

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

3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

March 20, 2023

Members: Aphrodite Sauser, Representing Elevate Health - present
 Chris Ladish, Representing Hospital Systems – present
 Danelle Reed, Representing MH/SUD – present
 Elizabeth Grasher, Representing Veterans - present
 Hayley Smith, Representing Outpatient Treatment - present
 Jeannie Larberg, Representing Rural Communities - present
 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 Rittenhouse, 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 - absent

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

Guests: Amanda Arena, Chief Tom Yabe, Jaclyn Kirby, Marcella Taylor

MINUTES

TOPIC/ WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Call to Order/ Welcome Heather	Heather welcomed all! Kimberley is now Chief of Staff at Western State Hospital’s Gage Center, formerly known as the forensics unit.	Welcome! Congrats, Kim!!
January Minutes Approval Heather	Chris moved to approve the January minutes. Kimberley seconded. Amendments: 1. Under Interim Funding Request Summary, Lovey requested that “users” be clarified to “users of the mental health system.” 2. Hayley represents Outpatient Treatment. The group approved the minutes with above amendments.	Minutes of the 1/18 meeting were approved as amended.

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Update on Opioid Settlement Funds Process Heather Moss</p>	<p>Approximately \$50M in opioid settlement funding is coming to Pierce County and 10 city and town jurisdictions within it. Some jurisdictions are beginning to receive funding installments from opioid distributors. Funding will be distributed over 11 to 16 or 17 years. The State-level One Washington agreement stipulates what jurisdictions must do to get the dollars, and how they may be spent. An Opioid Abatement Council (OAC) must be formed. None of the jurisdictions may spend any of the funding until the OAC's created. Receiving jurisdictions have met a couple of times now. The Opioid Taskforce is hosting the annual Opioid Summit this week. The agenda includes a discussion among providers and jurisdictions about the OAC. Haley and Tara plan to attend the Summit! Hayley said that the Summit will be broadcasted, on Pierce County public television. Is there a link for more information on the Summit? Yes, Aphrodite will share it.</p> <p>Dr. Chen added that there are two paths to move forward with, the structural piece of setting up the OAC, and decisions on what programmatic things that the dollars may fund. Heather noted that there's no shortage of plans and needs for spending the dollars. \$50M can be spent quickly!</p> <p>\$50M represents the two big settlements; there may be additional smaller ones.</p>	<p>Summit Registration</p>
<p>Behavioral Health Workforce Study Report Richard VanCleave</p>	<p>About a year ago the Pierce County Council asked us to have a consultant compile a report on the BH Workforce. Advocates for Human Potential completed the report and shared their findings with the Pierce County Council. The report includes quite a bit about employee training, wellness, and supervision, as well as local issues about best practices, and coordination. Workforce Central also has a smaller report they published following a community forum for clinicians. The BH team will be working closely with WorkForce Central in the future.</p> <p>BH Workforce projects were included in the recent RFP. We're hoping that applicants will select projects that support/bolster the BH Workforce. If we don't get enough projects around it, the Council may want us to take other action.</p> <p>All BH Contracts are in process except Pathways. They chose not to contract with the County at this time. 2022-23 projects were limited to 10% admin, and that wasn't something they could do. Their funding will go into the next round.</p>	<p>BH Workforce Study Report presentation.</p> <p>BH Workforce Study Report</p> <p>Workforce Central BH Workforce Study Report</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Release of the RFP Richard VanCleave</p>	<p>The 2024-25 funding RFP went out last week and closes April 14. This group will work on scoring applications in early April. So far it's been downloaded 40 times. BH staff have been getting questions and posting the answers on the website. The Bidder's Conference will be held on March 28.</p> <p>Lovey asked what the Bidder's Conference is. The Board's welcome to attend but it's only beneficial for applicants. Anyone planning to apply can come; staff goes through the RFP and answers questions. Questions and answers are then posted on the website. Last year the Bidder's Conference was recorded, and they hope to record it again.</p> <p>Tara asked if other Pierce County departments interested in applying would they apply like the others, or is there a separate process? They would apply with the others. The difference would be how we contract.</p> <p>We're using a new procurement process called OpenGov. If you have any issues with it, please let us know. The plan is for two-year contracts. Staff will be very busy preparing contracts.</p>	<p>If anyone has issues with OpenGov, please let us know.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Heather invited attendees to make public comment, if desired.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Good of the Order/Community Announcements Board Members</p>	<p>Dr. Chen explained that there were two steps to integration: first, mental health and substance abuse services were integrated into Behavioral Health. Next, BH services were integrated with medical care. He feels that the report only addressed the first step, and not covering the second step leaves a substantial gap. Advocates for Human Potential are from Massachusetts. Can we ask them to go back and amend the report? It's especially important in the pediatric environment. Our medical workforce needs to be trained up or children are not going to get the services they need, and they'll deteriorate. This affects their school performance and school counselor needs. If we want to address workforce issues, we must address that.</p> <p>Chris said she's glad that Dr. Chen raised that issue. There's a huge push for primary care to conduct depression and MH screenings. Once we build the workforce out, where do we put them? BH providers in training need to rotate through primary care sites. She knows that in some states there's an incentive for pediatric primary care practices to take on a certain percentage of patients who are being treated for BH conditions.</p>	<p>Discussion</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Good of the Order/Community Announcements continued</p>	<p>How do we get people currently in the BH field to stay? We have many unfilled positions at the master’s level. If we had enough people to put in clinics, that would be great.</p> <p>The first step is to bolster the current workforce, and then try to attract more people to the field. If we recruit new workers and place them directly in MH centers, they’re going to burn out.</p> <p>Chris hopes that we can embed BH workers in primary care. Richard added that BH workers must be paid a living wage, and provided adequate supervision, and a reason to go to work. Both reports refer to shortage in counseling hybrids, and talk about other staff, like BH Technicians. We need to think about the BH equivalent of medical workers, and new programs. More child psychiatrists will be needed, as well as those who can treat for distress. We may want to specifically reference those in the RFP to solicit applications.</p> <p>Lovey said that NAMI’s been very involved in advocating for statewide MH system changes. They’re supporting a bill to increase the BH workforce and met with Rep. Laurie Jenkins. She recognizes there’s a lack – we need to support the workforce, so people are able to get a decent wage, and make it easier for them to apply. There’s a lot of support around the Bill; it’s out of committee, making its way through.</p> <p>Announcements? Richard suggested planning to meet in person for the next meeting, Monday, June 12 at 3:30, while still offering the Zoom option. There may be treats!</p> <p>Chris said that Kids MH Pierce County was funded at the legislative level, to roll out as a statewide model. The website’s gone live; some ASOs have come online and more are coming. It’s exciting to see these multi-disciplinary teams rolled out across the state!</p> <p>As part of our work at Mary Bridge, the new Children’s Hospital is planned to open at the end of 2025 and it will include a Crisis Triage Center for children, which they’re very excited about. The hope is to divert children from the Emergency Department (ED) and have sort of a walk-in clinic that will be proximal to the ED so they can be seen quickly.</p>	<p>Kids MH WA</p>

