



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)

July 2, 2026- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Board Members: *Dae Degrate, David Sullivan, Kevin Host, Kristina Sawyckyj, Lyscha Marcynyszyn, Mustafa Mohammed, Sabina Perry, Sarah McCauley*

Board Members not present: *Jasmeet Singh, Stacey Devenney,*

Guests: *Savannah Mitchell, Mark Cooke, Kathleen Murphy, Sharon Turner, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Christena Coutsoubo, Amanda Flatley, Natalia Chacon, Laura Smith, Victor Loo, Julian Saucier, Nathan Orth, Trevor Stuart, Mariann Colonna, Keren Seare*

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

Approval of the Minutes for June 4, 2026

The board approved the June 4, 2026, meeting minutes.

Prepared By: Savannah Mitchell

Approval Date: 08/06/26

Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, Board Liaison

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Administrative Items & agenda review

Kevin Host reviewed the meeting agenda

Co-Chair Announcements

Members interested in MIDD Advisory Committee should reach out to discuss next steps.

Co-chair elections will be held in the fall to replace Jasmeet Singh. Members interested should reach out to Kevin Host, Jasmeet Singh, or Kathleen Murphy.

Federal Block Grant Spending Plan Approval (Amanda Flatley)

Amanda Flatley explained the funds are federal dollars and are part of SAMHSA funding, the Washington Healthcare Authority receives the funds and distributes them. Two grants are up for approval for FY27: Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) and Substance Use Prevention Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS) and remain largely unchanged between FY26 and FY27 with small reductions in each. MHBG has a reduction in co-responder funds by HCA from \$75,000 to \$63,750.00 for FY27. SUPTRS will move funds from underutilized categories to restore \$15,000 in funding for Outreach and Screening.

All board members present voted to approve the Federal Block Grant Spending Plan as presented.

Crisis Care Center (CCC) Annual Report Feedback & Certification Preparation (Rebecca Mendelsohn and Mark Cooke)

Rebecca Mendelsohn and Mark Cooke presented a draft of the CCC FY2025 Annual Report. BHAB has the responsibility to review and certify the annual report. The review process consists of reflecting on the previous year's process/plan for the coming year, attending the BHAB board meeting and providing updates, sharing an initial draft for board feedback, and finally in late July/August the board receives an updated draft and a summary of changes for certification. Rebecca and Mark asked what information may be missing and what else the board would like to know about levy progress and asked what story the report is telling and what input or advice the board may have regarding the implementation plan which board

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members discussed. The team will be taking the feedback into consideration as they work to prepare the final draft for board certification in early August.

Crisis Care Center Levy Update (Mark Cooke)

Mark Cooke gave updates to the board on the Crisis Care Centers in five areas: North (open), Central (open planned for late 2027), South (MultiCare to operate and location will be identified in 2026), East (selecting operator in 2026), Youth (RFP is open through 9/30). The CCC team have been working on community outreach including multilingual outreach.

Legislative Priority Setting Process Update (Christena Coutsubos)

Christena Coutsubos provided a process update on setting 2027 legislative priorities. 2027 legislative session will be a long session of 105 days and will begin in mid-January. It will be the first year of the biennium and they will pass policy plus a two-year budget, a budget deficit is expected. Last year's priorities included protecting access and maintaining funding as well as investing. This year's process to prepare for next year's legislative session begins with identifying starter ideas, stakeholder outreach for new ideas, next the categories are narrowed down, and the last step is presenting to the Executive's Office. Outreach questions include asking about the biggest challenges and barriers and looking for recommendations for improvement. Draft 2027 legislative priorities were shared, and final priorities will be presented at the behavioral health legislative forum in November.

MIDD Update (Natalia Chacon)

Natalia Chacon provided the board with the Implementation Plan Update that was transmitted on 7/1 to King County Council. Key changes include a new name (King County Behavioral Health Bridge), updated investment priorities, updated strategy areas, and procurement process and timeline. The next step is to prepare to support the Council's process as the implementation plan now sits with King County Council for final approval.

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Retreat Debrief (Kathleen Murphy)

Kathleen Murphy provided a debrief from the June board retreat. There were two focus areas that emerged from the retreat: 1. Improve Member Orientation and Development and 2. Improve Community Engagement. Goal 1 plans include complete introductory orientation, inform orientation 102, and mentoring new members and officers. Goal 2 plans include sponsoring an event or activity in 2026, table at or participate in a community event in 2027 and engage social circles to educate on crisis system. Kathleen asked the board to reflect on the retreat with the following questions: what worked well, what could be improved, and what is one commitment you are taking forward? The board found the retreat was very successful and appreciated how the time was spent.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Kevin Host requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 pm.