



## 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 3, 2025- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting Attendees:** *Amanda Flatley, Ann Gorman, Dae Degrate, Dan Floyd, David Sullivan, Dennis Smith, Heather Venegas, Idabelle Fosse, Jasmeet Singh, Kathleen Murphy, Kevin Host, Lyscha Marcynyszyn, Monica De Leon C., Mustafa Mohammed, Nancy Dow, Peter Durning, Rebecca Mendelson, Sabina Perry, Stacey Devenney, and Susan McLaughlin.*

### **BHAB Board Meeting**

The King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board meeting, including board members, staff, and the public, was called to order at 11:31 am.

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Nancy Dow welcomed everyone.

- Community members and guest introduced themselves.
- Public Comment Sign-up: Jasmeet Singh

### **Board Business**

#### **Approval of the Minutes for March 6, 2025.**

The board approved the March 6, 2025, meeting minutes. The March 6<sup>th</sup> Minutes were approved



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### **Governance**

#### **Administrative Items & agenda review**

Nancy Dow welcomes everyone and reviews the meeting agenda.

#### **Block Grant 101 Presentation**

Susan McLaughlin provided an update on the ARPA block grant dollars, which were terminated early by the State Health Authority. Susan introduced Amanda Flatley. They highlighted the following:

- Provided presentation on block grants, explaining their purpose and history.
- Block grants are non-competitive and support critical services not covered by Medicaid or other federal and state funds.
- The history of block grants dates to the Community Mental Health Act of 1963 and has evolved through various legislative acts.
- Amanda explains the distribution process of block grants from Congress to SAMHSA, then to the Health Care Authority, and finally to the BHASOs.
- The block grants are used to support providers and ancillary services, with restrictions on expenditures and SAMHSA priorities.

#### **Discussion on Block Grant Allocations and Usage**

- Described the invoicing process and reimbursement for block grant funds
- Amanda and Susan discuss the methodology behind the allocation differences and agree to follow up on the matter.
- The next step is to present specific Be Heard allocations of block grant funds in the next meeting.

#### **Bylaws Review and Input**

- Susan McLaughlin introduces the bylaws review and input session.
- The bylaws have been updated to integrate new roles and responsibilities from the crisis care center levy.
- Changes include moving from a president and vice president model to a co-chair model and updates to membership composition.



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- Board members are asked to review the updated bylaws and provide feedback by the next meeting.
- The bylaws cover roles and responsibilities, membership, terms of office, compensation, meetings, voting, committees, communications, and conflict of interest.

Time for Q & A was provided.

### **May Retreat Planning**

- Nancy outlines the plan for the May retreat, including team-building activities and subject matter presentations.
- Board members are encouraged to come with ideas for new board members and to think about what they would like to see the board accomplish.
- The retreat will also cover the application process for new board members and the importance of board recruitment.
- Jasmine and Sydney discuss the idea of board members getting involved in subcommittees and sponsoring community events.

### **Crisis Care Center Update**

- Idabel Fosse provides an update on the crisis care center levy and the progress of the crisis care centers.
- Connections in Kirkland was awarded the launch-ready award and is currently operating as a crisis care center.
- The center is staffed with trained peer specialists and has seen an increase in patient numbers each month.
- The community engagement efforts include in-language community education events and listening sessions.
- The next steps include expanding 911 and 988 diversion programs, selecting another crisis care center operator, and working on post-crisis follow-up care.
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### **Discussion on Community Engagement and Utilization**

- Nancy and David discuss the utilization of the crisis care center and the need for more community engagement.



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- Idabel Fosse explains the efforts to increase awareness and utilization of the crisis care center through various communication channels.
- The importance of community update meetings is revisited, with board members expressing interest in continuing them.
- The discussion highlights the need for ongoing community outreach and education to ensure the crisis care centers are well-utilized.
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### **Crisis Solution Center and Mobile Crisis Teams**

- Group discusses the active use of the Crisis Solution Center and crisis diversion interim services by mobile crisis teams.
- Group discuss familiarity with the facility, noting its use since working in the peer Bridger program.

Time for Q & A provided.

### **Public Comment by Peter Durning**

- Jasmeet Singh introduces Peter Durning, who appreciates the work done at the meeting.
- Peter Durning introduces himself as a lived experience consultant with schizophrenia and mentions his group of 10 people with lived experience.
- Peter Durning highlights the lack of recognition and fair pay for people with lived experience in behavioral health.
- He describes his group's work in policy, academic research, training, and co-creating programs in various areas like housing and anti-racism.

### **Lived Experience Engagement Framework Update**

- Kathleen Murphy provides an update on the lived experience engagement framework, mentioning the establishment of a work group.
- The work group will include people with lived experience and staff from the behavioral health and recovery division.



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- Board members are invited to participate in the work group, and funding for incentive payments has been secured.
- Kathleen provides her contact information for those interested in joining the work group.

### **Mid Name Change and Recruitment for Subject Matter Expert Work Groups**

- Laura Smith discusses the process of renaming Mid, which previously stood for mental illness and drug dependency.
- The new name will be crowdsourced, with input from the Mid AC and King County staff.
- Laura Smith also mentions the recruitment for subject matter expert work groups to help articulate the implementation plan for the renewal.
- Invitations are extended for board members to join these work groups, which will start in mid-April.

### **Meeting Wrap-Up and Announcements**

- Nancy Dow thanks everyone for their participation and mentions the next item on the agenda.
- Jasmeet Singh provides an update on the mid name change and the recruitment process for subject matter expert work groups. Invites board members to join the work groups and mentions the timeline for the implementation plan.
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The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm