



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

Meeting Date/Time/Location: January 10, 2021 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Virtual Zoom Webinar

Members Present: Chris Phillips, Wendy Jones, Susan Wood, Michael Massanari, Dave Reynolds, Dean Wight

Members Absent: Bill Elfo, Dac Jamison, Mullane Harrington, Nick Evans, Todd Donovan

Health Depart Staff/Guests: Perry Mowery, Human Services Supervisor, Jackie Mitchell, Behavioral Health Program Specialist; Ashley Geleynse, Health Department Coordinator; Joe Fuller, Prevention Program Specialist.

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action/Who
1. Welcome, Introductions and Announcements	The meeting was called to order. A quorum was present.	Chris
2. Approve Minutes of October 2021	Susan moved to approve the October 2021 minutes as presented. Wendy seconded the motion. The committee voted and the motion passed. Dave did not vote.	Vote to approve minutes: Ayes 5, Nays 0, Abstain 1
3. Crisis Services Update	Dean introduced the plan to bring GRACE/LEAD under County administration at the Health Department. Previously managed by SeaMar, the Health Department is creating a new Response Systems Division where GRACE/LEAD will reside; the transition is to be complete by the end of March. Other programming may also become a part of this new division. Two other related activities coming under the purview of the new division are 1) an alternative co-responder model in the county (team consisting of Sheriff's Deputy and Behavioral Health Professional), and 2) a City of Bellingham alternative response program (team consisting of Bellingham Fire Department Emergency Medical Technician and Behavioral Health Professional). The committee was asked for feedback regarding rural vs. urban and Black, Indigenous and People of Color	Dean



	(BIPOC) and other diversity considerations. Committee discussed staffing, workforce shortages, DCR integration, behavioral health calls coming into dispatch, data collection to inform about racial disparities, language barriers, and violence prevention. Dean Wight left the meeting after this topic, and Perry Mowery represented the Health Department in Erika Lautenbach's position on the Committee at this point.	
4. BHAC Self-Assessment	The committee reviewed responses to the BHAC self-assessment, and discussed next steps to improve the function of the committee going forward. Topics brought up in discussion as possible areas of improvement included onboarding new members, staff reporting, committee advisory guidance, review of the charter, time of meeting, and targeting member recruitment to have wider community representation. Members made suggestions, about providing meaningful input which included the example of providing feedback on the new Division. Perry will take member suggestions to Health Department leadership in an effort to continue evaluating the direction of the Committee, and its input related to overarching strategies as the Health Department evolves over time.	Chris
5. Emerging Local Trends in Substance Abuse	Joe shared information about the Whatcom Opioid Task Force's efforts over time. The Task Force meetings occur every other month, and the Task Force has been simultaneously working with Shew Design to develop several marketing tools. In 2022, the Task Force is looking at the emerging issues of fentanyl and poly drug use. Joe asked for feedback from the committee, and ideas were offered around marketing. Wendy offered to share aggregated data points about drug use by incarcerated individuals from jail data with Joe.	Joe
6. Human Services Manager Update	Health Department leadership have interviewed two qualified candidates for the Human Services position, and are moving forward with a stakeholder meeting with one candidate on the 21 st . Committee members are welcome to attend the stakeholder meeting	Perry
7. Public Comment	There was no public comment.	Chris
Next Meeting:	April 11, 2022 3:30-5:00 Virtual	