



Members/ Designees: Co-Chair Judge Ketu Shah, Co-Chair Claudia D’Allegrì, Councilmember Kathy Lambert, Mayor Lynne Robinson, Jeff Sakuma, Sunny Lovin, Victor Loo, Mario Paredes, Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke, Trenecsia Wilson, Mayor Gary Harris, Brenda Fincher, Joshua Wallace, Barbara Miner, Brad Finegood designee for Patty Hayes, Tara Urs designee for Anita Khandelwal

Other Attendees: Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman, Robin Pfohman, Chelsea Walch, Christina Caso, Lisa Floyd, Marc Seligson, Isabel Jones, Karen Brady, Alex O’Reilly, Scott Miller, Heather Venegas, Helena Stephens, Jennifer Wyatt, Laura Van Tosh, Megan Farwell, Susan Schoeld, Nikki Nguyen, Anna Strahan, Avreayl Jacobson, Barbara Tengtio, Brandi DeFazio, Bridgett Fields, Chan Saelee, Dave Murphy, Deborah Stake, Elly Slakie, Emmy McConnell, Hali Willis, Laura Smith, Madeline Cavazos, Margaret Soukup, Michelle Conley, Paolo de Vecchio, Peggy Papsdorf, Rebecca Roy

Notes by: Chelsea Walch

Issues	Discussion	Action Items:
Welcome	Co-Chair Claudia D’Allegrì began the meeting by greeting everyone and providing an overview of how to use Zoom features and meeting logistics for members and other participants.	
Review/Approve Meeting Notes	Co-Chair Claudia D’Allegrì gave everyone a moment to review the draft August meeting notes, if not done so already. The meeting notes were approved by consensus.	
Equity Grounding Moment	<p>Co-Chair Claudia D’Allegrì introduced the equity grounding moment and invited volunteers to share an equitable moment they experienced recently.</p> <p>Brad Finegood shared a conversation that happened earlier in the day with a group of people that included people currently living homeless. One of the individuals took offense to the use of the phrase “experiencing homelessness” because it connotated the idea that people who are “experiencing” something such as a night on the town, are experiencing a great thing. Instead, they prefer the use of terms such as “suffering through homelessness”. Brad shared that it occurred to him in that moment that people generally try to use person-first language because they think that alone is what’s right without considering the voice of people with that lived experience and how they feel/think. From an equity perspective, it’s important to think about language used, even when well-intentioned.</p> <p>Co-Chair Claudia D’Allegrì commented that she agrees with Brad Finegood’s comments. She discussed the fact that there are comments about how people “choose to be homeless” or they just “want to be homeless.” So, when people choose to instead say things like “suffering homelessness”, there is a clear understanding that it is not a choice always and some people are experiencing homelessness due to a variety of circumstances.</p>	
Public Comment	<p>Co-Chair Claudia D’Allegrì invited anyone interested in public comment to sign up in the chat box.</p> <p>There was no request for public comment.</p>	

<p>MIDD Financial Report</p>	<p>Co-Chair Claudia D’Allegrì introduced Scott Miller, King County Business and Finance Officer IV, to give an update on the financial report.</p> <p>Scott Miller stated that the updated financial plan reflects revenues and expenses posted through August 30, 2021. He stated that the August 2021 OEFA forecast for 2021/2022 is down \$805,000 from the July 2021 biennial forecast. This change doesn’t impact the Second Omnibus Proposed Budget, which is now complete. The Second Omnibus Proposed Budget adds \$17.4 million to the 2021/2022 biennial budget. The budget request is nearly identical to what was previously shared, except for slightly revised program estimates required to align with the updated OEFA forecast. Scott shared that the budget request is slated to be transmitted to County Council on the original schedule: PSB Review August 23 – September 24, 2021 and transmittal to Council September 30, 2021.</p>	
<p>Equity Framework Qualitative Report</p>	<p>Co-Chair Judge Ketu Shah introduced Christina Caso, a Master of Public Health graduate student from the University of Washington (“UW”), who conducted a qualitative analysis as part of her degree. This project is helping the MIDD Advisory Committee (“AC”) address their goal of developing preliminary programmatic recommendations based on committee member, provider, and community voices. Christina came up with a draft equity definition (in the context of MIDD) and recommendations going forward. Co-Chair Judge Shah stated that the Steering Committee will ask for volunteers to review the definitions and presentation and for approval moving forward. Co-Chair Judge Shah reiterated that this is one way for the MIDD AC to integrate equity into programming.</p> <p>Christina Caso’s began her presentation of the Equity Framework Qualitative Report by acknowledging the individuals who made the work possible, including Robin Pfohman (MIDD), her UW faculty advisor Elise Chayet, and members of the MIDD Steering Committee/MIDD teams. Christina discussed her background in Public Health, specifically biomedical and clinical research, and noted that she does not have prior experience doing equity work in a professional context. She also stated that this project was for academic credit and she was not financially compensated. Lastly, she acknowledged the potential for her to misinterpret data due to her privileged position (cis-gender woman, white, U.S. citizen, class standing, and advanced education.)</p> <p>Christina went on to describe her objectives, the project, methodology, and overview the key informant interview findings. She acknowledged that equity and social justice (“ESJ”) are key initiatives in King County and these values are embedded in MIDD. Recently the MIDD Steering Committee recognized the need for the MIDD AC to more deliberately center ESJ in its role. Christina reminded everyone that the MIDD AC Equity Framework was adopted in January 2021, articulating a set of activities and goals to ensure that: 1) all MIDD-funded programming is grounded in equity, and 2) equity is embedded in every recommendation made by the MIDD AC and transmitted to the King County Executive. January 2021, the MIDD Steering Committee</p>	

also organized a prioritization exercise in which they developed a work plan for 2021-2022 based on the activities and goals derived from the Framework. Christina’s project focused on Priority Goal 2b, which is to integrate MIDD AC members, providers, and community voices to develop data-informed and equity-related programmatic and budget recommendations. She stressed that included in this goal, although not well-articulated, is the need to define what behavioral health equity means in the context of MIDD.

