



**Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD)  
Oversight Committee (OC)  
June 23, 2016  
11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. networking lunch  
12:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
King County Chinook Building Rooms 121 & 123  
Meeting Notes**

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**Members:** Alex O'Reilly (designee for Lynne Robinson), Ann McGettigan, Ashley Fontaine, Barbara Mack (designee for Judge Susan Craighead), Betsy Jones (designee for Rhonda Berry), Brigitte Folz (designee for Darcy Jaffe – by phone), Claudia D'Allegri, Councilmember Dave Asher, Darcy Jaffe, Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Jeff Sakuma (designee for Jeanette Blankenship), Sheriff John Urquhart, Judge Johanna Bender (Co-Chair), Judge Ketu Shah (designee for Judge Donna Tucker), Leesa Manion (designee for Dan Satterberg), Mario Paredes (designee for Norman Johnson), Mary Ellen Stone, Merrill Cousin (Co-Chair), Mary Taylor (designee for Barbara Miner), Nancy Dow, Terry Mark (designee for Adrienne Quinn), William Hayes.

**Other Attendees:** Alicia Tillery, Anne Meegan, Ben Miksch, Callista Welbaum, Dave Chapman, Doreen Booth, Earl Peterson, Elly Slakie, Gail Stone, Jim Vollendroff, Joe Cunningham, Josephine Wong, Joshua Wallace, Kapena Pflum, Katherine Wismer, Kathleen Southwick (by phone), Kayla Valy, Kelli Carroll, Kimberly Cisson, Lau Nguyen, Laurie Sylla, Lisa Floyd, Lisa Kimmerly, Liz Elwart, Mandi Ucab, Ross Marzolf, Scarlett Aldebot-Green, Sue Wyder, Terra Rose.

**1. Welcome, Introductions, Co-Chairs Report** *Co-Chair Bender*

Co-Chair Bender welcomed all attendees to the meeting. She explained that today's meeting of the Oversight Committee will not review the MIDD financial plan because of the focus on the draft of the MIDD 2 Service Improvement Plan, but that after the work on the Service Improvement Plan is concluded in the next month or so, monthly financial review will continue every month or every other month. She asked those who had come to the Oversight Committee today to give public comment to please sign in on the pink sheet at the back of the room. Organizations would have three minutes for their comments and individuals would have two minutes. Members and guests introduced themselves by name and organization.

**2. Approval of Meeting Notes,** *Co-Chair Cousin*

Consensus approval of the minutes for February 25, March 24, and April 29, 2016 was given.

**3. Review of MIDD Renewal Deliverables Schedule,** *Co-Chair Bender and Kelli Carroll*

This schedule has been reviewed at every meeting to make sure everyone is informed of the timeline and due dates. Ms. Carroll announced that the first draft of the MIDD Service Improvement Plan was emailed to you last Friday, posted on the MIDD webpage and circulated throughout King County. The comment period ends June 30 at 5pm. At the next Oversight Committee meeting on July 28, there will be a final discussion on the Service Improvement Plan. Comments today and all subsequent comments will be integrated to the greatest extent possible into a revised Service Improvement Plan. The Retrospective Report, which was sent to the Executive's office in May, will be transmitted to the King County Council on June 30. The final version of the Service Improvement Plan will be transmitted to the King

County Council on August 25, after which time the Council will undergo its own process of review, including more opportunities for public comment at Council committee meetings. Throughout the Council budget process there are targeted public hearing dates across the County. No follow-up questions were asked.

#### **4. Review and Discussion of Initial Draft of MIDD 2 Service Improvement Plan, Co-Chair Cousin and Kelli Carroll**

The first draft of the MIDD 2 Service Improvement Plan is the culmination and distillation of all the work that the MIDD Oversight Committee has engaged in for the past year. Ms. Cousin welcomed Committee members to raise questions, make comments, flag items that need follow-up, point out sections that need to be revisited. She asked people to be as concise in their comments as possible; staff can follow up after the meeting on more complex, lengthy topics and questions. She requested members to say what they needed to say in this room, emphasizing the importance of healthy discussion. She reminded people that the County Executive and the County Council – not this Oversight Committee – are the final decision-makers for MIDD. She emphasized the importance of the substantial work accomplished by MIDD 1, work that has changed the way criminal justice, housing, and behavioral health systems work together to meet the needs of people: MIDD is not just an array of services but collective efforts across systems. MIDD was never envisioned as the sole funder for any system but rather as a way to expand the impact and reach of these systems. The Oversight Committee has done a remarkable job of staying focused as a collective on the whole even as individual members have their own passions and concerns.

Ms. Carroll pointed to the copies of the Service Improvement Plan and Appendices that are available at the meeting for those who want to refer to them. She spoke of the structured process the Oversight Committee had followed over the course of the past 18 months that has culminated in this document, though the document is not a final product. All of the Oversight Committee's work of the last 18 months has been in service to responding to Ordinance \_\_\_ that King County Council passed regarding MIDD 2. The Service Improvement Plan is positioned in a way to build on the successes of MIDD 1 and meet the challenges in MIDD 1 that could be improved upon by MIDD 2. MIDD 2 is grounded in Equity and Social Justice principles and outcomes, and it aligns with the King County initiatives Best Starts for Kids, the Veterans and Human Services Levy, and All Home.

Ms. Carroll offered the following overview of key recommendations in the MIDD 2 Service Improvement Plan:

- Names of organizations' and entities' seats would be updated (for example, Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence and Sound Cities Association).
- Six new seats would be added to the Oversight Committee (for a net of four new seats): a Recovery seat, an Education seat, a Philanthropy seat, a Managed Care seat, and two seats from a new Consumers and Communities Subcommittee to the MIDD Oversight Committee. The idea for this new standing subcommittee came out of discussions the Oversight Committee has had over the last 18 months, where it asked for more representation of Native American communities, youth, Asian and Pacific Islander communities, African American communities, and people coming out of the justice system. At least half of the members of this subcommittee will be people with lived experience of recovery. Using the model of Familiar Faces, there will contracts with all the members of the subcommittee to pay them for their participation, which is a way of

honoring their time and living up to equity and social justice principles. The reason these six seats represent a net of four new seats is that what used to be one seat for the Mental Health Advisory Board and one for the Substance Abuse Advisory Board will become one seat for the combined Behavioral Health Advisory Board. Additionally, a seat on the Oversight Committee that MIDD 1 established for a representative from the public defender system that was contracted with King County, but is now part of King County, can be repurposed to make room for one of the new seats proposed. Many of these changes in the composition of the Oversight Committee will have to be made through legislation. There are plans to submit language in the form of an ordinance for the change sometime in the next month.

- Financial policy changes are recommended in the Service Improvement Plan:
  - Revise the MIDD Fund Balance reserve policy to 60 days of expenditure rather than the 5.25 percent reserve policy of MIDD 1. This revision is recommended by the Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget and does not represent a large change in total dollars.
  - Allocate \$750,000 to be added annually to the rainy day reserve. Once the 60 days of expenditure level is achieved, funds then become fund balance dollars.
  - Prioritize use of the fund balance dollars: 1) the intention to provide economic adjustments for providers (2.5 percent in 2017 and 2.6 percent in 2018, which is a real sea change from MIDD 1 priorities which incorporated adjustments to County employees but not to the provider community), 2) funding the emerging issue initiative to make sure that there is at least \$650,000 for that initiative each year, and 3) the rainy day reserve.

Ms. McGettigan voiced appreciation for providers receiving an annual economic adjustment that is built into the recommendations for MIDD 2.

- Other recommendations made in this draft of the Service Improvement Plan that are not necessarily called for by the County Council were highlighted by Ms. Carroll:
  - A detailed implementation and evaluation plan to be provided to King County Council in July and August 2017. This information would be expected to be part of a Service Improvement Plan but some situations impact the development of this information.
    - The Service Improvement Plan timeline was decreased by three months in order to get it to Council in time for them to consider it as part of the budget process.
    - Revised policy goals: There will likely be revised MIDD policy goals, and it is important to know what these are in order to be able to finalize the implementation and evaluation plans.
    - Work with the providers in community settings and consumers around the development of detailed implementation and evaluation plans is needed.
  - Change the name of the MIDD because “Mental Illness and Drug Dependency” doesn’t acknowledge health and recovery that clients experience and in that sense perpetuates stigmas. This will be on the work plan and there will be annual workplans.

