



Members/ Designees: Co-Chair Judge Ketu Shah, Councilmember Kathy Lambert, Jeff Sakuma, Fartun Mohammed, Sunny Lovin, Victor Loo, Mario Paredes, Laura Merchant, Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke, Mayor Gary Harris, Barbara Miner, Christina Mason designee for Barbara Miner

Other Attendees: Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman, Robin Pfohman, Chelsea Walch, Halima Lozano, Kelli Nomura, Lisa Floyd, Marc Seligson, Isabel Jones, Karen Brady, Alex O'Reilly, Kapena Pflum, Ely Hernandez, Jorene Reiber, Sam Porter, Scott Miller, Barb Donahue, Heather Venegas, Judge Susan Mahoney, Anthony Austin, Barbie Young, Conor McKlitrack, Helena Stephens, Jennifer Wyatt, Laura Van Tosh, Megan Farwell, Adele Reynolds, Carol Van Noy, Chelsea Baylan, Chris Verschuyf, Glenda Coms, Jesse Benet, Rachelle Wright, Sabrina Jones, Shanna Clinton, Susan Schoeld, Tony Lockhart, Nikki Nguyen

Notes by: Chelsea Walch

| Issues | Discussion | Action Items: |
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| Welcome | Co-Chair Judge Ketu Shah began the meeting by greeting everyone and providing an overview of how to use Zoom features and meeting logistics for members and other participants. Co-Chair Judge Shah reminded everyone of the land acknowledgment discussion touched upon at the last meeting, and introduced Katherine Festa, of the King County Native American Leadership Council, to acknowledge the land and give an update on the plans that the King County Native American Leadership Council has been working on to address the issue. | |
| Land Acknowledgement and Discussion | <p>Katherine Festa, of the King County Native American Leadership Council, started with a traditional land acknowledgment of Native Americans. She went on to share that while other people may be just checking a box with the land acknowledgment, Native Americans feel a deep connection to the land and to the water. Katherine shared that the King County Native American Leadership Council working on a training so others can be trained on how to appropriately, and meaningfully, honor the land. She then shared a story about her First Nation mother, who lost her home, traditions, and her language at a young age, but ended up in Seattle and with help at 80 years old was able to eventually remember her language and traditions.</p> <p>Councilmember Kathy Lambert thanked Katherine Festa for bravely speaking up on this matter. Councilmember Lambert suggested people start talking about the Seventh Generation. She also touched upon people not respecting the land, mentioning that the Snoqualmie Tribe has put together a resolution on the land and there are some parts of that which are powerful and everybody in the County should know about.</p> | |
| Review/Approve Meeting Notes | Co-Chair Judge Shah gave everyone a moment to review the draft July meeting notes, if not done so already. There were suggested edits to the draft meeting notes by Laura Van Tosh with regard to correcting the name of the Peer Respite Initiative (inadvertently scribed as "Peer Recovery") and indicating that further information will be provided either at a subsequent meeting or a follow-up email to the list group. A minor spelling error was also pointed out. | |

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| | <p>With the revisions indicated, the July meeting notes were approved by consensus.</p> | |
| <p>Equity Grounding Moment</p> | <p>Co-Chair Judge Shah introduced the equity grounding moment and invited volunteers to share an equitable moment they experienced recently.</p> <p>Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman shared how the Department of Vocational Rehab looked at the work that he needed to do for himself and the community and helped him by purchasing a van that allows him to drive. Suamhirs discussed how this made him reflect on the amazing resources and opportunities available for people with disabilities, and how this works to bring equity into the community – to more than just one culture or religion or language spoken, but each individual person’s own needs and equipping them to be able to contribute and receive an equitable amount in the community.</p> <p>Robin Pfohman shared a moment that took place recently participating in a group within her division in the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), where they discussed rating themselves as an organization. Robin shared that what was interesting to her about the responses, was that the white faces in the room mostly rated DCHS higher as an anti-racist organization than the BIPOC in the room. Robin noted that as we think about the findings that will be shared at the September MIDD AC meeting (by a student who has been working with MIDD) on how the Committee members really consider equity, be mindful that people have different perspectives based on their experience in the world and are coming from different places which makes a difference in terms of how one answers those types of questions.</p> | |
| <p>Public Comment</p> | <p>Co-Chair Judge Shah invited anyone interested in public comment to sign up in the chat box.</p> <p>Laura Van Tosh made a public comment to remind everyone that House Bill 1477 passed and was signed by the Governor, establishing the new 988 program that provides crisis services and suicide prevention nationwide, and stressing the importance of keeping this in the thinking process going into next phase of MIDD and being sure to be inclusive of services that compliment that initiative. Laura mentioned the State Block Grant application currently up for comment until Friday, and to what degree the State Block Grant will compliment the 988 initiative and propose services that will be needed going forward. Laura commented that isolation and depression are very real right now, especially among those with behavioral health issues, and that is something to be thought about as initiatives are being considered for MIDD dollars. Basically making sure to think about and provide support across 988, isolation and depression, and Veterans issues. Lastly, Laura thanked Kelli Nomura for bringing together peers in King County and working closely with the peer community, including the BIPOC community, who are meeting monthly with her around issues that she’s bringing forward and opening to public comments.</p> | |

