



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)

September 4, 2025- 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Board Members: *David Sullivan, Jasmeet Singh, Kevin Host, Kristina Sawyckyj, Lyscha Marcynyszyn, Mustafa Mohammed, Nancy Dow, and Stacey Devenney.*

Guest: *Archie Levine, Asha Venkataraman, Brad Nonaka, Brendan Kennedy, Candace Hunsucker, Dea Degrate, Emily Johnson, Hana Hartsafer, Heather Venegas, Idabelle Fosse, Jamie Tugenberg, Johnny Bosquet, Julian Saucier, Kathleen Murphy, Kelly Tongg, Laura Smith, Mark Cooke, Monica De Leon C., Natalia Chacon, Rebecca Mendelsohn, Sabina Perry, Sarah Boye, Susan McLaughlin, and Taylor Jackson.*

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.

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

Board Business

Approval of the Minutes for August 4, 2025.

The board approved the August 4, 2025, meeting minutes. The August 4th Minutes were approved.

Prepared By: Monica De Leon C- Board Liaison

*BHAB Approved: 10/02/2025
Attested by: Kathleen Murphy, BHRD*



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Approval of the Minutes for January 2, 2025.

The board approved the correction on the date for the January 2, 2025, meeting minutes. January 2nd 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 discusses the need for new board members, particularly from East and South King County. Nancy Dow and Susan McLaughlin discuss the timeline for elections for new co-chairs and the importance of having nominations by mid-September. Sabina Perry introduces herself as a certified peer counselor, health coach at the Seattle VA Hospital, and social work student at the University of Washington. The board members ask questions and express support for Sabina's application. A motion is made and seconded to recommend Sabina Perry for membership on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board. The motion is approved by the board members.

MIDD Renewal Update

Laura Smith, Natalia Chacon, and Hannah Hart Safer provide an update on the MIDD renewal. The MIDD funding provides about 97 million annually to the King County Behavioral Health Fund. The MIDD Advisory Committee advises the county executive and council on the effective implementation of mid funds. The renewal process involves community engagement, legislative drafting, and subject matter expert work group engagement. The goal is to transmit the MIDD three implementation plan to the council in 2026. Highlights listed below:

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Community Engagement and Themes

- Natalia Chacon shares the results of the community engagement, including in-person, virtual, and online survey methods.
- The top six themes from the community engagement are identified: points of access, culturally relevant care, system fragmentation, services for children and youth, behavioral health workforce, and wraparound services.
- Hannah Hart Safer discusses the subject matter expert work groups and their findings.
- The work groups focused on substance use disorder youth mental health, transitions of care, behavioral health workforce, and equitable access to care.

Behavioral Health Workforce Investments

- Sarah Boy provides an overview of the behavioral health workforce investments.
- The goal is to stabilize and expand the community behavioral health workforce through recruitment, retention, advancement, and diversification.
- The crisis care centers levy and mid funding are the primary sources for these investments.
- Specific projects include community behavioral health career pathways, labor management workforce development partnerships, and crisis workforce development.
- The YMCA and Heritage University partnership for a free master's in mental health counseling program is highlighted.

Time for Q & A was given.

Crisis Care Services Update

Kelly Tong and Rebecca Mendelson provide an update on the crisis care services taking place in October. The board members will visit Connections Kirkland on October 17. Tips for the tour include keeping personal belongings in the car, signing in at the front desk, and being prepared for security measures. The

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tour will include a walk-through of the facility, including the urgent care unit, 23-hour observation unit, and crisis stabilization unit.

Crisis Care Levy Update

Idabelle Fossey provides an update on the Crisis Care Center Levy. The Kirkland Connections site will start urgent care for children and teens in the fall. The 911 and 988 diversion programs have been expanded to 24/7 mobile rapid response crisis teams. \$15 million has been awarded to behavioral health facilities for capital improvements, and \$12 million to community behavioral health providers for workforce bolstering. The annual report was released in August, and community presentations and events have been conducted to gather feedback and support for the crisis care centers.

Update on Lived Experience Engagement Work Plan

Jasmeet Singh introduces the agenda and mentions the lived experience engagement work plan. Kathleen Murphy provides an update on the lived experience engagement framework, co-created with behavioral health staff. The framework includes eight recommendations from peer advocates and was approved by the board in December 2024. The work group, including individuals with lived experience, has developed a work plan with specific action steps and target dates. See highlights below:

Phases of Implementation

- The first phase focuses on communication and education, aiming to improve two-way communication and provide best practices.
- The goal is to achieve this by July 2026, with future phases involving additional infrastructure and capacity building.
- Action steps include leveraging digital communication, increasing feedback loops, and conducting community conversations.
- The work group will establish a sub-group to develop best practices and secure funding for training materials.

Challenges and Solutions

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- The work group identified the need for a robust communication strategy and best practices training.
- Action steps include using digital platforms, feedback loops, and interpersonal communications.
- The group also discussed the need for a work group to develop best practices and secure funding for training materials.

Public Comments:

- Heather Venegas announces the Recovery Day at the Mariners event on September 14, 2025. The event will include a service fair, recovery rally, and activities at Occidental Square and the ballpark.

Jasmeet requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:33. Kristina made a motion and Nancy seconded.