

Behavioral Health Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, July 8, 2025

9:00am –
12:30pm

Attendees:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teesha Kirschbaum (DBHR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert Hopkins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nathan Lusk (DBHR)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Teresa Claycamp (DBHR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angie Williams	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Cornel (DBHR)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leah Coberly (DBHR)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Tinkler	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tori McDermott Hale (DBHR)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enos Mbajah (DBHR)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruth Leonard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kimberly Wright (DBHR)
<input type="checkbox"/> Richelle Madigan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christal Eshelman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rachel De Carlo
<input type="checkbox"/> Vanessa Lewis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Erika Rodriguez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tana Russell
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yavonnie Griggs-Brown	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Musser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kacey Bellamy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katie Mirkovich	<input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Juliette Lagerstrom
<input type="checkbox"/> Nelson Rason	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paulina Zyskowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meghan Hopkins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tessa Clements	<input type="checkbox"/> Kailey Lawless	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Sharber
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shundra King	<input type="checkbox"/> Siyu Lu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cece Byrd
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megyn Ross	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Victor De Los Santos	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Paulette Brooks	<input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Byrd	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristie Lund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Derrick Kretschmer	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jazmaine Wong	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kiki Serantes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moira O Crotty	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Rychtarik	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Virtual Meeting Link/login info:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Virtual Meeting Link/login info:

#	Agenda Items	Time	Lead	Decisions and Summary of Meeting
1.	Welcome & Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance Approve May minutes 	9:00 am	Tessa Clements	Kiki Serantes-motion to pass May meeting minutes Megyn Ross-seconded motion to pass may meeting minutes May minutes passed unanimously
2.	BHAC Strategic Planning Presentation	9:15 am	Rachel DeCarlo	See BHAC Strategic Plan and Roadmap Reference.pdf Phase 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish governance structure & subcommittee Launch qualitative survey planning & design Begin subcommittee work & initial recommendations Develop outreach materials and resource templates Plan regional listening sessions & recruit marginalized voices Phase 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch public-facing resource hub

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize & distribute surveys Conduct listening to sessions & stakeholder outreach Collect data to inform service gap analysis Deliver insights & early funding recommendations to DBHR <p>Phase 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate results & BHAC recommendations Share service gap data with state agencies Continuing listening sessions & peer review Maintain and evaluate resource hubs Expand community engagement <p>Phase 4:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement continuous improvement cycles Sustain resource hub and peer review Consider coaching, change management & communications support Evaluate impact and align on future direction Institutionalize BHAC strategy & values
3.	Short Break	10:00 am	All
4.	Break Out Rooms/ Further Planning	10:10am	BHAC Council
			<p>Members broke out into 4 breakout rooms and discussed the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ask BHAC members to rank in terms of interest which initiatives and subcommittees they would like to sign up for. Are there any follow-up questions/ideas BHAC Members have from the presentation they would like to discuss. <p>Major initiatives to support strategies identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Create subcommittees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications & Outreach Subcommittee Year-long Peer Review Subcommittee Recommendations/Priority Subcommittee Build a qualitative and quantitative survey/data collection process (Recommendations/Priority Subcommittee) Conduct regional listening sessions (Communications & Outreach Subcommittee) Create resources and templates to better disseminate information from prior and future resources (Communications & Outreach Subcommittee)
	Next Steps for Strategic Planning	10:35am	BHAC Council
			Discussion:

			Plan to schedule an initial subcommittee meeting- by the September meeting each subcommittee determine subcommittee chair, meeting cadence, responsibilities
5. Council Member Announcements	11:00am	BHAC Council	<p>Jessica Rytcharik (member): provided 2025 legislative update on housing from the Washington State Department of Commerce. (See 2025 Session Housing Highlights pdf.)</p> <p>Paulina Zyskowski (member): Four Directions conference page: https://www.evergreencpg.org/training/in-person/focus-on-the-future/ Four Directions - Evergreen Council on Problem Gambling ECPG Training scholarships page: https://www.evergreencpg.org/training/scholarships/</p>
6. Short Break	11:00am	All	
7. FY 2026-2027 Block Grant Application	11:20 am	Janet Cornell Kim Wright	<p>See BHAC Block Grant Priorities Review FY2026-2027.pdf</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Meghan Hopkins (guest): Do the crisis numbers include adults, children or both (priority 7)?</p> <p>Kimberley Wright: My understanding is that it includes both the adult and youth mobile crisis teams.</p> <p>Tessa Clements (member): This is unrelated to the application, but would you be able to provide any more information on the injunctions Washington State was able to secure for the COVID block grants?</p> <p>Kimberley Wright: For those that don't know, we are referring to enhancement grants from the Covid era including, Covid mitigation, and ARPA. On March 23rd, 2025, we received notice from SAMHSA that these grants were closed effective immediately the day we received notice. This potentially would have been a loss of 35 million dollars in behavioral health funding for Washington State. Working with the Washington State Attorney General, DBHR, immediately filed a temporary restraining order. With great success, a restraining order was issued on April 1st, 2025, allowing Washington and 23 other states to continue spending down on these grants. Our fiscal team led by Janet Cornell also worked to charge all eligible invoices to the Covid awards, ensuring that we have been able to spend SABG ARPA funding and most of the MHBG ARPA funding.</p>
8. Short Break			
9. Directors Dialogue: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Block Grant Application Q and A 	12:00 pm	Teesha Kirschbaum	<p>Agency Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governor Bob Ferguson appointed Ryan Moran director of the Washington State Health Care Authority, effective

- Agency Updates

August 18, 2025. Moran currently serves as Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing and Medicaid Director for the Maryland Department of Health.

- Provided updates to Apple Health Medicaid and Behavioral Health due to the recently passed Big Beautiful Bill at the federal level. Working to understand how that will affect us here in Washington and ensure people continue to get the care they need.
- There have been several ongoing organizational changes with SAMHSA at a federal level. SAMHSA is currently structured under Health and Human Services (HHS), this is currently being reorganized, and our understanding is that most of SAMHSA will move into a new agency called the Administration for A Healthy America.

10.	Next steps, review action items	12:15pm	Tessa Clements	<p>September Agenda:</p> <p>Action items</p> <p>Plan to schedule an initial subcommittee meeting- by the September meeting each subcommittee determines subcommittee chair, meeting cadence, responsibilities.</p> <p>Co-Chairs will write final letter on behalf of the council in response to the block grant priorities</p>
11.	Adjourn	12:20pm	All	

Action Items/Decisions

#	Action Item	Assigned To:	Date Assigned:	Date Due:	Status
	Draft a working document of Block Grant Recommendations from BHAC meeting Presentations	Nathan Lusk	7/9/24	ongoing	Draft a working document of Block Grant Recommendations from BHAC meeting Presentations
	Continue work on strategic planning. Currently holding workshops in Western and Eastern Washington.	BHAC Council	5/13/2024	7/8/2025	Completed. The contractor presented the plan at the 7/8/2025 BHAC meeting. Breakout rooms for Strategies and Workplans were also presented.
	DBHR will present the updated priorities of the Block Grant application at the July Meeting and		5/13/2025	7/8/2025	Completed at the 7/8/2025 meeting.

response to the BHAC recommendations				
Co-Chairs will write final letter on behalf of the council in response to the block grant priorities	Richelle Madigan, Vanessa Lewis	6/8/2025	7/31/2025	
Plan to schedule initial subcommittee meetings in August- by the September meeting each sub-committee to determine sub-committee chair, meeting cadence, responsibilities.	BHAC	7/8/2025	9/9/2025	