

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)

April 2, 2026- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

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

Board Members not present: *Lucas Sherman, Nancy Dow*

Guests: *Trevor Stuart, Sabina Perry, Mariann Colonna, Emeka Alozie, Sarah McCauley, Natalia Chacon, Savannah Mitchell, Kathleen Murphy, Christena Coutsubos, Sharon Turner, Olivia Elwell, Brad Nonaka, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Laura Van Tosh, Emily Johnson, Mark Cooke, and Idabelle Fosse*

BHAB Board Meeting

The King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting, including board members, staff, and the public, was called to order at 11:32 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 March 5, 2026**

The board approved the March 5, 2026, meeting minutes.

Prepared By: Savannah Mitchell

Approved: 05/07/2026

Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, Board Liaison

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Governance**Administrative Items & agenda review**

Kevin Host welcomed everyone and reviewed the meeting agenda

Co-Chair Announcements

Membership update- Sabina Perry was approved by the Executive and is pending council approval. Sarah McCaully's application remains in process.

Recruitment efforts in South and East County continue.

In-person Board retreat on June 4th from 12:00 – 4:30 in Tukwila.

Applicant Introductions and Virtual Ballot Voting

Introductions were made to the board for the following applicants:

- Chukuemeka (Emeka) Alozie; District 8
- Mariann Colonna; District 2

Kathleen Murphy went over the BHAB applicant and nomination process and prepared board members to vote via an online ballot. After the board members voted, Kathleen prepared a results report. The board voted to nominate both applicants.

2025 Crisis Care Center Annual Report (AR)

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Rebecca Mendelsohn & Mark Cooke presented an overview to the board of the 2025 Crisis Care Center Annual Report. As the advisory body to the CCC Levy, BHAB duties include reviewing and certifying the CCC Levy Annual Report that describes progress towards Levy purposes beginning in 2025. The team noted they are in the beginning process of creating the annual report so information is not yet finalized. The 2025 CCC AR Review Process includes reflecting on the 2024 process and planning for 2025 review, attending the BHAB Board meeting, sharing initial drafts and then finally sharing an updated draft and summary of changes for certification in late July/August. 2025 CCC AR Requirements include an overview of calendar year performance and accomplishments, an assessment of the financial plan for residential treatment, fiscal and performance measurement, geographic distribution map or summary, geographic reporting by service category and zip code, operator awards and progress on contracting, facility utilization, transportation data, and historical and current data that can be used to analyze and make improvements. 2025 high level framing is that more people are accessing crisis services in King County than before. 2025 accomplishments were summarized over 8 strategies below:

1. Open and operate five CCCs
2. Restore, expand, and sustain residential treatment capacity
3. Strengthen the behavioral health workforce
4. Early investments in crisis response
5. Capacity building and technical assistance
6. Evaluation and performance measurement
7. CCC Levy administration
8. CCC Level reserves

2025 Challenges include procurement delays, expenditure timelines, and dynamic political environment.

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

Legislative Session Recap & Legislative Priority Setting

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Christena Coutsoubos provided a 2026 Legislative short session recap and a look forward for the 2027 legislative session. 2026 session overall was a 90-day short session, BHRD reviewed/tracked over 70 bills. WA thriving strategic plan and artificial intelligence chatbot companion regulations were two priority bills that passed. Two funding bills passed- local funding flexibility and Millionaire's income tax. Two other bills of interest passed- hospital consolidation and prior authorization changes. Bills that died but will likely be seen in the future include Psychiatric pharmacists, Psycho/therapy and AI, Covered lives assessment for Behavioral Health crisis, prescribing pharmacists, lowering interest rate on medical debt, and Involuntary Treatment Act. Final Operating/Capital Positives included no cuts to reimbursement rates or BHASO flexible funds. Final Operating- Concerns included sunseting Apple Health Expansion and additional cuts. 2027 Legislative session will begin next January and Behavioral Health bills will be tracked with priorities rooted in protecting access and maintaining care for community members. Christena asked where funding could help the community and received responses including transit, supporting workforce, and housing.

Crisis Care Center Levy Updates

Idabelle Fosse presented high-level CCC levy updates to the board which included an update in Youth Services with Youth Behavioral Health Urgent Care Services for youth ages 4 – 17 now being offered in Crisis Care Center, Connections Kirkland. Crisis Support for youth include options to call/text, a crisis response team to go to the person's location, and now the urgent mental health support offered at Connections Kirkland.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Kevin Host requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.