



Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC) Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: April 10th, 2023, 3:00pm-4:30pm, Hybrid – Zoom & In-Person at 800 E Chestnut St, Suite 1B

Committee Members Present: Erika Creydt, Wendy Jones, Nick Evans, Shannon Boustead, Michael Massanari, Erika Lautenbach & Dave Reynolds (joined late)

Committee Members Absent: Bill Elfo, Mullane Harrington, Barry Buchanan & Stephen Gockley

Whatcom Co. Health Dept. Staff/Guests: Perry Mowery, Joe Fuller, Jon Dukes, Malora Christensen & Riley Myers

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<p>1. Welcome & Roll Call, Review and approval of minutes</p>	<p>All of the BHAC members and staff introduced themselves. Michael asked a question about an email sent to him about services that fall under behavioral health, specifically drug court. Perry wasn't familiar with the email, but explained the overview of drug court (now recovery court). Michael will forward the email to Perry. Michael is specifically concerned about accountability and whether or not they are achieving goals according to evidence-based practices, also what is everyone as citizens of this county purchasing with the money being invested in this service? Erika L. spoke about how this relates to BHAC in the behavioral health fund administration and selection of projects and funding, currently four meetings a year is not the level of engagement for meaningful and thoughtful deliberation about the fund, about its performance, prioritization of projects, how to use reserves. Struggled with how we create value for our board members. Perry will work to have the Recovery Court Manager share in a future meeting. Nick would like to figure out the purpose of this community and see how we can be helpful and actually do something instead of just hearing information.</p> <p>The meeting was called to order. A quorum was present. Wendy moved to approve the January 2023 meeting minutes as presented and</p>	<p>Perry Mowery & Nick Evans</p> <p>Vote to approve minutes: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Abstain 1</p>



	Michael seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed.	
2. Behavioral Health Advisory Committee getting connected	Need to figure out what is needed for this group to understand the vision and make sure that there is a shared understanding of the charter and the fund, and to make sure everyone is fulfilling their role as advisors. Excited to reframe the process and hope this is a new beginning for this group.	Nick Evans
3. BHAC 2023	Initiated in 2015, 1/10 of 1% taxation was approved for providing behavioral health services in the community. The Health Department is responsible for administering the fund under the authority of the Execs Office, which lead to the creation of the BHAC to seek community input. PITA – Prevention, Intervention, Treatment & Aftercare. The thought process was that funding would be distributed evenly over each part. Annual report gives a brief overview of the funds/expenditures relative to PITA. Goes over the different programs that are funded and the number of people served. There are over 40 contracts that are receiving services in the county. The current challenge is how to provide the extensive information to BHAC members so the group is informed in a way that they can offer advice. One way to do this is to provide information that is being developed in different projects in the community to BHAC members in-between meetings. One example is the Justice Project, related to the jail and the work done on it. Working on identifying needs and gaps in the community. Percival report, needs assessment for our entire region, data shows where we are lacking, projection into 2027. The hope is that providing this reference would allow the BHAC members to digest the information, come to their own conclusions on projects and gaps/needs, and bring that to the next meeting where the members could identify the top 3-5 needs/gaps in the community and put out as their priorities. Erika C. asked when the needs assessment would be sent out. Perry will send them out tomorrow. Michael pointed out that	Perry Mowery & Malora Christensen



	<p>one of the original purposes of the fund was to fund experimental or new idea projects and that’s been lost over time. This brings us to issue of evaluating the contracts periodically and looking at how affective the funding is. Complimented Joe Fuller’s programs, but concerned about not seeing reports on the other programs that receive funding. Perry shared that there are 40-45 programs that are at least partially funded by the behavior health funds, and he thinks it would be a good idea to invite some of the programs to these meetings in the future to share, will also look back at the piece about innovative practice. Erika L. shared that they will be hiring for an evaluation, a policy, and an equity position that will help with this issue. Wendy shared history of funding in the jail, since people come into the jail and they may have substance issues and/or mental health issues and these people aren’t being treated in the community but they are in the jail, then there needs to be money from the behavioral health sales tax to pay for it. Also shared that they have a requirement under their accreditation to report on numbers of people who are seen and what happens. Perry would like BHAC members to review the meeting materials after this meeting and come up with 3-5 priorities they can bring back to the committee to discuss. Erika C. asked about the history of how Joe’s data and how it has been used in conjunction with the need’s assessment. Joe explained that they contract with all school districts, collect a lot of data and tie it back to the Healthy Use Survey, put out a 6-7-page report on an annual basis. Erika L. suggested that Perry share the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) with everyone.</p>	
<p>4. Behavioral Health Program Fund</p>	<p>The Health BO book of contracts in 2022 has just closed. Will pull numbers on individuals who received services for the individual contracts. Hope to have the report ready by the July 2023 meeting. Encourages everyone to check out the BHAC page on the county website to look at the annual reporting that is there from prior years.</p>	<p>Perry Mowery</p>



<p>5. Alternative Response Team and Co-Responder Programs</p>	<p>The Alternative Response Team (ART) just celebrated three months, and the Co-Responder program is in a soft opening with the Sheriff’s Office. ART is an alternate law enforcement response for low risk and low acuity calls. Currently running M-Th, 8:30am-5:30am, but will start seven days a week in May. There are two teams that consist of one Public Health Nurse and one Behavioral Health Specialist. Calls come from 911 where there is an imbedded Mental Health Professional that forwards calls to the Community Connector that will screen the call and then refer to a response team in the community, including ART and others. The Co-Responder program consists of two Behavioral Health Specialists that partner with the Sheriff’s Office and their Behavioral Health Deputies. Currently running M-F, 8:00am-5:00pm. Both programs are not long-term case management, they are there to get in, de-escalate, and refer to other services. The ART team has been able to have great response times since most calls are for downtown and they’re currently housed downtown. Everyone has the ability to use law enforcements computer program (CAD) to view history and see what’s happening real time. The team has also gone through extensive safety training. Key partnerships with Whatcomm/911, Compass Health, Pioneer Human Services, WCSO, and BPD.</p>	<p>Jon Dukes</p>
<p>6. Public Comment, Reading & Reference Materials, Adjournment</p>	<p>No public comment. Nick asked for any additional questions or comments. Joe share that the WA state Tribal opioid summit is coming up at the Silver Reef in May. The Regional 10 will be in July. Possible dates for a local event in Whatcom County tbd.</p> <p>Meeting adjourned.</p>	<p>Riley Myers & Nick Evans</p>
<p>Next Meeting:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">July 10th, 2023 3:00pm-4:30pm Hybrid – In Person at 800 E Chestnut St, Suite 1B / Virtual via Zoom</p>	