

**PIERCE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
December 19, 2022

Members: Aphrodite Sauser, Representing Elevate Health - present
Chris Ladish, Representing Hospital Systems – present
Danelle Reed, Representing MH/SUD – absent
Elizabeth Grasher, Representing Veterans - present
Hayley Smith, Representing Evaluation & Treatment/Detox - present
Jeannie Larberg, Representing Rural Communities - excused
Jeremiah Dunlap, Representing Lived Experience - present
Kimberley Bjorn, Representing Rural Pierce County - present
Chief Lauren Wallin, Representing Law Enforcement/EMS - present
Lovey Offerle, Representing Advocate Agency (NAMI) - present
Tara Rodriguez, Representing Lived Experience - present

Non-Voting Chair: Heather Moss, Director, Pierce County Human Services - present

Members: Dr. Anthony Chen, Director, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department - present
Tiffany Speir, City of Lakewood - present
Vicky McLaurin, City of Tacoma - present

Staff: Richard VanCleave, BH Manager
Arrika Rayburn, Program Specialist 3
Taffi Wheeldon, Program Specialist 3
Katherine Thorn, Program Specialist 1
Becki Foutz, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Angelique Camp, Elizabeth Allen, LeighBeth Merrick, Marcella Taylor, Stefanie Love

MINUTES

TOPIC/ WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order/ Welcome- Heather	Heather welcomed all!	Welcome!
September & October Minutes Approval- Heather	Heather asked if there were any questions or comments about September’s or October’s meeting minutes. Hayley, Kimberley, and Tara requested that the information about who they represent be corrected. Kimberley moved and Chris seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. The group voted and the motion passed.	Minutes of the 9/19 & 10/27 meetings were approved as corrected.

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>New Member Introductions- Heather</p>	<p>Heather asked the newest Board members and staff member to introduce themselves.</p> <p>Tara Rodriguez represents parents and caregivers. She sadly lost her 24-year-old son in September. Tara has finished her term on the NAMI Pierce County Board of Directors and will remain a Family-to-Family instructor. She supervises the Early Intervention team at Pierce County Juvenile Court, working with at-risk youth, and adoptions. Tara brought the Family-to-Family program to Juvenile Court. She considers it an amazing gift to build upon her own experiences; she knows what people have gone through, great times as well as struggles.</p> <p>Jeremiah Dunlap has worked as a substance use disorder professional for 10 years. He’s worked as a clinical director, operations director, and built successful jail reentry programs. Jeremiah was born and raised in Tacoma. Growing up in the foster system, he was in 27 different foster homes. He knows firsthand about the gaps in the system, and what it’s like to not have adequate support.</p> <p>Aphrodite Sauser began working as Behavioral Health Integration Manager at Elevate Health in August. Prior to that she worked as a Program Manager/social worker at Virginia Mason and as a therapist at Comprehensive Life Resources.</p> <p>Katherine Thorn is a new Program Specialist at Pierce County Human Services’ BH program. Prior to that, she worked as a Family Support Specialist at PAVE. She was drawn to her new position by her own lived experience and feels it’s important to give back in some way. She will help with CPRs (grant invoices) and assist Taffi and Arrika.</p>	<p>Welcome, Tara, Jeremiah, Aphrodite, and Katherine!</p>
<p>Contract & Program Updates- Richard & Arrika</p>	<p>The 2022 RFP resulted in 23 fully-executed contracts and two pending contracts. Of the 23, 100% have begun work on their contracts (recruiting, hiring, providing services); 80% of the direct service contracts are actively providing services, while the other 20% are ramping up.</p> <p>Three metrics have been assigned to each provider and will be collected each month. BH staff’s working with the Pierce County data group to post the metrics for current contracts on the BH website. Currently metrics for providers funded previously, through July, are posted.</p>	<p>Informational</p>

