

Behavioral Health Provider Listening Session

Tuesday, May 27, 2025

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Agenda

Subject	Who
• Welcome	• Teresa Claycamp & Enos Mbajah
• Spring Health Workforce Sentinel Network	• Renee Fullerton
• Budget Updates	• Teesha Kirschbaum
• Bills that passed	• Shawn O'Neill
• Questions from call attendees	• All

Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR)

Legislative Session Recap

2025-27 Community Behavioral Health Biennial budget

▶ ESSB 5167 (2025)

- ▶ *Section 214: Community Behavioral Health (CBH) Biennial Operating*
- ▶ *Section 1215: CBH Supplemental*

▶ Existing programs that were reduced by 10 – 20%

- ▶ Alternatives to Arrest and Jail (aka AJA)
- ▶ Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)
- ▶ Behavioral Health Administrative Service Organization (BH-ASO) jail services
- ▶ Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) Bridge Funding
- ▶ Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) grants
- ▶ Recovery Navigator Program (RNP) services
- ▶ Trueblood diversion programs
- ▶ Recovery Residences
- ▶ Funding for programs that provide short-term housing subsidies and supports for individuals with mental health disorders and individuals with substance use disorders

2025-27 Community Behavioral Health Biennial budget (cont.)

▶ New budget items

- ▶ Involuntary Treatment Counsel (E2SSB 5745)
 - Funding is provided for administrative costs to implement E2SSB 5745.
- ▶ Children in crisis program (SHB 1272)
 - Funding is provided for implementation, which extends a program requiring several state agencies to develop and implement a rapid care team for the purpose of identifying appropriate services and living arrangements for a child in crisis.
- ▶ Certified peer support specialists (2SHB 1427)
 - Funding is provided to:
 - Contract for the development and implementation of courses to supplement the training of certified peer support specialists related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
 - Contract with at least one external entity to develop ways to expand access to peer support services through providing technical assistance, billing health carriers, creating substance use disorder peer-run respite centers, and exploring the use of capitated payment arrangements.
- ▶ Medical Assistance Re-Procurement (E2SHB 1813)
 - Funding is provided for implementation, which requires HCA to prepare for the reprocurement of managed care contracts while making changes related to the purchase of regional crisis services.

Behavioral Health

▶ SB 5361 – American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) 4 criteria delay

- ▶ Extends the date by which Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs), carriers, and other entities must use ASAM Criteria, 4th Edition as the utilization management standard for SUD evaluations and treatment to January 1, 2028.

▶ E2SHB 1432 – Mental health services

- ▶ Applies to commercial health plans, including PEBB and SEBB.
- ▶ Updates and codifies clinical standards for insurer medical necessity determinations.
- ▶ Applies ASAM criteria but permits continued utilization of electronic tools that are no more restrictive.

▶ E2SHB 1813 – Medical assistance re-procurement

- ▶ Requires HCA to adjust Medicaid rates to reflect increases and decreases in services, facilities and capacity.
- ▶ Requires HCA's preparations for the re-procurement of Medicaid managed care contracts to consider methodologies for measuring network access and adequacy and contract amendments to reduce administrative burdens for health care providers.
- ▶ Requires HCA to direct managed care organizations (MCOs) to expand delegation arrangements with behavioral health administrative services organizations (BHASOs) for crisis services.
- ▶ Requires HCA to develop a plan for a statewide BHASO that serves American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Behavioral Health (cont.)

▶ SHB 1811 – Crisis co-response

- ▶ Directs the UW School of Social Work, in consultation with HCA and BHASOs, to establish a program to administer a crisis responder training academy.

▶ E2SSB 5745 – Involuntary treatment counsel

- ▶ Allows counties to elect to have HCA contract with the Office of Public Defense (OPD) for appointed counsel services on the county's behalf for individuals being detained in a state facility.
- ▶ HCA must notify a county within 30 days of receiving notice from OPD that appointed counsel cannot be provided through a contract with OPD.
- ▶ Counties receiving such a notice from the HCA shall provide appointed counsel either directly or by contracting for that representation

▶ 2SHB 1427 – Certified peer support specialists

- ▶ Changes the name of the profession of certified peer specialists to "certified peer support specialists."
- ▶ Directs HCA to contract for the development of courses to supplement the training of certified peer support specialists related to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- ▶ Directs HCA to contract with at least one external entity to develop ways to expand access to peer support services through providing technical assistance, billing health carriers, creating substance use disorder peer-run respite centers, and exploring the use of capitated payment arrangements.
- ▶ Requires that the accessibility to peer services in a managed care organization's network be given significant weight in any procurement for Medicaid managed care services.

Behavioral Health (cont.)

▶ ESSB 5128 – Juvenile detention, medical

- ▶ Specifies that Medicaid suspension provisions apply to persons confined in institutions and facilities operated by the Department of Children, Youth, and Families but not county juvenile detention facilities.
- ▶ Directs the Health Care Authority to collaborate with specific entities to implement federal requirements to provide screening, diagnostic, and targeted case management services to Medicaid enrollees who are under 21 years old and incarcerated and approaching their release date.

▶ SHB 1272 – Children in crisis program

- ▶ Extends the child and youth multisystem care project director position within the Office of the Governor and other related programs to address complex cases of children in crisis until June 30, 2027 (instead of expiring on June 30, 2025).

What questions do you have for DBHR?

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

