



**SPOKANE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY SERVICES, HOUSING, AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
Kathleen Torella, Director**

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<b>Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health (Administrative Services Organization) Division, SCR BH (ASO) Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Meeting</b>		
Meeting Date: <b>September 28, 2020</b>	Location: <b>Zoom meeting/conference call</b>	Start Time: <b>3:00 p.m.</b> Adjourn Time: <b>4:05 p.m.</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>X=Present</b>	<b>E=Excused</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>U=Unexcused</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Alex Knox	U	Spokane County
Alicia Paschall	X	Spokane County
Angela Quadry	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Craig Davenport	X	Spokane County
Jennifer Jacobson	U	Stevens County
Dr. Michael Lemberger	X	Spokane County
Dr. Michael Mainer	E	Spokane County
Ed Hoffing	X	Spokane County
Gail Kogle	X	Spokane County and North East Counties Ombuds
James Mires	U	Stevens County At-Large Rep.
John Nowels	E	Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Kathleen Torella	E	CSHCD SCR BH
Kim Taylor	X	Spokane County
Nancy Locke	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Leta Taylor	E	Ferry County At-Large Rep.
Ronald Bacon	X	Ferry County
Tom Gose	X	Consumer Consultation Panel (CCP)
Tonya Stern	X	CSHCD SCR BH
<b>GUESTS</b>		
Charisse Pope ( <b>Presenter</b> )	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Sazi Wald ( <b>Presenter</b> )	X	Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA)
Liz Perez	X	Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)
Maureen Correia	X	Molina Healthcare
Andrew Van Winkle	X	Board Applicant
Michael Lindsly	X	Board Applicant

## AGENDA / MINUTES:

1. **Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Michael Lemberger**
  - a. The July 27, 2020 meeting minutes were approved, as written.
2. **Presentation – Behavioral Health Access Report - Charisse Pope, *Better Health Together (BHT)***
  - BHT contracted with Providence CORE to bring various pieces of data together to create a clear picture of the Behavioral Health needs and access for our region, and then use that information to inform their partners as well as for their own strategic initiatives. An overview of the report was provided.
  - The 45-page Access Report will be emailed to the board after the meeting.
3. **Presentation – Break the Youth Treatment & Homelessness Cycle - Sazi Wald, *Washington State Health Care Authority***
  - Sazi's role is to look at Youth 15-25 years of age being discharged into homelessness from public systems, specifically behavioral health inpatient. The end goal of her position is to create value-based purchasing or provider incentive, education, and policy recommendation for health care leadership around treatment transitions.
  - Currently, HCA does not have a standard of care when it comes to transition planning across the state for Youth 15-25 years of age. Away Home Washington conducted an expansive study across the state of Washington and found that of homeless Youth, two-thirds (2 out of 3) had discharged from inpatient treatment into homelessness. Eight-five percent (85%) of those Youth were between the ages of 18-24.
  - As a result of advocacy organizations coming together, Substitute Senate Bill 6560 was passed in 2019 which states that "no young person shall be discharged from a public system into homelessness by January 2021." Two (2) philanthropic partners, the Wrights Foundation and the Schultz Family Foundation, helped fund the Behavioral Health Transition Age Youth Stable Housing policy lead that she holds.
  - Recommendations for a solution to the discharge problem will be provided by June 2021 to health care leadership.
  - Sazi Wald contact information: [sazi.wald@hca.wa.gov](mailto:sazi.wald@hca.wa.gov); office (360) 725-0857; Cell (360) 790-4560.
4. **Administration Update – Tonya Stern**
  - Today is Tonya's last meeting with the board in her current official capacity as the Assistant Director of the Spokane County CSHCD Department; her last day with the CSHCD SCR BH will be Friday, October 9, 2020. She has enjoyed working with the board, and the board's important contribution and support of the RSN/BHO/BH-ASO has meant so much to the SCR BH. Tonya's presence and contributions to the board have been greatly appreciated, and she will be missed.
  - Justin Johnson was introduced as the new CSHCD SCR BH Assistant Director effective September 16, 2020. He has been with the BHO/BH-ASO organization for some time, and the board is familiar with Justin from presenting at BHAB meetings. He is from Okanogan County originally, then he transplanted to Spokane where he worked for several years in a clinical role at the Spokane County Detention Services Department before joining the Spokane County CSHCD Department. He is

excited to be serving all the counties of the Spokane region, even though he has a soft spot in his heart for the frontier rural communities and the challenges and barriers they face.

- There are no legislative updates to be provided.
- The BH-ASO should be receiving an Emergency Grant from the Washington State Health Care Authority that it bid on with the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The grant is to provide additional Non-Medicaid funds to fund Behavioral Health treatment for the Non-Medicaid population. The awarded funds were available because of anticipated increased and expected Behavioral Health needs because of COVID-19, such as loss of loved ones, loss of incomes, social isolation, businesses have closed, and exacerbating other symptoms. Frontier Behavioral Health has agreed to take on the burden of providing all the grant data to SAMSHA. An update on the Emergency Grant will be provided once the contract is received.

**5. Ombuds Reports – July and August 2020 - Gail Kogle and Cara Reidy**

- A broad overview of information was provided.
- Cara Reidy was introduced as the new Ombuds replacing Jessica Watson effective September 1, 2020. Cara comes from a Supportive Living Program and has been an advocate for some time. She is excited to bring her knowledge to this new position. She looks forward to helping individuals to advocate for themselves and make positive changes in the delivery of care in our system.

**6. Consumer Consultation Panel (CCP) – Tom Gose** advised the panel has not met since March 2020 because of COVID-19; therefore, a report was not available to provide.

**7. Board –**

- a. Membership comments – None

**8. Public Comments – Board Applicants**

- **Shane Lindsly** served on the previous Substance Abuse Advisory Board (SAAB) for three years, is a counselor, pastor, and community member. He has been highly involved in transitional housing and any social service in the area he has worked in for two decades. His passion is to help with positive change and to identify and connect stakeholders with services.
- **Andrew Van Winkle** is a staff attorney with the Washington State Court of Appeals. Because he has seen the system from criminal, civil, and the perspective of a family member sides, he has a lot of different viewpoints to bring to the board.

**DECISIONS:**

- The July 27, 2020 minutes were approved, as written.

**ACTIONS:**

- Nancy Locke will email the Better Health Together Access Report to the board.

**NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION:**

**October 26, 2020 - 3:00 p.m.** / Zoom meeting

**Name of recorder:**

Nancy Locke