



Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: July 29, 2019 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Whatcom County Courthouse Room 514, 311 Grand Ave, Bellingham

Members Present: Wendy Jones, Dave Reynolds, Regina Delahunt, Dascomb Jamison, Michael Massanari, Chris Phillips, Joshua Peterson, Rachel Lucy

Members Absent: Bill Elfo, Barbara Brenner, Susan Wood

Health Depart Staff/Guests: Anne Deacon, Health Department Human Services Manager; Jackie Mitchell, Health Department BH Program Specialist Samantha Murdoch, Health Department Coordinator; Joe Fuller, Health Department Program Specialist; Rebecca Snearly, Health Department Program Specialist;

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements	Members state names and positions. North Sounds Behavioral Health - Administrative Services Office (NS-ASO) Advisory Board has two positions open. A summary of the advisory board will be distributed.	Chris/Jackie
2. Approve Minutes of April 2019	Regina Delahunt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Michael Massanari seconded the motion. A vote was conducted with all present members voting in favor. The motion passed	Vote to approve minutes: Ayes 8, Nays 0, Abstain 0
3. Behavioral Health Annual	The Behavioral Health Annual Report is a requirement of the ordinance which regulates the Committee. As indicated in the memo the Annual Report captures how	Jackie





Report	the funds are spent for both the public and the Committee. The report has been presented to council. It was suggested that the future reports offer a comparison of overall costs as to what this particular fund paid versus other funds.	
	Direct Program Support costs will increase in the future because the Behavioral Health Organization (now NS-ASO)) supplemented these services for us in the past. Beginning this next year, more funds will be needed from local sales tax since the NS-ASO has less state funding overall, and has taken on greatly reduced services as a result. The Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) which currently manage Medicaid funds and services are focused on their own contractual needs. The transition has created difficulties in the community for services.	Jackie
4. BHAC Dashboard Proposal	The proposal generated directs the Committee to specific focus areas. The desire is for this group to “connect the dots” and learn what is happening with other groups working on behavioral health issues. We hope to collect measures from the community and then provide a dashboard of results to review on a regular basis. One area of focus that was suggested was access to behavioral health services.	Chris
5. Youth Mental Health and Resilience	A presentation on data from the Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) was provided. Joe discussed the latest data and the intersection of resilience measures with problem focused measures. After seeing these results, how do we ensure resilience before kids and families are in crisis?	Joe
6. Crisis Stabilization Facility and Behavioral Health Organization Update	<p>The County Executive waited to proceed with construction of the Crisis Stabilization Facility (CSF) due to operational funding issues. Operational funding was secured for the next two years, (\$500,000 each year) from the state legislature to help cover cost of services for non-Medicaid clients. The facility “Request for Proposals” is currently out for bid to secure a construction company. There will be two programs at the facility with separate services (withdrawal management and mental health stabilization), each with 16 beds.</p> <p>Legislation that was passed, provided us with the \$1M and a requirement that the MCO’s work with the Health Care Authority (HCA) to identify payment models that reflect the unique needs of the patient populations. HCA must submit a report</p>	Anne





	<p>estimating the gap for non-Medicaid funding. This is critical, since many of similar facilities are being built across the state and operational funding is a complication in the transition from the BHO to the MCO's. The Association of County Human Services (ACHS) is working with the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) to put together a legislature priority to increase the amount of funds for non-Medicaid services. A survey will be coming out soon to gather your input.</p>	
	<p>There was a report to the NS-ASO advisory group that, in the last 90 days, there were 775 non-Medicaid individuals served in Whatcom County. Services provided at the CSF are considered discretionary, which complicates payment opportunities. In addition, we have already had requests from providers in Whatcom County for financial assistance with their non-Medicaid populations. An example, is that people from Western State Hospital were released, and now the funding is not available for their transition services.</p> <p>At the next meeting we will discuss the issues and access issues associated with the transition from the BHO to the MCOs.</p> <p>We reported previously about a private entity that wanted to build a 70 bed psychiatric hospital, which would have tainted plans for our CSF and further negatively impacted the workforce in the community. The facility application was denied due to quality of care, workforce, and financial issues.</p> <p>Update on GRACE: The program is fully staffed as of September 1 and out of 120 members in the program 26 have graduated. We've seen a decrease in emergency services of 81.26% of participants.</p>	<p>Anne</p>
<p>8. Public Comment</p>	<p>None</p>	





Next Meeting:	October 28th, 2019, 3:30-5:00 311 Grand Avenue Whatcom County Courthouse Room 514 Bellingham, WA	
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