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<p>Interim Funding- Richard</p>	<p>BH has received an additional \$5M in interim funding, to be used within the calendar year 2023. The County sent notices to existing BH providers asking for requests for increased funding and have received \$1.8M in requests. Next, BH staff will reach out to one or more providers who applied for the latest RFP but were not funded. Reserve funding will be used for recommendations from the BH workforce study conducted in March 2023. The remaining funds to be used for the March 2023 BH Tax RFP.</p> <p>Chris asked what the anticipated funds are for next year. We don't know yet but estimate approximately \$18M to \$21M.</p> <p>Hayley asked in what period the funding needs to be used. The \$5M interim funding must be used in calendar year 2023. Heather added that we want to try to line things up so that eventually contracts share similar timelines.</p> <p>Dr. Chen raised a couple of concerns. First, he feels that the emphasis is on treatment, and not enough for prevention. Secondly, grants seem to be primarily in the MH realm (rather than the SUD realm). We have an option to shift. Should we issue an RFI to see if there are other entities that have projects? Richard explained that we're opening to potentially award applicants funding that were not funded during the last RFP. County's worried that if an RFI's issued, they won't be able to meet the deadline (spending the additional interim funding by the end of 2023.) Dr. Chen feels there's time since the plan is to wait until March. Richard said that if we do an RFP or RFI in the next couple of months, it will slow the process and most providers don't want to sign a contract for less than a year. He added that we are funding prevention and SUD, although it might not sound that way from the contract names. For example, Asian Counseling Services and Comprehensive Life Resources provide SUD services.</p> <p>Will the Board receive information on those who were recommended to receive more funding? Yes, there were six programs, two or three are working with the health department. Most would use the funding to increase staff availability to serve more clients. We're trying to speed up the process of getting funds into the community as well as adhering to the allocation committee's priorities.</p>	<p>Informational/ Discussion</p>

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<p>2023 RFP Planning- Richard</p>	<p>The 2023 RFP is right around the corner, and BH staff are working on finalizing documents for that.</p> <p>Applications will be accepted between March 6 and April 6. Staff will begin reviewing applications and communicating with the BHAB scoring subcommittee April 7. The subcommittee will begin the scoring April 22. Interviews will be held, and subcommittee recommendations will be made between May 23 and May 25. The full BHAB will vote on recommendations in June, and they'll be submitted to Council in July. Once Council approves, contract negotiation will begin. In December, the County budget will be signed, and the contracts will be entered into the County system.</p> <p>Each contract is completely different, so they take time.</p> <p>Changes from last year: the process is being revised to make scoring easier. An appeals process has been added, per Council request. This time around, as part of the recommendation conversation, staff will be able to give the Board more of an idea of how the services will fit into current array of services and funding which should be helpful. The metrics formatting has been simplified. Value-based payment's been removed. Behavioral Health services in rural areas will be a priority.</p> <p>Chris felt like there was a huge learning curve and that the applicants who went first might have been scored differently; she suggests randomized scoring. Tara will read up, she's just reviewing BH metrics and realized that some may be coming, currently it appears that families of color are under-represented. Are there targets to look at why? Richard responded that those types of questions are included in the application process. Demographics can be inaccurate, as we don't serve Tacoma. County data staff can separate County addresses from Tacoma addresses.</p> <p>Dr. Chen asked about the proviso requiring certain services funded in the first year - will that be removed? Yes, during the first six months of 2021, certain programs had to be funded until the Board was formed, and the RFP was conducted. Those programs were funded for six months and then they were asked to serve for six more months. Following that, they could reapply if desired.</p> <p>Richard clarified the Advisory Board's role: like last year, a subcommittee will score applicants and make recommendations to the full Board, who will make final prioritizations and recommendations.</p>	<p>Informational/ Discussion</p> <p>BH metrics</p>

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<p>2023 RFP Planning, continued</p>	<p>Hayley wanted to clarify that there's a month between scoring beginning and being finalized. Yes, that's correct. One month seems quite doable. Hayley volunteered to serve on the subgroup.</p> <p>Richard explained that initial prioritization is based on the BH Implementation Plan, which was based on surveying the community. Those needs haven't gone away, however, we could add things, for example, specialized svcs for BIPOC, for rural communities, etc. There could be a special meeting to determine priorities, or the Board could leave it up to the RFP subcommittee. The RFP must be finalized by the end of January so it can come out in March. The RFP Committee will meet starting in January. Priorities will come from the Board; staff will work on what it looks like.</p> <p>Dr. Chen said that BH staff put the BHIP together without much input from this group. He suggested meeting in January and using the whole time to discuss the BHIP. Richard said that the Board was involved quite a bit in the development of the BHIP. Per the Ordinance, the BHIP must be re-done every two years. It doesn't need to be redone prior to the RFP coming out. Priority changes for the RFP can still be made. Dr. Chen noted that his recollection was different, and he asked what the other Board members thought. Elizabeth said she didn't feel super knowledgeable about the documentation. The group seemed to agree that an interim meeting should be held in January, to get input on priorities and to refresh the Board about the BHIP. Are there emergent trends appearing that weren't captured in the BHIP? If so, they can be considered during the RFP process.</p> <p>Richard encouraged Board members to look at the Plan on the BH website in the meantime. Heather pointed out that if we name everything, then nothing's prioritized. Elizabeth asked what the measures are; for example, "Service in a timely manner" is first priority – what does that mean? How do we define "timely manner?" Lately, some local levies have not been approved.</p>	<p>A meeting will be held in January – a notice will be sent to Board members.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Heather invited the public to comment. No one came forward.</p>	

