



**Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD)  
Oversight Committee (OC)  
December 2, 2010  
11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. networking lunch  
12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.  
King County Chinook Building Rooms 121 & 123  
Meeting Notes**

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**Members:**

Claudia Balducci, Linda Brown, Kelli Carroll, designee for Councilmember Bob Ferguson, Councilmember John Chelminiak, Catherine Cornwall, Merrill Cousin, Jaime Garcia, Shirley Havenga, Mike Heinisch, V. David Hocraffer, Dennis Higgins, designee for Dwight Thompson, Darcy Jaffe, Norman Johnson, Bruce Knutson, Judge Barbara Linde, Jackie MacLean, Leesa Manion, designee for Dan Satterberg, Ann McGettigan, Karen Murray, designee for Donald Madsen, Alan Painter, designee for Rhonda Berry, Mary Ellen Stone, Dorothy Teeter, designee for David Fleming

**Other Attendees:**

Sherry Axson, John Bruels, Eric Bruns, Curtis Dennis, Beth Hammonds, Tamara Johnson, Lisa Kimmerly, Andrea LaFazia, Brandon Miles, Alex O'Reilly, Peggy Papsdorf, Mary Paterson, Lonnie Ploegman, Nelson Rascon, Jean Robertson, Evey Rund, Makayelah Rund, Amnon Shoenfeld, Laurie Sylla, Steve Williams

- 1. Welcome and Introductions, Co-Chair Linde~**  
Co-Chair Linde called the meeting to order, welcoming committee members and the non-committee members of the public. The public comment period will be near the end of today's meeting.
- 2. Approval of the Meeting Notes from the October 28, 2010 Meeting, Co-Chair Linde~**  
Before today's meeting, notes from the October 28, 2010, meeting were distributed electronically for committee members to review; limited paper copies were available, in an effort to save paper and reduce costs. Co-chair Linde asked if there were any further comments on the meeting notes. Meeting notes were approved by consensus.
- 3. MIDD Staff Report, Andrea LaFazia~**  
Andrea provided the following updates in her staff report: included in the handouts is a letter from the Child Death Review Team thanking the MIDD OC for MIDD-funded training in suicide prevention training. Andrea reminded the committee that this training (part of MIDD strategy 4c) is available free of charge through 2011. The Youth Suicide Prevention Project offers regular trainings throughout King County.

Family Treatment Court (FTC): the 2011 budget includes a proviso requiring the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) to work collaboratively with other groups to submit a report on the FTC to the King County Council. Andrea will work with Bruce Knutson and FTC to identify appropriate groups to participate in this report, including the superior court, defender agencies, and council staff. Participating OC members/designees are Bruce, David Hocraffer, Donald Madsen, and Judge Trickey (current FTC judge). Andrea will report on the group's progress at the February OC meeting.

**4. Mental Health Budget Cuts, Amnon Shoenfeld~**

The King County Regional Support Network (RSN) received notice of \$5.2 million cuts in non-Medicaid mental health services due to the state deficit. The cuts must happen over the next seven months, and the RSN is limited in what it can cut from non-Medicaid services compared to Medicaid services. Crisis services, diversion services, hospital front door and back door services, and administration of the system—are all being cut. MIDD is affected because it was designed to enhance and improve already-existing services, and if these core community services are undercut, MIDD has less to build on. With the approval of the executive and the council, MHCADSD has established a certain percentage of MIDD funds that can be used for “supplantation,” to help maintain the infrastructure of mental health services during this difficult time.

Additionally, MIDD funds (\$1.5m) will help agencies transition over the next seven months. This money was available from unexpended funds in three areas primarily, including the Crisis Diversion Facility whose unexpended funds are the result from its late start up. In the future, if revenues don't pick up, we won't have as many reserves to draw on. The cuts are all listed on the website and on the hand-out in the material for this meeting.

