



## 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)

**August 4, 2025- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm**

**Meeting Attendees:** *Ann Gorman, Candace Hunsucker, Catherine Duchamp, Dan Floyd, David Sullivan, Erin Reinhart, Heather Venegas, Idabelle Fosse, Jasmeet Singh, Joe Vela, Kathleen Murphy, Katrina Plewinski, Kayla Hollimon, Kevin Host, Kristina Sawycky, Laura Van Tosh, Lyscha Marcynyszyn, Mark Cooke, Monica De Leon C., Mustafa Mohammed, Nancy Dow, Natalia Chacon, Rebecca Mendelsohn, 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 11:33 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 July 10, 2025.**

The board approved the July 10, 2025, meeting minutes. The July 10th Minutes were approved.

*Approved 9/4/2025*

*Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, BHRD Liaison to the Board*



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## **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 discusses the need for new board members, particularly from East and South King County. Reminder of the importance of incentive payments for board members and encourages them to submit a completed W9 form. Nancy Dow and Susan McLaughlin discuss the timeline for elections for new co-chairs and the importance of having nominations by mid-September. Jasmeet Singh mentions the possibility of moving the meeting time to accommodate board members' schedules.

## **Crisis Care Center Annual Report**

Kelly Tong, and Rebecca Mendelson, present the Crisis Care Center annual report, highlighting changes made to the report and additional context added. Susan, discusses the impact of Medicaid on the crisis care centers and the potential changes in Medicaid eligibility. David Sullivan, raises concerns about the financial impact of transport costs for involuntary commitments. CCC team explains the current process for billing and the challenges with Medicaid reimbursement.

Time for Q & A was given.

## **Approval of Crisis Care Center Annual Report**

Jasmeet Singh calls for a motion to approve the crisis care center annual report. The motion is approved by the board members present.

*Approved 9/4/2025*

*Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, BHRD Liaison to the Board*



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### **Planning for Site Visits to Crisis Care Centers**

Nancy Dow and Jasmeet Singh discuss the logistics and timing of site visits to the crisis care centers. It's suggested scheduling the site visit for late October or early November. An outline of the structure for the site visit, including presentations and tours.

### **DESC's Mobile Rapid Response Team Presentation**

#### **Katrina Plewinski and Kayla Holliman with DESC presented as part of the Mobile Rapid Response Crisis Teams (MRRCT) Provider Perspective section of the meeting.**

Katrina Polinski, introduces DESC's mobile rapid response crisis team and its operations. Highlights of the team's successes, including the number of dispatches and successful de-escalations where shared as well as the challenges faced by the team, including recruitment and housing instability. The importance of community partnerships and ongoing collaboration with other agencies.

- Katrina provided an overview of DESC
- Katrina compared how programming has changed as DESC transition from MCT to MRRCT
  - MRRCT has a more specific service area and all referral calls funnel through Crisis Connections
  - Post-crisis follow-up is now embedded within MRRCT, providing stronger client connections/hand-offs after a crisis
- Kayla explained DESC's MRRCT Team Approach
  - Teams of two, peer and mental health professionals or crisis outreach specialists; deploy out of Northgate and Central Seattle
- Highlighted successes including:
  - Strong partnerships with Crisis Connections, Sound, and King County



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- Responding to calls received on the DCR line that do not meet threshold to provide least restrictive alternative or refer up to DCRs, faster response times, dispatch system, implementing follow up services
- Highlighted some challenges:
  - Staff recruitment, particularly night shift and night shift supervisors, and filling mental health professional positions
  - Identifying placement options
  - Communication across partners
- Plans for the future:
  - Community engagements and education of 988/MRRCT
  - Become an endorse team in 2026
  - Colocation in DESC properties to further speed up response times
  - Continue process improvements
  - Strengthen follow up/client assistance services
  - Collaboration with existing crisis systems at the local city level
- Kevin Host: what is an endorse team?
  - MRRCT model is a larger state model and can become an endorse team through HCA by meeting staffing, types of service, and timeline requirements
  - Becoming an endorse team should help payment?

**Hana Hartsafer provided an update on the Behavioral Health State Tax (MIDD) Renewal**

*Approved 9/4/2025*

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- Presentation provided an overview on what the MIDD sales tax is and how it supports mental health and substance use treatment
- Current tax expires on Jan. 2026 but Exec. Braddock transmitted package to Council to extend the sales tax through Dec. 2034
- BHRD working on a new IP that will be transmitted in 2026 and begin in 2028
- Did a SME workgroup process to make recs to county, will keep doing this and keep adapting to federal context
- Have engaged ~2000 community members since May 2024 ([Phase One Community Engagement Report](#))
- Presented the extension and implementation planning process timeline including community engagement, SME workgroup sessions, writing the IP, etc.

### **Idabelle Fosse gave an update on the CCC Levy and associated community engagement work**

- New bus ads and bus wraps coming
- Go to [Crisis Care Centers Initiative - King County, Washington](#) for info on community meetings/events, to subscribe to the CCC newsletter, and to see other updates

### **Public Comments:**

- Laura Van Tosh shared that she hosted two online meetings on June on saving Medicaid. Asked if KC/BHAB has any resources for peers as Medicaid changes roll out

### **Jasmeet provided a recap on the meeting**

**Jasmeet requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:23. Lyscha made a motion and Nancy seconded.**

*Approved 9/4/2025*

*Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, BHRD Liaison to the Board*