- Change the name of the Oversight Committee to Advisory Committee, because there is a statutory difference between the two and the legislation that established the Oversight Committee spelled out that the duties of the committee are advisory in nature.
- A number of other recommendations in the Service Improvement Plan that Ms. Carroll referred to include ending and modifying initiatives, the reporting schedule, and the emerging issues process.

### **Questions and Discussion:**

- Ms. Fontaine voiced appreciation for the recommendations for policy goals that would change the language to refer to people as people.
- Ms. Carroll noted the lack of comments and discussion coming from Oversight Committee members over the last several months, and she urged people to come forward with their concerns.
- Ms. Stone explained her own lack of comment as the result of her not reading the draft of the Service Improvement Plan in advance of the meeting, and she said that her quiet did not mean she was taking any concerns elsewhere.
- Ms. Stone asked for practical advice, noting deadlines that were coming before the next Oversight Committee meeting. Ms. Carroll requested that anyone concerned about inaccuracies in the draft or areas that were unclear should please contact her via phone, email, or in person no later than July 8th. The window on funding recommendations and things at the program level has closed. Agencies and organizations are already building budgets based on the recommendations. The Executive's office and the King County Council may still make changes.
- Ms. Dow noted that the MIDD website has a comments page that is not accessible, and staff responded that this will be fixed.
- Mr. Paredes said that he had concerns with one of the recommendations being advanced even though it did not score very high in the briefing paper sorting sessions, but he committed to bringing that concern up with Ms. Carroll, Mr. Vollendroff and this Committee rather than bringing his concerns to Councilmembers. He encouraged others to do the same.
- Ms. Manion conjectured that another reason the Committee was not offering a lot of feedback on the draft of the Service Improvement Plan is that it effectively represents the consensus decisions of the Oversight Committee.
- Ms. Cousin suggested that most discontent would be about specific funding levels of the recommendations. She said that outside of this body, people may choose to advocate for their programs at the Council level in ways they feel compelled to. At the same time, she does not feel this process should be a free for all that could negate the whole past year of Oversight Committee work. Councilmembers need to listen to constituents. Simultaneously, the chairs of the Oversight Committee encourage everyone to think of the repercussions of big alterations to the recommendations. The final MIDD 2 plan will not be perfect for all but it should reflect the collective consensus.
- Mr. Vollendroff said he is very proud of the process that the MIDD Oversight Committee has used to arrive at this point, with recurring themes of recovery, community, and transparency, and lots of opportunity for feedback.
- Ms. McGettigan offered kudos to King County and the MIDD staff, and she noted especially the acknowledgement in the draft of the disagreement. It's important for the Council and Executive to know there are discordant opinions in the Oversight

Committee. She stated that she understands there is a natural desire to lobby for one's own interest but she noted the disproportionate influence that some on the Oversight Committee have that others do not. She stated that she liked the increase in the number of Oversight Committee seats.

- Ms. D'Allegrì reminded the Committee that it is an advisory group, and she argued that if the recommendation for new seats on the MIDD 2 Oversight Committee is not accepted, relevance to the community should be the priority in determining what seats remain.
- Co-chair Bender voiced appreciation for the group's transparency.
- Mr. Paredes voiced appreciation for the way the MIDD 2 process has included consumer voice, not only in English but in multiple languages, from the beginning.
- Councilmember Kohl-Welles said that as a first-time observer joining the Oversight Committee, she was very impressed with the inclusive, participatory dynamic of work.

