



King County

Behavioral Health and Recovery Division

Department of
Community and Human Services

CNK-HS-0400

Chinook Building

401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 400

Seattle, WA 98104

206-263-9000

206-296-0583 Fax (Reception)

206-205-1634 Fax (Clinical Services)

7-1-1 TTY/TDD

King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Regular Meeting March 4, 2021

Members Present: Kristin Houser, Kathy Obermeyer, Nancy Dow, Orisade Awodola

Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) Staff Present: Kelli Nomura, Isabel Jones, Alissa Latimer

Guests: Ben Goertz, Candace Hunsucker, Dr. Katrina Sandford, Carolyn Graye, Preston Anderson, Sgt. Corey Williams, Heather Venegas, Laura Van Tosh

I. Welcome & Introductions

Kristin Houser convened the meeting at 11:30 AM via Zoom. Members were welcomed and introductions were made. After a brief overview of the agenda, some items were rearranged to accommodate board members who were unable to join at the start of the meeting. Kelli Nomura announced that the current board liaison, Jada Glaspie, has accepted a new position with the county and will no longer be providing administrative support to the board. The hiring process to fill this vacancy is underway.

II. Recruitment Update

Kelli Nomura shared that we have three candidates for the board that have submitted their application materials. These applications are currently with the King County Executive Office for review. Kristin Houser asked if we had heard anything about the delays we are currently facing in the appointment process, and Kelli indicated that this is an issue that all of King County's boards are experiencing at this time due to the ongoing stay-at-home order. Kelli thanked our candidates for their patience during this process and our board members for their commitment during this time.

III. Bylaw Edits

The bylaws of the board are reviewed on an annual basis. As a part of this review process, edits were made last month and distributed to the board. There have been some changes

to the Behavioral Health and Recovery Division as an organization, and language in the bylaws was updated to reflect this.

The Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee is in the process of reviewing the bylaws and will provide suggestions to update the language and ensure that it reflects the mission and values of the board as it grows.

The board is required to vote on issues in person, but this has not been possible over the past year. The bylaws will be updated to include any language approved by the Executive's Office addressing this issue.

Board members requested clarity around which items must be kept in the bylaws and what items can be changed. If possible, the board would like to update the section on standing committees to more accurately reflect the current standards used by the board to determine the need for subcommittees. Community members are welcome to join subcommittees.

IV. Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee Discussion

Orisade Awodola and Kathy Obermeyer shared updates about the recent discussions they have had as a subcommittee. They would like to bring forward trainings and presentations for Board Members, and the possibility of scheduling a virtual board retreat to make time for these trainings was discussed. The Subcommittee would like to talk about ways that we can make mental health services more accessible in the community.

V. Legislative Session Update

Isabel Jones gave an update on the current legislative session, and which bills are potentially moving forward in this session. Some of the bills that are being tracked have not made it through this session, but it often takes more than one attempt for a bill to pass. Some of the bills discussed were as follows:

- HB 1477 intends to establish a statewide coordinated crisis hotline center and crisis services system and has passed out of the review committee.
- SB 5304 and HB 1348 address issues created by the loss of coverage currently experienced by individuals who are incarcerated or committed
- HB 1086 intends to replace regional Ombuds offices with a State Office

Please see the Legislative Bill Tracker provided by Isabel for further details.

VI. Public Comment

Laura Van Tosh asked about current programs that are bringing the COVID-19 vaccine to people experiencing housing instability and if the department is using this opportunity to connect people with other services. Kelli shared that the Department of Community and Human Services is now running two of the County's vaccinations sites and has created a new team to help address these needs.