



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 10, 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, Kristina Sawyckyj, Lyscha Marcynyszyn, Monica De Leon C., Mustafa Mohammed, Nancy Dow, Peter Durning, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Sabina Perry, 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

Jasmeet Singh welcomed everyone.

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

Board Business

Approval of the Minutes for June 5, 2025.

The board approved the June 5, 2025, meeting minutes. The June 5th Minutes were approved.



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Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes for June 27, 2025.

The board approved the June 27, 2025, meeting minutes. The June 27th Minutes were approved.

Governance

Administrative Items & agenda review

Jasmeet Singh welcomes everyone and reviews the meeting agenda.

Leadership Update

Jasmeet Singh and Nancy Dow provided a leadership update by mentioning a transition plan over the next six months. Background on the board chair's term was provided, explaining the staggered term to avoid both chairs turning over in the same year. Nancy Dow, the current board chair, will transition off, with Jasmeet stepping into the co-chair role. A new co-chair will be selected through a nomination process, with mentorship from Jasmeet and Nancy Dow.

State Legislative Sessions, 2025 and 2026

Christina Coutsobos, the policy and legislative manager, presents an update on the 2025 legislative session and upcoming 2026 session. Christina discusses the significant budget deficit at the state level and the impact on behavioral health funding. Key provisions in the budget include a 15% provider rate increase and cuts to various programs like the recovery navigator program and behavioral health housing. Christina highlights the new certified community behavioral health centers and the funding for new 23-hour crisis relief centers. The federal HR 1 bill's impact on Medicaid is discussed, including new work requirements, eligibility redetermination, and provider taxes. Christina explains the potential cuts to Medicaid due to HR 1, including new work requirements, eligibility redetermination, and provider taxes. The bill is expected to reduce Medicaid funding in Washington State by 17% over 10 years, with a significant increase in the uninsured population.



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Christina emphasizes the need for a state-level response to HR 1, including hiring navigators to help people maintain their Medicaid eligibility. The importance of community health workers and providers in supporting people through the new Medicaid requirements is highlighted.

Time for Q & A was given.

Federal Block Grant Spending Plan Approval

Amanda Flatley presents the proposed block grant plan for 2026, highlighting small changes from the 2025 plan. The block grants primarily serve individuals who might be eligible for Medicaid but are not enrolled, high-needs populations, and individuals with immigration status barriers. The proposed changes include moving \$27,000 from Hero House to traditional healing services due to Hero House not needing the funds. The substance use block grant funds are moved to individual therapy for pregnant and parenting women and MIT treatment for tribal partners.

Time for Q & A was given.

The board approves the mental health and substance use block grant plans with the proposed changes.

Crisis Care Center Update

Idabelle Fosse provides an update on the crisis care center levy, focusing on the potential purchase of the Polyclinic building in Capitol Hill. The community has been engaged through 32 meetings and presentations, addressing concerns about site management, community commitments, and opening timelines. Support from community members and organizations like Indivisible has been noted, with a goal to open the site by 2027. The next community update meeting is scheduled for July 15, with sessions at 2 PM and 6 PM for public engagement. The process for purchasing the building and the timeline for renovations and opening are discussed, emphasizing the need for community feedback and support.



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Site Visit Plan for Crisis Care Center

It was discussed with the Board the new responsibility of the board to conduct a site visit of the crisis care center, specifically the Connections Kirkland facility, before the end of the year. Kathleen Murphy mentioned receiving an email with scheduled dates and plans to coordinate with Jasmeet Singh to streamline the process for the entire board. Board members were asked what they would like to gain from the site visit, emphasizing the need for value-added outcomes rather than just a visual inspection.

Public Comment and

- No public comments are made during the meeting.

Upcoming Agenda Topics

No agenda items are discussed. Nancy Dow and Jasmeet Singh thank everyone for attending and their feedback.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm