



Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time/Location: October 11, 2021 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Webinar

Members Present: Wendy Jones, Dave Reynolds, Todd Donovan, Dac Jamison, Michael Massanari, Chris Phillips, Susan Wood, Mullane Harrington, Erika Lautenbach

Members Absent: Bill Elfo

Health Depart Staff/Guests: Jackie Mitchell, Health Department Program Specialist; Ashley Geleynse, Health Department Coordinator; Joe Fuller, Health Department Program Specialist; Katie Stanford, Health Department Program Specialist; Perry Mowery, 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 July 2021	Michael moved to approve the July 2021 minutes as presented. Dac seconded the motion. The committee voted unanimously and the motion passed. Mullane Harrington and Erika Lautenbach were not present for the vote.	Vote to approve minutes: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstain 0
3. Behavioral Health Workforce	Katie presented the behavioral health section of the COVID-19 Community Health Impact Assessment. The committee asked questions and discussed the workforce issues in Whatcom County, of which wages, Medicaid reimbursement rates being low, severity of mental health disorder being high, and COVID-19 factors were identified as the most determining factors contributing to the issue. Jackie talked about different ways the workforce issue is being addressed regionally and statewide, and asked if there were recommendations about how the county should use Behavioral Health funds, if any, given the ongoing need for services to address the local workforce issue. There is \$44M coming into the county from the American Rescue Plan Act and another \$6M unrestricted CARES funds. The committee discussed ideas that could	Katie Jackie

WHATCOM COUNTY
Health Department



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

	help mitigate the issue locally, including utilizing public funding going toward hiring bonuses, higher wages, and loan forgiveness.	
4. Engaging Support Connections for Youth in Schools	Joe presented the annual school behavioral health school services report for 2020. The county has been contracting with all seven school districts in Whatcom County since the behavioral health sales tax was passed in 2008. Joe described changes in the past year due to COVID-19 compared to previous years. Joe also shared some results from the COVID student survey that was administered in March 2021. This was the first data received in approximately three years since the Healthy Youth Survey was not administered to students during the pandemic.	Joe
5. Human Services Manager Position	The Health Department has been recruiting for the open Human Services Manager position since last December. The Department is currently working with a national recruitment firm specializing in human services to help fill the position. The committee will be kept apprised of the process once the Department has some candidates to consider.	Erika
6. BHAC Self-Assessment	Chris shared a draft of a committee self-assessment survey based on the committee's charter. The purpose of the assessment is to presumably improve how the committee is functioning. There was a general consensus from the committee about completing the assessment as presented. A survey along with the committee charter will be distributed to the committee, and results discussed at a future meeting.	Chris
7. Public Comment	There was no public comment.	Chris
Next Meeting:	January 10, 2022 3:30-5:00 Virtual	