A discussion followed about current and future budget cuts and the re-prioritization of MIDD strategies in response to these cuts. Other funding cuts (on income support, medication support, and housing support, for example) will also have repercussions on mental health services. Providers will continue to be included by MHCADSD in discussions of where and how to cut funding. All providers are taking cuts (for example, Community Psychiatric Clinic particularly in the area of housing and LTR beds), but at least they feel included in the process. Whether the OC uses the same tool for rating and prioritizing strategies is open for discussion, and these discussions are likely to begin in January 2011. OC members who are interested in participating in these discussions are encouraged to email Amnon, Kelli, or Andrea. Andrea and Amnon will develop some time frame around this re-prioritization work and email OC members with an invitation to participate.

**5. Co-Chairs' Report, Shirley Havenga~**

OC meetings will be every two months rather than monthly, and the meeting length has been shortened from 2 hours to 1.5 hours. On the back of today's agenda is a list of upcoming meeting dates; meeting times should be listed as 12:15 – 1:45. At the January co-chairs agenda setting meeting, the co-chairs will be looking at the budget, its provisos, and what in particular the OC should be responsible for.

**6. 2011 Budget Update, Dwight Dively~**

The Office of Management and Budget is now titled the Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB). The County's budget has been approved apart from some mid-biennium amendments still before the executive. One result of the November election is that the 0.2 percent sales tax increase failed with 45 percent of voters supporting it. The only non-adverse outcome of the election in terms of revenue is that the initiatives privatizing the sale of liquor did not pass. Because the executive's drafted budget assumed adverse results on all ballot measures, no additional cuts needed to be made in order to balance the budget. In fact, some funds were added back into the budget both because of the failed liquor initiatives and because of the significant number of unions who voted to forgo their cost of living adjustments (COLA) for 2011, saving the county an additional \$5m.

With respect to the MIDD budget, nothing material has changed as a result of the election. Because of the decrease in sales tax revenue (the forecast for sales tax revenue has been lowered three times), in 2010 slightly less than 32 percent of MIDD funds have been used for supplantation. In 2011, slightly over 33 percent will be used for supplantation. If state law remains in effect, we'll have to be at a 30 percent supplantation level in 2012, which represents a loss of approximately \$1.5m. In 2012, the MIDD supplantation level will be limited to 30 percent, in 2013 to 20 percent, and in 2014 supplantation to 10 percent of MIDD funds. At this rate, a loss of \$4.5m in MIDD supplantation funds is expected in 2013. If sales tax revenue goes up, this will help the General Fund, which gets 3 percent of sales tax; it will also help MIDD supplantation funding. There is a two-month time lag between actual purchases (for example, the beginning of holiday shopping at the end of November) and revenue figures.

## **7. OC Member updates**

Bruce Knutson announced significant preliminary FTC research findings showing that if parents enter treatment more quickly, they remain in treatment longer with better outcomes. Children return home more often and are permanently placed more often. In the future, University of Washington evaluators will produce a larger report, which they will present at a future OC meeting.

Linda Brown delivered a message from the Substance Abuse and Alcohol Administrative Board. Although substance abuse services have not taken as many visible and direct cuts as mental health services, it is experiencing lean times. The Board wants to be sure that substance abuse funding that was lost is on the table in MIDD discussions about supplantation—that it is considered equally with mental health and criminal justice supplantation funding discussions. There was agreement among OC members that substance abuse services are a very important part of what we do.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, which is the week of the President's Day holiday and mid-winter break week for some school districts. Concern was voiced that with the OC meeting only every other month now and the increased significance of each meeting as a result, the February 24 date is not optimal. The decision was made to keep the February 24 meeting scheduled.

John Chelminiak, City of Bellevue, was welcomed back to the OC.

## **8. New Business**

Decisions about the MIDD strategy re-prioritization process will be made in January at the co-chairs agenda setting. Because the next OC meeting is not until February 24, 2011, Andrea will send out an email to OC members with an opportunity to participate in re-prioritization discussions.

## **9. Public Comment**

Co-chair Shirley Havenga welcomed members from the public attending today's meeting and opened the floor for public comment. Comments should be no more than two minutes in length.

