



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)

March 6, 2025: 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Meeting Attendees: *Amanda Flatley, Ann Gorman, Archie Levine, Brad Nonaka, Candace Hunsucker, Christena Coutsobos, Daaoshara Degrate, Dan Floyd, David Sullivan, Jasmeet Singh, Isabelle Fosse, Kathleen Murphy, Kevin Host, Lyscha Marcynyszyn, Mustafa Mohammed, Nancy Dow, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Sarah Brewster, Stacey Devenney.*

BHAB Board Meeting

The King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting, including board members, staff, and the public, was called to order at 11:35 am.

Welcome & Introductions

Jasmeet Singh welcomed everyone.

- Members and guests introduced themselves.
- Public Comment Sign-up: None.

Board Business

Approval of the Minutes for February 6, 2025

The board approved the February 6, 2025, meeting minutes.



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Governance

Administrative Items & Agenda Review

Jasmeet Singh welcomes everyone and reviews the meeting agenda.

Board Chair Updates

In May, the Board will have a virtual retreat. The last retreat was in 2023. Jasmeet Singh asked for suggestions on how to make the meeting engaging given its virtual format. The Board still needs to confirm timing, but the May 2025 meeting will likely take place right after the regular, monthly Board meeting and will be 2-3 hours long. Jasmeet is considering some in-person opportunity and may go to a coffee shop if others want to join.

Staff Updates

Board Reappointments

Kathleen Murphy provided an update on the reappointment process. Two board members, Jasmeet Singh and David Sullivan, have expressed interest in reappointment and County staff have initiated that process and sent their application materials to the DCHS Government Relations team. Daaoshara Degrate's appointment application is also being process right now. Nancy Dow and Lucas Sherman's appointments are expiring on March 31, 2025. County staff plan to launch a recruitment effort to bring on more members.

Financial Disclosure Statements

Board members are required to complete a Financial Disclosure Statement each year. Kathleen Murphy encouraged folks to complete the form during the meeting. Kathleen walked through the form and gave everyone a few minutes to complete it.

Board Stipends and Eligibility

Kathleen Murphy provided a presentation on Board stipends that are now available given the passage of King County Ordinance 19787. To be eligible for the stipend, board members cannot be employees of King County or another municipality and cannot otherwise receive compensation for their participation on the Board as part of a professional role. Eligible board members may be compensated up to twice a month for Board meetings and Crisis Care Center site visits. Initial compensation was set at \$75 per payment and this amount is auto adjusted



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annually so it is now \$77.02. The stipend amount will be reevaluated each year. Payments will be made quarterly by check and can be mailed or picked up in-person. If a board member does not have access to a bank account, an alternative payment method may be requested. Eligible board members must complete a W9 to receive payment for tax purposes. Board members are encouraged to reach out to Monica and Kathleen if they are interested in the stipend. Kathleen will connect with Arielle Degrande Collins, the Crisis Care Center Finance Lead, on when payment can start.

Crisis Care Center Update

Isabelle Fosse, the Crisis Care Center Community Engagement Liaison, provided an update on the Crisis Care Center (CCC) Levy. In September 2024, CCC Team opened the first round of procurement to select operators for up to three of the five CCCs. In January 2025, the Launch Ready contract was awarded to Connections Health Solutions in Kirkland. Proposals for new site CCCs are due March 21st and the CCC Team hopes to select the remaining two operators eligible to be selected this round. The CCC Team also released an RFP for Mental Health Residential capital developments. Proposals due by March 28th, 2025. Idabelle also clarified that the County does not plan to own any of the CCCs long term.

The CCC Team also create additional staffing for mobile crisis response teams and there are now 60 full-time employees and 27 teams working in the field every day. To help strengthen the behavioral health workforce, the CCC Team awarded funds to support apprenticeship programs. A County-led Workforce Collaborative is also meeting regularly to determine best next steps to continue supporting behavioral health workers. Idabelle explained that resources on workforce development opportunity are available on the CCC website.

Idabel also provided updates on community engagement events for crisis care centers, including Community Conversations held in Spanish and Somali. The CCC Team is partnering with community organizations to host the Community Conversations and has two additional events scheduled in March in Hindi. The two events held in Spanish and Somali had excellent turnout. The Team is also working on presenting in Vietnamese, Korean, and Ukrainian. The CCC Team is committed to ensuring language access and has heard that this remains a core challenge among community members. Idabelle also clarified that part of community engagement is educating others on what the value of the Levy is. Performance metrics will be part of the CCC-L Annual Report and the CCC Team will present on the Annual Report at the May Board meeting.

Legislative Priorities and Legislative Session

Christena Coutsubos, Policy and Legislative Manager for BHRD, provided an update on state legislative priorities, including an overview of how the state legislative process works, how to get engaged in the process, and key bills the County is tracking. This year, BHRD's legislative priorities include protecting behavioral health



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funding, setting minimum payments for services, strengthening community-based crisis response, permanent supportive housing with behavioral health supports, growing treatment options for young people, and seeing WA state's implementation of Certified Community CH clinics.

Christena highlighted three policy bills particularly relevant to BHAB's work.

- SB 5229: Gravely Disabled Definition. Changes the definition of "Gravely Disabled" when it comes to civil commitment. Broadens criteria for ITA by adding individuals who have been revived by opioid overdose reversal medication within 2 weeks. King County is not supporting this bill—believes the County should act conservatively when expanding system that deprives individuals of their civil rights. This bill passed out of policy committee and was referred to its fiscal committee, where there was no further action.
- SHB 1427: Certified Peer Support Specialists. Updates Certified Peer Support Specialist title and requires HCA to contract for TA, among other things. King County supports this bill—hopes it will pave the path to using Peers in more spaces. On March 3rd the bill was referred to the Rules Committee and is waiting to be sent to floor for a vote. The bill includes a 4-year fiscal note of \$1.5M, which could be a challenge in the current budget climate.
- SSB 5112 Prescribing Psychologists. King County supports this bill—hopes it will increase the number of providers who can prescribe medication. The bill is currently with the Rules Committee.

Christena also shared that Governor Ferguson has been relatively silent on behavioral health. While the Governor hasn't released a proposed budget, he did announce budget priorities and initial recommendations for \$7B in budget cuts.

Public Comment

None.

Wrap Up and April Agenda Call

Jasmeet Singh moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:10pm.

Close