



**Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date/Time/Location:** April 29, 2019 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Whatcom County Courthouse Room 514, 311 Grand Ave, Bellingham

**Members Present:** Wendy Jones, Dave Reynolds, Regina Delahunt, Barbara Brenner, Dascomb Jamison, Susan Wood, Michael Massanari, Chris Phillips

**Members Absent:** Bill Elfo

**Health Depart Staff/Guests:** Perry Mowery, Health Department Human Services Supervisor; Samantha Murdoch, Health Department Coordinator; Joe Fuller, Health Department Program Specialist; Jackie Mitchell, Health Department Program Specialist; Kersten Tan, Chris Furman, Whatcom County Drug Court, Lauri

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
<b>1. Welcome and Introductions</b>	Members state names and positions.	
<b>2. Approve Minutes of January 2019</b>	Wendy Jones moved to approve the minutes as presented. Dac Jamison seconded the motion. A vote was conducted with all present members voting in favor. The motion passed	Vote to approve minutes: Ayes 7, Nays 0, Abstain 0
<b>3. Update on Membership</b>	Chris Phillips is no longer the designated Peace Health representative. He has been approved by the County Executive to assume an open position on the committee as a Mental Health Recovery Advocate. We're awaiting word from Peace Health about the new designated representative. Darrin Hall has submitted his resignation leaving an open position for a Substance Use Disorder Recovery Advocate.	Jackie





<p><b>4. Update on Crisis Stabilization Facility, Funding, Resolution</b></p>	<p>There is a concern about funding for operational costs. The legislative budget passed and appropriated \$500,000 for 2020 and 2021; however this is not a long term solution. Additional language in the legislative action states, "The Authority must coordinate with the crisis stabilization providers, managed care organizations, and behavioral health administrative services organizations throughout the state to identify payment models that reflect the unique needs of crisis stabilization and crisis triage providers. The report must also include an analysis of the estimated gap in non-Medicaid funding for crisis stabilization and triage facilities through the state. The Authority must provide a report to the office of financial management and the appropriate committees of the legislature on the estimated non-Medicaid funding gap and payment models by December 1, 2019."</p> <p>The Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) is transitioning to integrated managed care by on July 1, 2019. The Health Care Authority (HCA) recently investigated the BHO for money management issues. The HCA issued corrective actions, to which the BHO responded in a timely manner. The County Executive is waiting to determine if the counties will be held responsible for unrecovered funds before breaking ground for the Crisis Stabilization Facility.</p> <p>If the BHO is not chosen as the crisis services organization for the 2019 transition to integrated managed care, the default choice is Beacon Health Options. An email with updates will go out before the next meeting.</p>	<p>Perry</p>
---	---	--------------





<p><b>5. Behavioral Health Program Report</b></p>	<p>A draft format of the Behavioral Health Annual Report was presented for feedback as to content and formatting. The report is “owned” by the Committee and is presented by the Chair of the Committee to the County Council annually.</p> <p>Suggestions made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report only reflects the 1/10th of one percent fund, it should include and reflect the whole fund this Committee advises on</li> <li>• Include a total number of people served</li> <li>• Highlight comparisons to last year</li> <li>• The Visions and Goals section humanizes the population served instead of just data</li> <li>• Accomplishments are very important, always be sure to include</li> </ul> <p>A new draft will be emailed out before the next meeting for review.</p>	<p>Jackie</p>
<p><b>6. The Rising Incidence of Methamphetamine Use in Whatcom County</b></p>	<p>Methamphetamine has always been present in Whatcom County, but there has been a recent uptick in use now that opioid distribution is better controlled. Methamphetamine is cheap and easy to find. The drug cartels are switching over and using the same distribution channels. The jail has reported that only 5% of those applying for their Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program are on opioid only, 80% of those tested are using methamphetamine.</p> <p>There is a huge impact on housing as methamphetamine use which generates immediate sometimes irreparable damage to the property and there are secondary effects to family members. Studies show that it takes roughly two years to recover from post-acute withdrawal from methamphetamine, and immediate damage can occur from initial use. The relapse rate is very high and there is no particularly effective treatment.</p> <p>Research is taking place throughout the nation to fund effective medications for MAT for methamphetamine use disorder. We wanted to discuss our dilemma about the difficulties of not being able to treat methamphetamine effectively, while at the same time we are unable to accept people into housing because of the high toxicity associated with use and manufacture. Discussion ensued.</p>	<p>Jackie</p>





<p><b>7. Priority Areas for Planning</b></p>	<p>It is important to define the priorities the committee wants to address, and the purpose behind the meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data we want to see</li> <li>• Presentations we want to hear</li> <li>• Other things we want to hear from staff or other stake holders</li> </ul> <p>Suggestions made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on youth mental health, increase youth resiliency efforts</li> <li>• Continue focusing on incarceration rates</li> <li>• Finding or creating a model of a “health family” to share with young people as a prevention measure</li> <li>• Focus on elder well-being</li> <li>• Conducting a longitudinal cohort study on comorbidity of medical and BH conditions</li> <li>• Data and outcomes for the foster care system in Whatcom County</li> <li>• Presentation and discussion on Generations Forward</li> <li>• Resources for Developmental Disabled youth who are aging out</li> </ul>	<p>Chris</p>
<p><b>8. Public Comment</b></p>	<p>None</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting:</b></p>	<p><b>July 29th , 2019, 3:30-5:00</b>  <b>311 Grand Avenue</b>  <b>Whatcom County Courthouse Room 514</b>  <b>Bellingham, WA</b></p>	