Christina went through her methods for MIDD AC Equity Framework Priority Goal 2b, which included 1) literature review to identify indicators of equity and strategic practices for advancing equity in an organization (internal) and with communities, other agencies, and organizations (external); 2) 20 key informant interviews with 22 MIDD stakeholders; 3) drafting a proposed definition of equity in the context of MIDD; and 4) developing proposed recommendations to guide future budget and policy decisions.

The key informants who participated in the interviews were grouped as followed: providers, community voices, and county partners. Sixty-four percent of participants were MIDD AC members or designees. The highest response rate was from Community Voices, followed by County Partners and then Providers. Feedback is reported by group. Most notable of the findings are that: 1) all three groups feel, historically and even contemporarily, that MIDD has been attentive to equity; and 2) the community voices that participated feel that, compared to other funding sources, MIDD is more trusting community organizations and provides more flexibility with budget services.

In addition to what services look like, participants unanimously cited the importance of who is providing services. Services need to be provided by culturally responsive and trauma-informed organizations. Those organizations need to be led by leaders, peers, and staff who reflect the communities they serve.

The last set of findings addressed the question of “What are the top three things MIDD should prioritize in order to advance behavioral health equity?” Nineteen of 22 interviewees answered the question, but not everyone provided all three responses. She highlighted the interest in 1) revising various aspects of the RFP process and how funding opportunities are communicated; 2) using data to identify gaps; and 3) investing more in grassroots coalitions and community-based organizations.

In her wrap up, Christina detailed recommendations based on thematic results: 1) modify internal practices and policies; 2) leverage data to identify gaps; 3) build capacity in the community; 4) work across agencies and government; and 5) strengthen the MIDD Advisory Committee. She also highlighted the limitations of the project including: 1) short timeframe, 2) inability to thematically code each piece of data, and 3) the inability to

include all stakeholder feedback in the report. In terms of future direction. Christina indicated the importance of getting feedback from the broader MIDD AC about the proposed draft definition, as well as the need to interview behavioral health recipients from the community.

In response to a request for elaboration, Christina shared areas about which project participants were confused. This included the following: 1) what opportunities exist for funding, 2) how funding decisions are made (e.g., decision-making tool), and 3) concerns about MIDD AC members being able to make decisions that result in the funding of their own initiatives. These are areas for MIDD staff to address.

Brenda Fincher asked whether participants had any suggestions about how to involve peers or about how to find out what funding is available. Christina responded that in many cases it was difficult for community voices to provide suggestions given that they are not familiar with the process. To her, the first step is to create transparency about decision-making process(es), followed by asking for suggestions to improve transparency beyond that.

Councilmember Kathy Lambert commented that she thinks overall there are too many recommendations. Councilmember Lambert pointed to three areas to address: 1) don't list items as "to do" when they are already being done; 2) list all 22 people that were interviewed; and 3) reframe paragraph 2 of the draft equity definition so that it better aligns with the positive, forward-thinking tone of paragraphs 1, 3, and 4. She responded that the recommendations list is a menu from which the committee can work

Mayor Lynne Robinson indicated interest in obtaining a copy of the questionnaires that were asked of the participants, as suggested completing this annually in case replication and comparison is of interest. Christina noted that interview questions are in the Appendix of the report.

Mayor Robinson commended Christina on the point Christina made about the need for participants to be near services is something that everyone can relate to on some level.

Mayor Robinson shared that the City of Bellevue offers guidance to organizations filling out their application because many organizations do not have the capacity (staff, time) complete an application correctly. Without this support, an organization may not be competitive and result in being bypassed. She stressed the importance having that support and that it be something the group consider as they review this project.

Co-Chair Judge Shah was reminded that they are looking for volunteers, broader than the Steering Committee, to collaborate on the definition as Christina presented and doing some "word-smithing" of that draft. He

	reminded everyone that this is just a draft and that they want to try to formalize it. He asked that any volunteers put their name in the chat and Robin Pfohman will contact them to coordinate.	
History of the Peer Movement	<p>Co-Chair Judge Shah introduced Laura Van Tosh, convener of Washington Legislative and Policy Advocates (WLPA), and Paolo del Vecchio, Director of the Office of Management, Technology, and Operations at SAMHSA, to give a presentation on the History of the Peer Movement.</p> <p>Paolo Del Vecchio presented a brief overview of the history of the mental health consumer/survivor movement, its key historical developments, and thoughts about the past, present, and future of those efforts.</p> <p>Laura Van Tosh continued the presentation. She noted that the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network is about to celebrate 30 years of being an organization. She encouraged attendees to sign up for the organization's excellent newsletter and mailing list. She also shared that many groups - Texas Peer Specialist Network, as an example - have Facebook pages as well. In Washington are Peer Washington, United Peers of Washington, Washington Recovery Alliance, and clubhouses such as Hero Health Network. There is a wealth of independently operating groups that dovetail on committees. Laura states that a unified entity is needed as policy work is crucial and needs more substantial coordinated support</p> <p>In closing, Laura Van Tosh indicated that she has a list that includes a few lessons of best practices regarding involving peers in policy, which is the next phase.</p>	
Agenda Items for October Meeting	Please email Robin Pfohman with any desired agenda items for the October meeting.	
Adjourned	1:30 PM	
Next meeting	Thursday, October 28, 2021, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Zoom	