourage the Commissioner to continue advocating for the BHC’s mission and goals in external forums, ensuring long-term support and alignment with county and regional objectives.