## 5. Public Comment

- Earl Peterson, a consumer giving public comment about Hero House and the Supported Employment Program, described how Hero House has helped him greatly over the past seven years in his recovery from drug addiction, homelessness and severe depression. To live and be successful in life is important and not easy for anyone. Since joining Hero House, he's been able to attend college and initiate a new charter with the Kiwanis Club to donate funds to Hero House. Other members are regularly employed and also volunteer for nonprofits. More recently, he has committed to a new workshop at the Clubhouse on life goals, sponsored by Hero House. For most in recovery, progress is slow. The improvements he has been able to observe in himself and others within the Clubhouse environment seem directly proportional to the growth of this organization. Helping people be all they can be is the business of this organization; lives are being changed for the better, to be more constructive, clear, with a purpose. His hope is to convey how important funding dollars are to this program.
- Katharine Wisner, a consumer giving public comment about Hero House, described the critical importance of Hero House in helping her to live with severe anxiety and panic disorder after leaving a very stressful job last year. At Hero House, she has felt safe and accepted. No one asked questions about her mental health; they asked her to edit the newsletter and answer the phones, so that she felt like she was contributing even while she was still experiencing symptoms. Thanks to her involvement in Hero House, some therapy, and other things, she began to feel better and spoke with Isabelle at Hero House about Supported Employment. She is now working part time in something that feels meaningful to her, and she is gaining confidence. Her plan is to work full time by the end of the year with the help of Supported Employment. She advocated for funding of the Supported Employment Program at the \$1.25 million level rather than the proposed \$950,000 level. Working for her is the next step in reclaiming full recovery.
- Sue Wyder of Valley Cities Behavioral Health thanked the MIDD Oversight Committee for the work they have done on the budget, which she also has some experience with. Her public comment was in support of the Supported Employment Program at Valley Cities Behavioral Health, requesting the MIDD Oversight Committee recommend \$250,000 more in funding for this program. She described the spiral effect that follows decreased funding has: low performance leads to low outcomes leads to decreased services from South King County to Northgate, the area that Valley Cities serves. A large number of consumers at Valley Cities are motivated to work because of the time that

staff spends supporting them. Employment works: it establishes routines, boosts confidence, lifts people out of homelessness and addictions, and they become role models for others. These are signs of what that extra funding can do. People need to have the opportunity to work.

- Alicia Tillery, Vocational Specialist at Valley Cities Behavioral Health, thanked the MIDD Oversight Committee for their support of Supported Employment. She shared a success story about a consumer from DVR [the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation] whom she was able to place at a store where he boosted book sales by over 30 percent. Originally, this consumer had been unable to communicate, had no friends, and had never worked, at 25 years of age. But as a result of the job, his life has turned 180 degrees: his verbal communication has increased, he has friends, he is self-sufficient, his symptoms have decreased, and he is a productive citizen. This is why an increase of \$250,000 from the present Service Improvement Plan is being requested to continue building the success numbers.

Ms. Carroll noted that the Supported Employment Program received a one-time supplemental funding of \$250,000 in 2015 and that its base budget had not been reduced from the established \$950,000 amount. To be clear, the current recommendation is not a reduction to the current base.

- Ben Miksch, representing the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, spoke on behalf of the groups who signed the letter regarding the MIDD 2 Service Improvement Plan (Housing Development Consortium Seattle-King County, Compass Housing Alliance, Downtown Emergency Service Center, Catholic Community Services, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, Plymouth Housing Group, YMCA Seattle/King/Snohomish, and Catholic Housing Services [included in the packet everyone received for today's meeting]). He thanked the Oversight Committee for their work which is hugely appreciated by everyone in the community. He described permanent supportive housing, which was supported by MIDD 1, as a national best practice for some of the most vulnerable people in the community, who often cannot be served without housing and cannot get housing without supportive services. He expressed the hope of the Coalition on Homelessness that some of the unallocated MIDD dollars be used for permanent supportive housing or, given the current draft of the Service Improvement Plan, that money from emerging issues category could be considered for use in supportive housing. His other request was for flexibility of spending: comparing housing to a three-legged stool – capital projects, operations and maintenance, and services – with varying requirements at the federal and local levels, flexibility of spending MIDD dollars would be very helpful in respect to supportive housing.

Ms. Carroll explained that MIDD 1 funding did not include capital projects funding for housing. A delay in implementation led to a one-time allocation in 2008. MIDD 2 recommendations include \$2 million annually for capital and \$2 million annually for supportive services.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, July 28, 2016  
King County Chinook Building, Rooms 121 & 123**

**401 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104**

**11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. ~ Networking Lunch**

**12:15 p.m.-2 p.m. (extended to 3 p.m. for public comment) ~ Meeting**

**FINAL**