



Department of Community and Human Services
Behavioral Health and Recovery Division

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104

Phone: 206-263-9100

206-296-0583 (Reception)

206-205-1634 (Clinical Services)

King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB)

February 5, 2026- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Board Members: *Dae Degrate, David Sullivan, Jasmeet Singh, Kevin Host, Kristina Sawyckyj, Lyscha Marcynyszyn, Mustafa Mohammed, Nancy Dow, and Stacey Devenney.*

Board Members not present: *Lucas Sherman*

Guest: *Ann Gorman, Catherine Schley, Christena Coutsoubos, Emeka Alozie, Emily Johnson, Idabelle Fosse, Kathleen Murphy, Kelly Tongg, Mariann Colonna, Mark Cooke, Monica De Leon C., Rebecca Mendelsohn, Sabina Perry, Sarah McCauley, and Trevor Stuart*

BHAB Board Meeting

The King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting, including board members, staff, and the public, was called to order at 11:34 am.

Welcome & Introductions

Kevin Host welcomed everyone.

- Community members and guests introduced themselves.
- Public Comment Sign-up: via Teams chat

Business Board

Approval of the Minutes for January 8, 2026

The board approved the January 8, 2026, meeting minutes.

Prepared By: Monica De Leon C

Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, Board Liaison

Approval Date: 03/05/2026

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Governance

Administrative Items & agenda review

Kevin Host welcomes everyone and reviews the meeting agenda including the need for board members to be proactive in recruiting new members. Jasmeet Singh mentioned the need to recruit new members from other districts. There was discussion about the minimum age requirement for board membership which may be revisited in the future. Members were informed of an opportunity to serve as BHAB's liaison to the MIDD Advisory Committee, which advises on sales tax-funded behavioral health grants. Current liaison, Jasmeet Singh offered to mentor a successor. Board members were encouraged to complete (or repeat) board orientation sessions with staff, noting their value even for long-serving members.

New Board Member Nomination & Vote

Two applicants were presented for Board nomination following interviews:

- Catherine Schley (District 5) – Parent with lived experience, including homelessness, and crisis systems; background in data analysis, education, and policy.
- Sarah McCauley (District 9) – Licensed substance use disorder professional and clinical social work associate with extensive experience in community mental health and co-occurring disorders.

Both candidates addressed the Board and answered questions.

The Board voted anonymously to approve both nominations. Appointments will be finalized pending King County Executive approval and Council confirmation.

Crisis Care Center (CCC) Levy – 2025 Annual Report Planning

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Rebecca Mendelsohn and Mark Cooke presented a high-level overview of the upcoming 2025 Crisis Care Center Annual Report. They reviewed the process and the lessons learned from the 2024 report. Please see highlight below:

- BHAB serves as the advisory and certifying body for the CCC levy annual report.
- Staff proposed earlier engagement with the Board, beginning in April, to allow more time for review and feedback.
- The 2025 report is expected to include more implementation detail, reflecting progress beyond the startup phase.
- Board members emphasized the value of prior special review sessions and requested access to the 2024 report and prior feedback to support continuity.
- Certification of the final report is anticipated at the August meeting, ahead of the August 15 transmittal deadline to County Council.

Rebecca Mendelsohn and Mark Cooke provided time for Q & A for the board.

Legislative Update

Christena Coutsoubos provided an update on the 2025 short session in Olympia. Christena highlighted SB 6296 (Involuntary Treatment Reform): A major, multi-part bill impacting involuntary detention, crisis response, law enforcement transport, firearms restrictions, and court procedures. The bill remains active and is expected to evolve through amendments. Discussion focused on potential impacts to crisis care centers, designated crisis responders, and fiscal implications. Additional bills of interest addressed youth behavioral health funding, AI regulation in therapy, social work licensure pathways, crisis services funding mechanisms, and proposed tax measures. Board members were encouraged to stay engaged as fiscal committee deadlines approach.

Crisis Care Levy & Operator Updates

Prepared By: Monica De Leon C

Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, Board Liaison

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Idabelle Fosse announces the award of the Crisis Training Academy to the Behavioral Health Institute at Harborview Medical Center. Updates on the operator selection for various Crisis Care Centers. The board led discussion on the lack of applications for the youth Crisis Care Center. Plans for future RFPs and operator selection for other centers.

Lived Experience Engagement Framework

Kathleen Murphy provided the board with an update on the lived experience engagement framework. Explanation of the framework and its implementation phases. Roles for people with lived experience in the division. Progress in communication and education, and plans for developing engagement best practices.

Public Comment

No public comment

Kevin Host requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 pm.