



Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: July 12, 2021 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Webinar

Members Present: Dac Jamison, Dave Reynolds, Chris Phillips, Mullane Harrington, Wendy Jones, Nick Evans, Todd Donovan, Michael Massanari, Anne Deacon

Members Absent: Susan Wood, Bill Elfo

Health Depart Staff/Guests: Jackie Mitchell, Health Department Program Specialist; Ashley Geleynse, Health Department Coordinator; Joe Fuller, Health Department Program Specialist; Perry Mowery, Health Department Supervisor; Ann Beck, Health Department Supervisor; Robin Willins, Health Department MHC Manager

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements	The meeting was called to order. A quorum was present.	Chris
2. Approve Minutes of April 2021	Anne Deacon moved to approve the April 2021 minutes as presented. Wendy Jones seconded the motion. Todd Donovan and Michael Massanari were not present for the vote. The committee voted unanimously and the motion passed.	Vote to approve minutes: Ayes 6, Nays 0, Abstain 0
3. 2020 Annual Report & Fund Balance	Anne reviewed the 2020 Annual Behavioral Health Fund Report with the committee. The report was presented to County Council last month as required by County Code. The report outlines the number of people served by the Behavioral Health Fund dollars, as well as a financial statement which breaks down the fund's revenues and expenditures. The County collected more sales tax during the pandemic than was originally thought, and the total amount of revenues exceeded the total amount of expenditures. There is currently a fund balance of around \$5M.	Anne
4. Advisory Board Self Evaluation	When this committee was formed, committee membership was heavily weighted with county employees because there were a number of departments with interest in supporting programs funded by the behavioral	Chris



	<p>health fund. With programs in place, Anne asked whether the committee needed as many county positions, or if the make-up of the committee should include more citizen advisors. The committee discussed member representation on the board.</p> <p>Chris Phillips volunteered to draft a brief survey to reflect on committee composition and the effectiveness of each of the areas of responsibility of the committee. Chris will work with County staff to distribute the survey to members. Chris suggested to take results of the survey and bring them back for further conversation. There were no objections from committee members</p> <p>Wendy suggested that the committee should start looking into the long-range effects of Trueblood decision.</p>	
<p>5. One Tenth of 1% New Sales Tax Plan</p>	<p>County Council increased local sales tax by one tenth of one percent for affordable housing and housing-related and behavioral health services. About \$5M per year, will be brought into the County however the City of Bellingham also implemented the tax, which means that an estimated \$3M of that \$5M will go to the City of Bellingham. 60% minimum must be used for the development of affordable housing for people at or below 60% of the Area Median Income, and the construction of behavioral health facilities. Up to 40% can be used for housing-related and behavioral health services. Per County Code, the Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) has advisory oversight of this new fund, but the code also directs the HAC to work in concert with this committee when advising on this fund.</p> <p>Anne shared two ideas for how the 40% portion of the new sales tax could be used (approximately \$600k per year), and sought feedback from the committee. The committee discussed housing case management, and a new alternative response team as two options for how the funds could be used.</p>	<p>Anne</p>
<p>6. BH Crisis Service System Planning</p>	<p>Community stakeholders have been meeting to design and plan a new alternative response team (ART), which would be made up of an Emergency Medical Technician, and a Behavioral Health Professional. The team would be sent out into the community by dispatch. The planning and design team is currently working on collecting data to help inform dispatch on how to assess for when this team can be safely sent out on a call.</p> <p>The legislature passed House Bill 1310 which goes into effect July 25th. The new law severely restricts Law Enforcement response in the community. Law Enforcement can respond only when a crime is being committed, or when there is imminent harm to self or others. The committee discussed the issues this law has caused, two of which are that Law Enforcement no longer responds to welfare checks, and Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Anne</p>

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Health Department



Erika Lautenbach, Director
Greg Stern, M.D., Health Officer

	does not respond when a custody authorization is issued by a Designated Crisis Responder. Todd agreed to bring this issue back to County Council.	
7. Anne's Last Meeting	This is Anne's last meeting on the committee before she retires. The committee acknowledged the many accomplishments of the committee and County Human Services while Anne has been manager. The County is in the recruitment stage for filling Anne's position.	Chris
8. Public Comment	Perry Mowery introduced Robin Willins, the new Mental Health Court Manager at the Health Department. There was no other public comment.	Chris
Next Meeting:	October 11, 2021 3:30-5:00 Virtual GoToMeeting	

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