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| <p>MIDD Financial Report</p> | <p>Co-Chair Judge Shah introduced Scott Miller, King County Business and Finance Officer IV, to give an update on the financial report. Scott Miller briefly went over the July 2021 Financial Plan, with financials through July 31, 2021. He indicated that the new July 2021 OEFA forecast has been updated and is up \$17M from the March 2021 forecast. He stated that DCHS has completed the Second Omnibus budget submission to King County Executive’s Office. The budget proposal prioritizes economic adjustments, initiative restorations and one-time investments or expansion of existing initiatives.</p> <p>Scott Miller pointed out specific line items in the Financial Plan: Line 15 showing restorations of previously produced initiatives; Line 16 showing economic adjustments; Line 17 showing time-limited initiative expansions. Line 18 has \$2M slated for the behavioral health fund, this was to backfill for county general funds in behavioral health. The goal being to put back the MIDD dollars into the behavioral health fund and give back the general fund dollars. The second omnibus budget proposal includes \$7M in time-limited expenditures funded by one-time 2021 cost reductions and savings. Line 17, Expansions/Investments (Time-limited) adds to 2021 spending are not carried forward on a biennial basis, although some do extend into the following biennia on a limited basis. There is an added an expenditure reserve for funds carried forward on a limited basis.</p> <p>Scott Miller noted that the current budget proposal creates a 2023-2024 reserve shortfall. He stated that this shortfall will be addressed through the budget process. Currently, the budget proposal is with Performance Strategy and Budget for Executive review.</p> | |
| <p>Second Omnibus Submission and Presentation and Discussion</p> | <p>Robin Pfohman led the presentation and discussion regarding the Second Omnibus Submission proposal, in order to obtain the MIDD Advisory Committee members’ feedback and support, and address any concerns and/or issues.</p> <p>Providing background, Robin Pfohman reminded everyone the 2021-2022 adopted budget included close to \$19M in reductions to various MIDD strategies, an overall 13.5% cut to biennial budget. The March OEFA forecast improved revenue projections for MIDD by about \$12M over 2021-2022. The process to identify which reductions could potentially be brought back was started in response to that improved outlook. Robin reminded everyone of the list of survey questions the MIDD Steering Committee presented at the March meeting, which had members solicit input from their constituents in order to prioritize strategy areas and principles for buybacks. Robin did a review of the final strategy areas and principles that were prioritized.</p> <p>Robin Pfohman presented an additional principle for consideration which helped guide the Committee’s decisions considering the impact of COVID-19 on the behavioral health community: “Responds to the emerging behavioral health needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”</p> | |

Councilmember Kathy Lambert made a comment that the economic forecast is going to be done by the next day (8/27) at 9 a.m. She shared that it looks even better than they thought, and the Committee might want to make a “B List” in case there is more money. Councilmember Lambert also shared that she is glad to see that people are looking at equity and social justice, but sad to see the therapeutic courts got five votes because the therapeutic courts have done amazing things and without those courts, people in our communities won’t have what they need, which is an important issue to her. Robin Pfohman later responded to Councilmember Lambert regarding the therapeutic courts, stating that most of the therapeutic courts that were well-positioned to take in those dollars are included in being restored and getting that economic adjustment.

