ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, May 21, 2026, | 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Summary of Attendance

Attended meeting via Zoom:

- Board Members:
  - Preston Anderson
  - Brenda Farwell
  - Alex O'Reilly
  - Jenn Remirez Robson
  - Heidi Shepherd
  - Gazel Tan
  - Julia Colson
  - Brian Berry
- Staff:
  - Michael Bailey
  - Traci Adair
  - Jenna Franklin
  - Taylor Gaston
  - Joanna Bomba
- Guests:
  - Karla Lynch
  - Michaelle Monday
  - Holly Woo

Attended meeting on-site:

- Board Members:
  - Pete Lewis
  - Carol Stripling
- Staff:
  - Marjan Didra
- Guests:
  - none

Welcome and Icebreaker

- Heidi S. w/ Welcome and Icebreaker: What's something that you are looking forward to, and why?

Meeting Summary

Approval of Consent Agenda

- Board approved Minutes

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

Subcommittee Report Outs

- Veterans:
    - Committee received a presentation from Shirly Mitchell, Director of Emergency Services for Compass Housing Alliance/Lutheran Community Services Northwest.
    - Discussion focused on shelter utilization, including approximately 93% occupancy across several housing locations in Seattle, Kirkland, and Burien.
    - Members requested updated geographic data regarding where homeless veterans are currently located across King County to support oversight and geographic equity discussions.
    - Concerns were raised about housing and support availability for homeless veteran families, including questions about referrals through King County housing systems and underutilized hotel shelter placements.
    - Staff provided an update on King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA), noting that VSHSL investments into KCRHA are limited and that most veterans housing and shelter functions remain managed directly by the county.
- RC:
    - Presentation from Julia Coloson regarding free clinic in Seattle. Discussed the amount of need for free/ affordable healthcare services--- Heidi requested a presentation to the larger board
    - General concerns of the larger board and time conflicts within the committee meeting
- Seniors:
    - Committee reviewed levy strategies related to kinship care and discussed funding impacts on older adults raising grandchildren and other youth.
    - Members reviewed funding allocations supporting kinship care services through several community organizations.
    - Discussion centered on potential service gaps if funding currently scheduled through 2028 is not renewed.
    - Committee explored possible overlap and coordination opportunities between VSHSL funding, Best Starts for Kids, and Older Americans Act funding streams.
    - Members requested additional information and a “crosswalk” document to better understand how populations and services are funded across multiple county initiatives and levies.

May Presentation: Developmental Disabilities and Early Childhood Supports Division - DCHS

- The King County Developmental Disabilities & Early Childhood Supports Division presented an overview of its services across the lifespan, including early childhood supports, school-to-work programs, employment services, community inclusion, and outreach/referral services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.
- Presenters discussed current challenges impacting the IDD community, including unstable federal and state funding, Medicaid and safety net concerns, provider system capacity issues, and the growing need for services. Opportunities highlighted included

expanding self-advocate leadership and strengthening partnerships with community organizations.

- The Board for Developmental Disabilities shared its mission to advance advocacy, accessibility, systems change, and inclusion for people with developmental disabilities. Staff also introduced a new Disability Inclusion & Lived Experience Coordinator role focused on elevating self-advocate voices and increasing lived experience representation in leadership and board participation.
- Board and community members discussed increasing referrals and service demand, support needs for aging caregivers of adults with developmental disabilities, outreach efforts with multicultural communities, and the importance of culturally and linguistically accessible services. Additional discussion included potential impacts of prenatal substance exposure and supports available for veteran families.
- Committee updates included reports from the Resilient Communities, Veterans, and Seniors Committees, with discussions focused on healthcare access and growing community need, homelessness and housing support for veterans, and concerns regarding future kinship care funding and service gaps for older caregivers raising children.
- The board reviewed updates related to King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA) funding and oversight efforts, approved revisions to prior meeting minutes for accuracy, and received a draft Quarter 1 financial and performance report to support enhanced transparency, provider accountability, and ongoing board oversight responsibilities.

Staff Updates

- Micheal B. provided an update regarding the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA), including ongoing discussions at both the county and city levels about the future structure and effectiveness of the regional homelessness response system.
- A financial and operational review/audit of KCRHA was completed by Clark Nuber following concerns related to financial systems and organizational oversight. Results were shared with county leadership and council, and additional responses from KCRHA leadership are expected.
- Micheal B. noted that VSHSL funding connected to KCRHA is limited, primarily supporting approximately 1-1.5 FTE positions, while veterans housing and shelter functions remain directly managed within the department rather than through KCRHA.
- Micheal B. introduced the first draft of the Quarter 1 levy financial and performance report, developed in response to longstanding board requests for improved oversight data and reporting transparency.
- The draft report includes information related to levy strategies, financial expenditures, and performance metrics across approximately 55 strategies, 250 providers, and more than 400 contracts.
- Micheal B. requested board feedback on the reporting format and acknowledged that additional quality checks and refinements are still underway before finalization.
- Pete L. and the board discussion resulted in approval to include provider names in future reports to improve transparency and support oversight responsibilities.
- Micheal B. also shared a draft board recruitment packet intended to support outreach and recruitment of new advisory board members. The packet includes information on King

County government structure, levy responsibilities, board expectations, eligibility, and application materials.
- Micheal B. informed the board that work on the annual report is progressing ahead of schedule and committed to sharing draft language with board members earlier in the process for review and input.

Board Business
- Updated board packet was introduced for new members including an updated board member application

Main Issue

- Board members Hedi and Pete requested correction to January 7th 2026 meeting minutes.

Original Concern

- A statement implied motions were created to "protect" a department/division.

Replacement Language Approved

- The board approved replacing it with language clarifying that: Motions were proposed in response to longstanding requests for data/reports needed for financial and programmatic oversight.

Outcome

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at: 12:35pm

VSHSL Advisory Board

Minutes taken by <<Taylor Gaston, staff>>