TOPIC/WHO	DISCUSSION	ACTION
<p>Good of the Order/Community Announcements continued</p>	<p>Aphrodite announced a Community Conversation event about Fentanyl on April 6 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn at 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>Haley shared that Metropolitan Development Center’s E&T has been closed down, but she believes they’re still running their Detox program. Richard hasn’t heard what they’ll do with the space, perhaps they’ll expand Detox?</p> <p>Lovey reminded us that we need to update the website to note that the next meeting is on June 12. Thank you!</p> <p>Tara told the group about Pierce County Juvenile Court’s <i>Families Supporting Families</i> group that meets on the first Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. They had their first meeting and it was a great sharing time together.</p> <p>Chris met with Cancer Alliance representatives and learned that there are spaces available for kids’ camp in August, for children whose lives have been touched by cancer. It’s free of charge, with transportation help.</p> <p>Please think about agenda items for June 12 – we’ll probably have a proposed list of projects for the RFP. This will be perfect timing to present the recommendations to this Board! We may also revisit the Behavioral Health Implementation Plan (BHIP,) and see where we are in terms of implementation.</p> <p>Did we already identify who would be working on scoring? The group must be limited to five – we have Haley, Tara, Lovey, Jeremiah, and Danelle, and alternates Jeannie and Chris.</p> <p>Dr. Chen suggested including non-members if more people are needed to shoulder the load around scoring. Richard feels that we have enough people at this point.</p>	<p><u>Community Conversation</u></p> <p><u>Families supporting Families</u></p> <p>Reach out to Chris and she’ll share the link to kids’ camp.</p> <p>Thank you, scorers!</p>
<p>Adjournment- Heather</p>	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Thank you!</p>

The next *Behavioral Health Advisory Board* meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12 at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becki Foutz
 Administrative Assistant

Chat from 3/20/23 Behavioral Health Advisory Board Meeting

From Elizabeth Grasher to All Panelists 02:56 PM

I am here in person w my chief of police

Becki to Elizabeth Grasher (Direct Message) 02:57 PM

Great, thank you, welcome!!

From Kimberley Bjorn to All Panelists 03:01 PM

I have a new job with Western State Hospital - I can share if people want to hear.

From Lauren Wallin to Everyone 03:03 PM

Congratulations Kimberly - they need you and our community needs you!

From Jeremiah Dunlap to All Panelists 03:18 PM

Is there a link to more info on that summit?

From Tara Rittenhouse (she/her) to Everyone 03:19 PM

I just found this to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-opioid-summit-tickets-559948640457>

From Richard VanCleave to Everyone 03:19 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-opioid-summit-tickets-559948640457>

Thanks, Tara!

From Jeremiah Dunlap to All Panelists 03:21 PM

Thank you!!

From Richard VanCleave to Everyone 03:25 PM

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7420/Behavioral-Health-Tax>

<https://workforce-central.org/2023/02/13/mental-behavioral-health-report/>

From Kimberley Bjorn to Everyone 03:32 PM

Please send future BHAB communications to Kimberley.bjorn@dshs.wa.gov . Providing my contact email for anyone who is interested.

From Arrika Rayburn to All Panelists 03:32 PM

You bet Kim!

From Tiffany Speir, Lakewood to All Panelists 03:46 PM

Hybrid meetings please

From Chris Ladish, PhD | Mary Bridge | MultiCare, Tacoma, USA to Everyone 03:46 PM

www.kidsmentalhealthwa.org

From Kimberley Bjorn to Everyone 03:48 PM

Chris this is Super Awesome!!! Congrats to everyone at MaryBridge for all their hard work!

From Jeannie Larberg, PhD SBLSD to Everyone 03:48 PM

Thanks Chris - So exciting to see this move forward.

From Lovey Offerle - NAMI Pierce County to Everyone 03:49 PM

Did we say the next BHAB meeting is June 12?

From Becki to Everyone 03:50 PM

Yes, at 3:30

From Heather Moss to Everyone 03:50 PM

Yes, that's right, Lovey. We hope to meet in person at our Soundview building on 36th and Pacific (next to the health department).

From Aphrodite Sauser to Everyone 03:53 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-fentanyl-tickets-576305424037>

From Tara Rittenhouse (she/her) to Everyone 03:55 PM

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/FormCenter/Juvenile-Court-25/Families-Supporting-Families-813>