Curtis Dennis, a parent partner of King County and a member of Washington Dads, spoke on behalf of the Family Support Organization that was recently considered for a contract with King County; discussions ended abruptly without sufficient explanation. He argued for the importance of the Family Support Organization as a link between all groups providing family support services in King County.

Steve Williams of Washington Dads and the King County Mental Health Advisory Board also deplored the end of discussions between King County and the Family Support Organization which would have reached out to families who are struggling even more now than before, would have provided trainings, would have reduced the needs for high-intensity services. He complained about the lack of explanations from procurement or anyone else in the County and insisted that the OC and King County citizens need to understand why something so beneficial was simply dropped with no explanation.

Tamara Johnson of Youth in Action also spoke on behalf of the Family Support Organization and asked if there will be any follow-up or new Request for Proposals (RFP) issued by the RSN. She brought with her three young people from Youth in Action who spoke on behalf of peer support services in particular.

Evey Rund, 17 years old, from Youth in Action, described her experience in mental health institutions and detention where being forced to talk never helped her. Not until she got connected with peer support did she begin to feel comfortable, supported, and more ready to talk. She says it is easier for youth to trust other youth than professionals, and she argued that peer support is preventive because you can talk instead of going through intensive treatment, and the experience of empathy helps prevent suicide.

Lonnie Ploegman, 18 years old, a co-facilitator of Adolescents for Change, a leader in Youth in Action, and a member of a wraparound team, spoke on behalf of Peer Support Services. When friends talk with him, he feels supported. Peers help peers solve their own problems. They can connect you with services. And whereas professionals are not allowed to disclose what they've been through, peers can, and this helps youth feel less isolated.

Eric Bruns, UW researcher, clinical child and youth specialist, affiliated with Youth in Action and numerous advocacy groups, spoke about the increasing evidence that family and peer support is feasible and works. MIDD has supported these services as a strategy and should not take its eye off the ball. A consortium of many family and youth advocates is ready to work with the OC and MHCADSD to make sure this strategy is implemented.

Sherry Axon thanked the OC for its hard work. As a parent and grandparent of young people who are consumers of mental health services, and as a consumer herself, she spoke on behalf of the MIDD family support strategy as a priority. Two RFPs have been issued with no one selected for the first one, and Washington Dads selected but refused a contract for the second one. She requested that the OC find and disclose explanations for these two results. For years, groups such as Village Project and Washington Dads have sought contractual relationships with King County without success. As a parent who has paid the ultimate price of laying a 25-year-old son to rest, she asks that MHCADSD and MIDD finally fund family support mental health services.

Amnon responded, thanking them for coming and sharing their experiences, acknowledging that he knows and has worked with some of the speakers. He emphasized that the County values peer and family support services, and he said that even though no contract has been successfully negotiated yet, County staff has a lot of passion for these services. Rules around procurement do not allow us to explain to individual bidders why those RFPs were not granted, partly because the field has to remain level for future RFPs that will be issued.

Discussion followed of the many requirements involved in the County's contracts with mental health and chemical dependency providers. There are many trainings, practices, record-keeping

requirements, and financial reporting requirements that the County demands of the agencies it contracts with. In the case of sub-contracts, the agency contracting out with another agency must also require the same stringent adherence to policies and procedures. The OC wanted to be sure that the County is clear in its communications with bidders; it understands that there are lots of organizations that don't have the capacity to meet County guidelines. Even successful bidders sometimes cannot meet the County's requirements for a contract, and so the bid does not result in a contract. The County continues to work on designing an RFP that will lead to a contract or contracts with providers of family support and peer services who can meet the County's financial and other reporting requirements.

**ADJOURNED at 1:30 p.m.**

**Next Meeting**

**February 24, 2011**

**King County Chinook Building**

**401 5th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104**

**11:45 a.m.– 12:15 p.m. ~ Networking Lunch**

**12:15 p.m.– 1:45 p.m. ~ Meeting**

**Rooms 121 & 123**

FINAL