



**Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date/Time/Location: January 9th, 2023 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In-Person at 509 Girard St, Creekside Conference Room / Virtual Zoom Webinar

Members Present: Dave Reynolds, Wendy Jones, Barry Buchanan, Dac Jamison, Nick Evans, Erika Lautenbach (left early) & Michael Massanari (joined late)

Members Absent: Bill Elfo & Mullane Harrington

Health Depart Staff/Guests: Joe Fuller, Perry Mowery, Malora Christensen, Ann Beck & Riley Myers

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<p>1. Welcome, Roll Call, Meeting Instructions, Review and Approval of Minutes</p>	<p>The meeting was called to order. A quorum was present. Dac and Barry moved to approve the October 2022 minutes as presented. Nick seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed.</p>	<p>Dac Jamison</p> <p>Vote to approve minutes: Ayes 6, Nays 0</p>
<p>2. The role of the BHAC Committee</p>	<p>Four strategic priorities in the 2023 strategic five-year plan. They are community partnerships and engagement, organizational infrastructure, workforce development and quality management. Plan to change the Health Department to Health and Community Services starting next month. There is a Behavioral Health component to the Healthy Children Fund. Beginning the implementation plan. Priorities are supporting vulnerable children and families with housing and behavioral health services as well as early learning and care. Working to align and coordinate work plans for boards and commissions. Looking at a plan on how we can spend down some of the Behavioral Health Fund reserves and work with BHAC to see how we think strategically. Providing support and technical assistance for the jail and behavioral health ballot measure. Conducting a vulnerability assessment of those most impacted by climate change. Developing a new Health Department equity plan. Implementing a new permitting system for Environmental Health. In the process of implementing EPIC for the Health Department. Going to hire a</p>	<p>Erika Lautenbach</p>

	<p>policy position, an equity position, an evaluation position and a workforce development position through state foundational health funding. Launched the Alternate Response Team. Lots of work around workforce development and leadership development, mentoring, paid internships and other programs. For quality management, really working to develop our data systems, publish our first annual report, reaccredited process to complete this year, drafting our 2024 Community Health Assessment. Concern has arisen that the experience of our volunteers on boards and commissions can be inconsistent. We want people to create value and have good honest dialogues and action oriented agendas. We have started a Hub & Spoke model, PHAD can create some structure around aligning all the boards and commissions. We want to make sure they're all communicating better about shared priorities and how they can support each other. Asked Chris Phillips to meet and debrief about his time on the BHAC committee. He's been asked to be a consultant and help work through some issues and use his expertise to make this work better.</p>	
<p>3. Whatcom County Justice Project</p>	<p>The Justice Project was created after the 2017 Correctional Facility Initiative failed. In 2018, the committee went out into the county and held a listening tour and asked people about the ballot initiative. They decided to form a stakeholder advisory committee that's job would be to create a needs assessment that had a lot of local influence. Lots of the work was done in 2019 and then 2020 hit and things were put on hold because of COVID, and then restarted in 2021. Want to look at the Criminal Justice world and the Behavioral Health world. Lots of cross communication between the taskforce and the stakeholder advisory committee. The last meeting is at the end of January, then everything will be reviewed by the taskforce and then go to County Council for approval. One of the teams formed was BHGAT.</p> <p>In an earlier meeting we had a presentation on the Sequential Intercept Model. Broken into three tiers - programs in place, programs in place but have resource shortages, programs that are recommended but not currently in existence. Within the tiers we reviewed programs that were a priority for our community. There's some great documentation that occurred relative to this justice project that can be found on the county website. The revised needs and recommendations put together by the stakeholder advisory committee are divided into three arenas - systems needs and recommendations, services needs and recommendations and facilities needs and recommendations. BHASO has just completed a needs assessment for the North Sound Region relative to inpatient beds, outpatient beds, mental health and substance use disorders. Recommendations were to explore and develop 24/7 real health urgent care capacity in the community, short term 23 hour or less mental health and SUD services, building a secure detox facility in the region close to the jail, work closely with the criminal legal system stakeholders to select locations for the facility.</p>	<p>Barry Buchanan & Perry Mowery</p>

4. Behavioral Health Fund & Housing Supports	<p>Discovered that we haven't been funding some permanent support housing programs at the level they need to be to actual provide the support they need to. 2023 housing program funds, 13 funding sources, \$13 million budget, braided funding, BH fund is 11% of budget. Were able to use state and federal dollars during COVID and cut back on Behavioral Health dollars. With those COVID dollars going away, looked at pulling behavioral dollars back in and increasing the amount because everything costs more. 2023 BH budget is looking to fund Francis Place, 22 North, Scattered Site PSH, City Gate Apartments, Sun House and Access ID. Total housing BH fund is \$1,447,107 (11% of budget) and most of it goes to salaries for employees who help keep programs and services going. There are still more services needed that aren't able to be provided. PITA model, prevention (30%), Intervention (19%), treatment (29%) and aftercare (22%). PSH and lots of support fall into the aftercare category of the PITA model. Looking at adding BH clinicians to Opportunity Council and Lydia Place, which don't currently have the budget for these support people. Biggest challenges are workforce shortage. You can make a lot more money going into private practice, so you really need to want to work with these folks and do this work. Currently looking at how to make this work more appealing and try to grow people up from within. Having more money budgeted will give more options to start building support.</p>	<p>Ann Beck</p>
5. Elections for New Chair	<p>Dac Jamison is the current committee chair and will complete his second term as a BHAC member at the end of January. Nick is willing to step in as chair. Dac nominated Nick as chair and Barry seconded the nomination. The committee voted and the motion passed.</p>	<p>Dac Jamison</p> <p>Vote to approve Nick as chair: Ayes 6, Nays 0</p>
6. Public Comment	<p>Perry and Barry thanked Dac for his time on the board and his help to improve the community.</p>	<p>Dac Jamison</p>
Next Meeting:	<p style="text-align: center;">April 10th, 2023 3:00pm-4:30pm Hybrid – In Person at 800 E Chestnut St, Suite 1B Conference Room / Virtual Zoom Webinar</p>	