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<p>Community Announcements- Board Members</p>	<p>Hayley announced that Eleanor Health has had to leave their physical location in Lakewood. They're providing virtual services and hope to settle into a new spot soon.</p> <p>Elizabeth said that NAMI put together an excellent MH forum for electeds. Lovey thanked Elizabeth and agreed that it was an excellent legislative forum, an opportunity for the community and NAMI. Elizabeth added that many legislators attended. She hopes these types of events will continue.</p> <p>Hayley asked if there are any updates on the opioid settlement funds, and will this Board be participating in any of those decisions. There have been three or four settlements. The largest, under the leadership of Bob Ferguson's office, is the one Pierce County will collect on for 17 years, beginning in 2023. There are a few smaller settlements as well: Mallinckrodt, NOAT II, and Walmart. The BH team's working with Dr. Chen's team to pull together a workgroup to ensure we're aware of all the settlement activity.</p> <p>A taskforce will be required to determine expenditures of funds. For the large settlement there will be \$1.3M in the first year, and \$600-\$700,000 a year for 15 or 16 years. The question is, will the funds be connected to this Board, the Opioid Taskforce, or both? And secondly, do we use the same format outlined for the big settlement for the ones that follow? The Walmart settlement will be a lump sum payout.</p> <p>Dr. Chen added that Michelle Luna from the Pierce County Prosecutor's office is the point contact for the original settlements of three distributors. Conditions dictate that parties include the County as well as several cities and towns. So, some preliminary conversations have begun about pooling resources to maximize impact. At some point elected leaders will convene, as well as an Opioid Settlement Advisory Committee (OAC). We'll probably have to work out an interlocal agreement. The recommendation is to prioritize, as the State overdose and opioid response plan is quite broad. If all parties pool funds together, we'll be able to serve not only the residents of the specific cities and towns but others who don't have access to treatment. The settlements should result in a significant amount of new resources coming to Pierce County.</p>	<p>Informational</p>
<p>Adjournment- Heather</p>	<p>There will be homework attached to the next meeting in January. The extra meeting will be a great opportunity to hear from each Board member regarding trends and priorities.</p>	<p>Thank you!</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
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The special January Board meeting is TBD. The next regular *Behavioral Health Advisory Board* meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 20 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
Administrative Assistant

Chat from 12/19/22 BHAB Meeting

From Elizabeth Grasher to Everyone 02:58 PM

I am in as a general member I believe FYI

From NAMI Pierce County to Everyone 02:59 PM

hi everyone. My apologies in advance but I can only stay for the first 40 min as I am leaving town and need to leave for the airport earlier than planned.

From Tara Rodriguez to All Panelists 03:05 PM

Looks like my video isn't working today. I'll keep trying.

I have one adjustment as well.

From Chris Ladish, PhD | Mary Bridge Children's to All Panelists 03:15 PM

Welcome all of you :)

From Hayley Smith to Everyone 03:15 PM

Welcome!

From Chris Ladish, PhD | Mary Bridge Children's to All Panelists 03:34 PM

Thanks for all of the work on that Richard!

From Chris Ladish, PhD | Mary Bridge Children's to All Panelists 03:53 PM

I would suggest another meeting(s) by this committee to offer input on priorities and gaps. My apologies, I have to jump off as I am incident commander for the hospital patient surge at Mary Bridge and need to run a meeting. Richard, please count me in for the RFP reviews. Happy Holidays all!!!

From Hayley Smith to Everyone 03:54 PM

I agree with a meeting in January

From Taffi Wheeldon to Everyone 03:56 PM

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/5859/Behavioral-Health>

BH Metrics: <https://open.piercecountywa.gov/stories/s/ktqy-qb6a>

From Elizabeth Grasher to All Panelists 04:01 PM

I have read it but how is it measured. So what are the measurements for these.

Lovey do you want to share about the election forum for mental health

From Hayley Smith to Everyone 04:07 PM

Thanks for the information!

From Kimberley Bjorn to All Panelists 04:10 PM

Happy Holidays Everyone! Thank you for all your work in the community.