Robin Pfohman went on to share the “current picture”, in which the July OEFA forecasts improved the MIDD revenue forecasts by an additional \$17M for 2021-2022. With this revenue, it has been possible to restore the rainy day reserve, buyback all appropriate reductions beginning in 2022, and apply economic adjustments for all initiatives, effective 2022. After those three items are considered, there is still about \$15M available one-time funds remaining, but Robin clarified that they don’t know if this will be ongoing.

There are 16 initiatives that are being recommended for restoration for the total of \$3.4M. Those were all initiatives that were identified by the MIDD Strategy Leads as being in positions to take in additional money, but does not mean that other initiatives wouldn’t be considered to be restored in 2023-2024. There was a recommendation hold restorations on several initiative to see how things change over the next year. Robin shared that the economic adjustments applied for total of \$5.2M, representing 7.1% inflationary adjustment from 2020 to 2022. She explained that the reason that the inflationary adjustment is so high is that they considered the fact that MIDD initiatives did not get a 2021 inflationary adjustment and so the 2022 inflationary adjustment has been applied initiatives as if they had received an adjustment in 2021. Time-limited expansions and new investments are budgeted for a total of \$6.9M and expenditure reserve (time-limited investments) are budgeted for a total of \$9.2M.

Laura Merchant asked what the primary reason was not to restore the (approximately nine) other initiatives. Robin Pfohman responded that there is a slide to that effect at the end of the presentation.

Robin Pfohman presented an overview of some of the initiative proposals including: Time-Limited: Community Driven Behavioral Health (SI-01), Time-Limited: Zero Suicide (PRI-06), Time-Limited: Community-Based Treatment (PRI-11), Time-Limited: Adult Crisis Diversion Center, Respite Beds, and Mobile Behavioral Health Crisis (CD-06), Time-Limited: Multipronged Opioid Strategies (CD-07), On-going: Next Day Appointments (CD-10), Ongoing:

Regional Mental Health Court (TX-RMHC), New Time-Limited: Co-Responder Law Enforcement and Designated Crisis Responder Model.

In response to the “Time-Limited: Community Driven Behavioral Health (SI-01)” initiative proposal:

Councilmember Kathy Lambert asked if “upstream prevention services” includes obesity, high blood pressure a diabetes services, as those seem to be three services that are consistently put off. Robin Pfohman replied that it really depends on the communities determining what the need is in that particular community. She has seen the intersection around public health and chronic health conditions with behavioral health, but there needs to be a direct connection back to behavioral health in order for them to receive funding. Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman, the lead on this project, added that work is being done on this and the expansion will allow for the ability to make sure those services are not put off.

Kailey Fiedler-Gohlke commented that when speaking about equity and social justice, they need to be sure to speak about the LGBTIA+ communities too.

Laura Merchant asked a question as to whether the community-driven behavioral health funding would be primarily for BIPOC communities? Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman responded that the primary focus is the qualifications or eligibility to apply for the funding. There may be a small community-driven organization or coalition run by people of color, for people of color, and alongside by and for people of color. Addressing behavioral health using projects that are coming from the community-identified needs rather than from the tip down – created by the community and for the communities being served. Robin Pfohman added that this is an opportunity for the MIDD Advisory Committee to get a better sense of what non-traditional behavioral health services look like and that are not typically funded through Medicaid.

Laura Merchant asked what the strategy is for making these terms time-limited. Robin Pfohman responded that the real issue is that they don’t know how long these additional funds are going to be available or what the pattern will be for people going out and spending money, increasing the sales tax revenue, especially with factors such as the new Delta variant circulating in our communities.

In response to the “New Time-Limited: Co-Responder Law Enforcement and Designated Crisis Responder Model”:

Sunny Lovin asked if data supports that it is effective with good outcomes, could it be the sort of thing that becomes more of a permanent program rather than time-limited. Robin Pfohman answered yes, just because it is being proposed as time-limited now, does not mean it can’t be revisited. She acknowledged that there is formal process for new programming that allows time for members to be fully briefed on the new initiative.

