



King County

Behavioral Health and Recovery Division

Department of
Community and Human Services

CNK-HS-0400

Chinook Building
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104

206-263-9000

206-296-0583 Fax (Reception)

206-205-1634 Fax (Clinical Services)

7-1-1 TTY/TDD

King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Board Members present: Nancy Dow, Jasmeet Singh, Mustafa Mohammed, Kevin Host, Lyscha Marconian, David Sullivan, Willard Derouen, David Sullivan, Stacey Devenney, Kristina Sauckyji

Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) Staff Present: Dan Floyd, Cristina Coutsubos, Amanda Flatley, Idabelle Fosse, Taylor Schueler

Guests/Community Members: Savannah Burts, Caroline Graye, Dae Degrate, James Everett, Candance Hunsucker, Laura Samson

I. Welcome & Introductions

Community members & guests introduce themselves and their interest in BHAB.

Public Comments – To be placed in the Chat for review at end of meeting.

August Meeting Review – No Decision Reached at this Time.

II. Minutes Approval

Meeting Minutes Approval - No Quorum Available at this time for minute review and approval.

III. Legislative Agenda – Christena Coutsubus – PowerPoint Presented

May 2nd was a review of the items processed during 2024 short Legislative session, which ended in March. This big picture overview will be of upcoming items and requests for suggestions to add to the 2025 Legislative Agenda. 2025 will start a new biennium, which will be 105 days long, in which lawmakers will pass a new two-year budget and limited policy bills. The 2024 citizen initiatives, which if passed in November, will restrict critical state revenue sources through repealing the Capital Gains Tax and the Climate Commitment Act. This could be the reason for the funding restrictions in regard to new investments and program expansions, so creative funding resources will need to be investigated. The Legislative Agenda process begins with the Executive requesting funding priorities from the County departments, divisions and important stakeholders, with a short list of vetted recommendations then being created for Executive review. These options are then given to the Government Relations Team and Lobbyists to create answers to the questions regarding those items that lawmakers will expect clarifications on. Please keep in mind that the Executive will be looking for how these options make an impact on the work being done in King County and around the State. The Legislative Priorities will then be announced by the Executive in December at the Legislative Forum. We are looking for suggestions such as

programs that are on your radar, items that might have fallen through the cracks, or ideas that haven't passed in previous sessions. Kevin C. Mentioned the Crisis Care Centers Funding needs. The need for funding for Transitional Housing, Follow-Up Services, and Mental Illness Treatment Services were also mentioned. An Update Request for info on the Peer Respite Program was also presented. Christina will send out a survey by June 14th to the Members to gather ideas.

IV. Block Grant 101 Preview – Part A - Amanda Flatley – PowerPoint Presented

Amanda presented a review of what Block Grants are and their funding purposes. Block grants are non-competitive grants that are awarded to every state in the US and also US Territories through an application process. The congressional budget allocates funding for SUD and Mental Health Services through a department known as SAMSHA, which administers the block grant funds throughout the nation and territories. The State of Washington applies for the grants through the Health Care Authority, which uses them for Community-Based Mental Health Services and Substance Use Treatment Activities for adults and children within Washington State over a two-year period. Some of the grant funds must be spent on specific programs, about 1.9 million, while other funds, roughly 3.1 million, are more flexible. Programs like the Co-Responder and Peer Bridger Services have designated funding, which has not increased in at least six years, despite inflation. A presentation on these programs might be interesting for the Board Members. Here is a bit more detailed look at the allocation of the Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Block Grants.

The County utilizes the block grants to plug service holes across the entire Behavioral Health Spectrum of Services. Funding goes to supporting programs like the Tribal Health Services, which fund all of the local tribes; the Youth Mobile Crisis Teams, the Crisis Connections Warm Line, which is a peer-based crisis service. The funds also reach the Nami Consumer Training and Clubhouse Services, the Substance Abuse Block Grant also funds the Matt Talbott Center, which supports pregnant and parenting women in Individual Therapy; and allows them to fund clients residential room and board. The grants are also utilized for individuals who are not insured, which is the Non-Medicaid population, and also to supplement the Medicaid and Medicare clients who have private insurance. The grants are also utilized for individuals who are not insured, which is the Non-Medicaid population, and also to supplement the Medicaid and Medicare clients with private insurance. The funds also cover Acute Withdrawal Management Services for individuals who receive treatment through the local Sobering Centers.

