

Behavioral Health Provider Listening Session

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Agenda

Subject	Who
• Welcome	• Teresa Claycamp & Enos Mbajah
• Section Highlights	• Section Managers
• Legislative/Budget Updates	• Kim Wright, Scott Tankersley
• Open Forum for Questions	• All

DBHR Updates: SUD Prevention/MH Promotion

- ▶ **Over 90 (ninety) Community Prevention and Wellness Initiatives Strategic Plans are in!**
- ▶ **Funding Opportunity Announcement closing April 1, 2025.**
 - ▶ For information, go to [The Athena Forum](#).
- ▶ **Advanced Fellows starting with us in April in collaboration with the WSU Impact Lab.**
- ▶ **The Youth Adult Health Survey 2024 is completed and results are being finalized.**
- ▶ **Coalition Leadership Institute: Minerva – June 24-25, 2025.**
 - ▶ Watch for information coming soon on [The Athena Forum](#).

DBHR updates: Prenatal - 25

- ▶ Substance Use Disorder family education & curriculum training
 - ▶ An online training designed to empower families and communities with knowledge and resources to support loved ones navigating challenges related to substance use.
 - ▶ [Learn more and register today](#)
- ▶ New Journeys CARE conference
- ▶ CRAFT training

DBHR updates: Recovery Support Services

- ▶ HCA is hosting the 4th annual Outreach Academy June 12th and 13th in Tacoma, WA. This event is intended to provide a foundation of training for homeless outreach workers across the state. Registration will open in early April.
- ▶ The Health Care Authority and the Department of Health are hosting an informational [listening session](#) to discuss Peer Specialist changes related to SB 5555, establishing Certified Peer Specialist and Trainees.
 - ▶ The enhanced 80-hour Certified Peer Specialist training has launched. This training is for people who want to move forward in the new profession of Certified Peer Specialist and will also qualify people as Certified Peer Counselors who bill Medicaid with an agency affiliated counselor credential at a licensed community behavioral health agency.
 - ▶ The Certified Peer Specialist “GAP” training is now available on the Peer Support Talent Learning Management System. This LMS training is for current Certified Peer Counselors who want to move forward in the new profession of Certified Peer Specialist with the Department of Health.

DBHR updates: Adult and Involuntary Services

Fern Lodge Behavioral Wellness is a new 16 bed 90-180-day civil commitment E&T located in Stanwood, WA

Apparent Successful Bidder (ASB) is Telecare Mental Health Services of Washington, Inc.

- ▶ Construction to be completed 4/1/25
- ▶ Permit(s) have been applied for and are pending
- ▶ Anticipated opening for admissions is the 3rd quarter of 2025

For more information: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/fern-lodge-faq-202311.pdf>

DBHR updates: Diversion and Reentry

- ▶ Housing and Recovery through Peer Services (HARPS) officially switched over from Excel Spreadsheets to the Program Data Acquisition Management and Storage (PDAMS) system for data submissions
- ▶ The two HCA contracted Peer Respites are reporting an increase in referrals with more consistent, higher levels of occupancy

DBHR updates: Adult Substance Use and Treatment Section

▶ **Clark County Jail Certified as an Opioid Treatment Program**

- ▶ Clark County Jail recently became the first jail in Washington state licensed as an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP). This program is partially funded with State and opioid abatement settlement dollars and was recently featured on *Think Out Loud* an Oregon Public Broadcasting and is featured on Apple Podcasts, as well. Here is the link to check it out. [A look at Clark County Jail's opioid treatment program - OPB](#)

▶ **Safer Supply Work Group Listening Session**

- ▶ Health Management Associates (HMA), in partnership with HCA and the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), is hosting a community meeting to discuss policy recommendations created by the WA Safer Supply Workgroup. HMA will review recommendations from the workgroup, educate attendees on safer supply programs, and hold a listening session.
- ▶ People with lived/living experience of substance use are encouraged to attend and are eligible to receive a stipend for participation.
- ▶ April 7, 2025 from 11 am to 1 pm- Hybrid [Learn more and register](#)

▶ **Opioid Intervention Court Pilot**

- ▶ DBHR has partnered with Cowlitz County Superior Court and Walla Walla County Superior Court to embed a peer within Therapeutic Court programs to help support individuals in obtaining access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).
- ▶ For more information about the Opioid Intervention Court Model, please visit the Center for Justice Innovation's Website: [Opioid Intervention Court](#)

2025 Behavioral Health Legislative Overview

Behavioral Health budget priorities and policy bills



BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH COVERAGE



WORKFORCE AND
TRANSPORTATION



TREATMENT
SUPPORTS



CRISIS SYSTEM
ENHANCEMENTS



CHILDREN AND
YOUTH



PREVENTION

Behavioral health legislation

- ▶ **SB 5361:** Requiring HCA and OIC to delay adoption of the updated ASAM Criteria, 4th edition, until January 2028.
- ▶ **HB 1287:** Addressing the disclosure of health information for care coordination.
- ▶ **E2SHB 1432:** Improving access to appropriate mental health and substance use disorder services
- ▶ **2SHB 1427:** Concerning certified peer support specialists
- ▶ **SHB 1706:** Aligning the implementation of application programming interfaces for prior authorization with federal guidelines.

E2SHB 1218

- ▶ Governor Inslee's request legislation re: Trueblood
- ▶ Concerning persons referred for competency evaluation and restoration services.

SUD Prevention and Mental Health Promotion

- ▶ **SHB 1066:** Creating a data dashboard to track use of regulated substances.

Corrections and issues impacting justice-involved individuals and reentry

- ▶ **SSB 5139:** Concerning reentry council.
- ▶ **SHB 1113:** Concerning accountability and access to services for individuals charged with a misdemeanor.
- ▶ **SSB 5388:** Concerning Department of Corrections Behavioral Health Certification
- ▶ **ESSB 5128:** Concerning medical services for individuals in juvenile detention facilities.

Youth, young adult, and student behavioral health (school-based services)

- ▶ **SHB 1272:** Extending the program to address complex cases of children in crisis.

E2SSSB 5083

- ▶ HCA agency request legislation
- ▶ Ensuring access to primary care, behavioral health, and affordable hospital services.



Problem gambling

- ▶ **HB 1222:** Concerning public inspection and copying of proprietary financial and security information submitted to or obtained by the gambling commission.

Community & public safety

- ▶ **E2SSB 5098:** Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities.

Crisis services

- ▶ **SHB 1811:** Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.
- ▶ **E2SHB 1813:** Concerning the re-procurement of medical assistance services; including the re-alignment of behavioral health crisis services for Medicaid enrollees



Questions?

Shawn O'Neill

Legislative Relations Manager
Washington State Health Care
Authority

Shawn.oneill@hca.wa.gov

What questions do you have for DBHR?

**You are also welcome to send your questions
or comments to
Sandra.Mena-Tyree@hca.wa.gov.**