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| | <p>Robin Pfohman provided an overview of the Behavioral Health Fund Transfer. The original 2021-2022 proposed budget included a \$15M transfer to the Behavioral Health Fund. After the COVID-19 revenue reductions, it was reduced by \$2M to \$13M. Now that the revenue forecast has recovered, the County wants to restore the MIDD transfer to Behavioral Health from \$13M to \$15M to allow for \$2M of General Fund to be returned.</p> <p>In response to the “Ongoing: Regional Mental Health Court (TX-RMHC)” initiative, Councilmember Kathy Lambert asked a question: if the funding for community court is \$140,000 total - is that split into \$70,000 each for City of Seattle and King County, or is that \$140,000 each for a total of \$280,000? Robin Pfohman acknowledged that she does not know the answer, but Scott Miller could probably address that later, so that is something to note and get back to.</p> <p>Robin Pfohman reviewed the nine initiatives that were NOT recommended for restoration in 2022: Housing Capital and Rental (capital only) (RR-03); Behavioral Health Risk Assessment Tool Adult Detention (RR-07); Crisis Intervention Training for First Responders (PRI-08); Youth Detention Behavioral Health Engagement (CD-02); Outreach and In Reach System of Care (CD-03); Wraparound Services for Youth (CD-15); Young Adult Crisis Stabilization (CD-17); Workforce Development (SI-04); Juvenile Therapeutic Response and Accountability Court - Behavioral Health Response (TX-JTRAC-BH R)</p> <p>Councilmember Kathy Lambert commented that there are a lot of good, experienced employees such as Juvenile Probation Counselors (JPC) that need to know they are appreciated and wanted because there is concern about that. She stated that if employees such as the JPCs were treated better, finding qualified staff shouldn’t be a problem. Councilmember Lambert also indicated her concern that King County is paying for a lot that the school districts should be paying for, in terms of youth wraparound services. She states that it would help to be clear with the schools, that it’s their responsibility and needs to be in the appropriate “pasta” account.</p> <p>Mario Paredes asked a question regarding whether the 2% that outpatient mental health agencies provide services to non-Medicaid clients (basically refugees and immigrants) will be restored or not. Robin Pfohman answered that it will absolutely be restored, and all of the initiatives that did have a reduction for 2021 will be restored with a 7.1% inflationary adjustment on top of that.</p> <p>Co-Chair Judge Shah reviewed the submission timeline for the Second Omnibus: there is a review period with the Executive until September 24, with final decisions hopefully be made internally around September 10, and the end of September will be when the Executive will transmit the budget</p> | <p>Robin Pfohman will touch base with Scott Miller to answer to Councilmember Kathy Lambert’s question re: the way the funding amount for community courts is split in the Regional Mental Health Court (TX-RMHC) initiative</p> |
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| | <p>to the King County Council for consideration and eventual approval sometime in November.</p> <p>Kelli Nomura expressed her thanks and gratitude to Robin Pfohman, the MIDD Team, as well as the DCHS Behavioral Health and Fiscal Teams for all their hard work and steps taken to address the revenue increase and challenges that come with that.</p> <p>Helena Stephens asked if there is a timeline as for how agencies will be able to work with the changes proposed and when/if agencies have been notified about these proposed changes, or will they have to wait until it goes until the King County Council. Robin Pfohman responded that they will be working with the MIDD Strategy Leads to make sure they're connecting with their contracted agencies and giving them a sense these changes are a possibility but won't be final until approved by County Council.</p> <p>Robin Pfohman asked for a consensus process for the record due to the number of items presented and to clarify support from the MIDD Advisory Committee, making sure to address any issues that people are concerned about prior to finalizing and submitting the proposal. Robin reminded everyone to be mindful that the reason that such detail was gone into at today's meeting is they are not following the normal change form process.</p> <p>Co-Chair Judge Shah then asked if any members wish to express concern or objection to what has been presented and will be delivered to the Executive and then ultimately the County Council. It was agreed by consensus that all members have been informed and are generally supportive of the Second Omnibus proposal made by DCHS' Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD), to the Executive.</p> | |
| Agenda Items for September Meeting | Please email Robin Pfohman with any desired agenda items for the September meeting. | |
| Adjourned | 1:30 PM | |
| Next meeting | Thursday, September 23, 2021, 12:00-1:30 p.m., Zoom | |