The block grant expenditure plans are approved by BH Advisory Board every year. The documentation of that approval, along with the plans, is submitted to the Health Care Authority, which must be done by July 15. Implementation of the new contract starts on July 1, but then the County has to submit the plans for next year by July 15. Work has to start on the block grant plans now so that we can make sure that we meet that deadline. The created plan draft must be presented to the Board at their July meeting, so that the Board can approve it, and create a Letter of Support. That is why Amanda is here at this meeting to give some background on the block grants areas, as well as tee up this subject for next month's meeting, when she will be back again to present the block grant plans part B to the Board. Nancy clarifies that Amanda is coming back to the meeting next month with the proposed block grant funds and programs listing, and will do an additional presentation, so that the Board can vote, if a quorum is present, which will result in a Letter of Support from the Board going to the HCA regarding the block grant funds. Note that no letter was signed and sent last year due to no quorum being available to create a Letter of Support.

V. Crisis Care Center Update Idabell Fosse

Idabell presented a quick update regarding this subject. The Regional Policy Committee reviewed this item two weeks ago. Amendments were created, addressed, and passed by that committee. This week the Health and Human Services Committee passed the implementation plan with the new amendments as brought to it. Now the process is to present to the King County Council on June 18th, and if all goes well, the plan will be passed and adopted by the Council, with that completed the early implementation pieces can move ahead. That plan is to utilize the funding collected through the levy since the beginning of the year to increase Community-Based Crisis Services. Funding items will include more Narcan vending machines, Mobile treatment services, Embedded BH counselors for 911 centers, Capital investments to refurbish Residential Treatment and SUD Facilities, and Workforce Investments. The BH Workforce Investments are creating Career Pathways which is a fast-track program that assists clients in advancement into BH careers. There is also a website called startyourpath.org to get folks involved in BH workforces, along with a toolkit to promote available learning tools and information. Being developed is the BH Workforce Development Learning Collaborative, which promotes the creation of scholarships and apprenticeships through Washington Community and Technical Colleges. The next meeting for this project is on Friday June 21st and registration is available through BHRD Workforce at the kingcounty.gov email. The final piece is the creation of a community survey to get feedback from providers, clients, and community members to present critical information during the creation of the Crisis Care Centers Program.

VI. JEDI Subcommittee Review – Jasmeet Singh

This meeting had a low attendance, with the focus on increasing Board membership. There is nothing to report back from this meeting.

VII. MIDD Subcommittee Review – Jasmeet Singh

Was taking place during this meeting –so attendance was not possible. Jasmeet to update at next meeting. An In-person meeting took place last week with a presentation by Dr. Sarah Vinson, writer of the book Social Injustice and Mental Health, which the MIDD Advisory Board has been reviewing for over a year. The attendees had a deeply interesting discussion of the topics covered in the book.

VIII. No Public Comment.

No Public Comments were requested.

IX. Wrap Up and July Agenda Items – Nancy Dow – Jasmeet Singh

No Board Members comments were made.

Presentations Possibilities: Housing Group at BHRD, Co-Responder Programs, Crisis Intervention Program by David.

Adjournment – 1:18pm

Prepared by: Heather Whitten – Admin Team Assistant

Attested by:

X. Action Items

- Dan to send Board Membership applications sent to Will and Dae.
- Dan to send out change of meeting date – **July 11th**.
- Dan to distribute to the Board members the CCC Levy survey when it's ready(next week).
- Christina to send out a survey with a return date of June 14th for Legislative Ideas.
- Meeting Minutes links to be loaded into the SharePoint sight – Admin Team