



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

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**Spokane County Regional Behavioral Health
(Administrative Services Organization) Division, SCR BH (ASO)
Behavioral Health Advisory Board (BHAB) Special Meeting**

Meeting Date: September 27, 2021	Location: Zoom meeting/Conference Call	Start Time: 3:00 p.m. Adjourn Time: 4:15 p.m.
Attendance:	X=Present	E=Excused
		U=Unexcused
Name		Representing
BOARD		
Alex Knox	X	Spokane County (Chair)
Alicia Paschall	E	Spokane County (Vice-Chair)
Andrew Van Winkle	X	Spokane County
Craig Davenport	E	Spokane County
James Mires	X	Stevens County
Jill Burkholder	X	Spokane County
John Nowels	X	Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Kim Taylor	E	Spokane County
Leta Phillips	E	Ferry County At-Large Rep.
Mark Bullock	X	Spokane County
Dr. Michael Lemberger	X	Spokane County
Michael Lindsly	U	Spokane County
Ronald Bacon	U	Ferry County
OTHERS		
Cara Reidy	X	Spokane County and North East Counties Ombuds
Gail Kogle	X	Spokane County and North East Counties Ombuds
Jessica Watson	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Justin Johnson	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Kathleen Torella	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Nancy Locke	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Tom Gose	X	Consumer Consultation Panel (CCP)
MCOs – Guests		
Liz Perez	X	Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)
Ashley Nelson	X	Molina Healthcare

AGENDA / MINUTES:

1. Welcome and Introductions – *Alexander Knox, Chair*

- The July and August 2021 minutes were unable to be approved as there was not a Quorum in attendance to approve them. The minutes will be reviewed during the November 22, 2021 meeting.

2. Presentation – 2021 Q2 Crisis Data Dashboard (March 2021 through June 2021) - *Jessica Watson*

- Overall, the crisis system is operating similar to how it operated in Quarter One; similar number of individuals served, as well as total services provided and similar number of calls.
- The number of high utilizers in all three (3) areas had the largest change seen this quarter; forty-three (43) more high utilizers of the Regional Crisis Line; twenty-nine (29) more high utilizers of the Other Crisis Services, and one (1) more high utilizer of the ITA Investigations. There could be many reasons for these increases. The region is experiencing a lot of challenges with COVID-19 and lockdowns going back in place with the Delta Variant, as well as some legislation that could be affecting this.

3. Administrative Presentation – *CSHCD SCR BH* – Justin Johnson, Jessica Watson

a. Legislative Update:

- **House Bill 1310** - The bill is a priority for 2022 that impacts how law enforcement engages Individuals in the community. This places significant restrictions on law enforcement for what is a procedure/encounter for Individuals that they meet within the aspect of their duties, but in the same sense, add liabilities for those encounters by which if they do not meet those standards, there could be recourse either by Individuals, or the other external auditing resources for law enforcement to address. Essentially meaning, if they do not follow those procedures, there are ways the community can address this immediately that placed a lot of prohibitable engagement expectations on law enforcement because they did not describe in detail for certain situations that applied to behavioral health.
- **90 Day Implementation of a state-wide Suicide Prevention line.** Justin has been chosen to serve on one of the CRIS Committee, that helps guide the Steering Committee, as a representative for our region and the others ASOs. One of the biggest aspects why the SCR BH ASO was selected is because we represent a large portion of rural and frontier-rural communities that do not have the same representation state-wide. King County was also selected.

b. **Workforce Development Project** – In conjunction with the BHAB approving the Block Grant Plans, the SCR BH ASO pushed forward with the plan to implement the project funding beginning October 1, 2021. The SCR BH ASO believes an immediate influx of funds is needed now for providers until the state implements more robust workforce solutions. This is what the SCR BH ASO agreed to within the COVID Block Grant Plans and was approved by the BHAB. The actual project beginning October 1, 2021 will push out substantial funding to our providers to access for the provision of workforce development and recruitment, which could include subsidies, increase in pay, retention and longevity bonuses, support for supervision and training, and support for ancillary and new training.

c. **Recovery Navigator Program** – Jessica provided a brief overview of the new program that will serve all six (6) counties within the Spokane Regional Service Area (RSA). The purpose and intent of the RNP is to provide outreach and engagement services for those who come into contact with law enforcement or other first responders and offer support and referral to treatment services to avoid further interaction with the criminal justice system. Law enforcement is the priority referral source and additionally, Individuals, Providers, Family, and Businesses can refer, and it does not

intend to replace existing Medicaid covered care/services. The goal is to enhance and bridge gaps in services covered vs. what Individuals need. It will be a holistic look at all behavioral health needs.

- Justin introduced Cara Reidy as the newly hired RNP Administrator for the SCR BH ASO to oversee the programs and provide updates to the BHAB. She will begin her new role on October 16, 2021 to implement this program and is very excited to make an impact with it.
- Justin announced the SCR BH ASO is advertising to fill the open second Ombuds position. The difficulty, because of the transition, is this is a limited term position. By August 31, 2022, the SCR BH ASO expects the state will terminate the Ombuds from the ASO contract and revert to the contract under the new statute, which is under the Department of Commerce. With Cara's position transition, the SCR BH ASO is hopeful another Ombuds can be hired. The SCR BH ASO thanks and supports Gail Kogle for taking on all the Ombuds responsibilities for our region during this transition period. The BoCC will be provided with updates on the progress of filling the open position.

4. Consumer Consultation Panel (CCP) Report – Tom Guse read the minutes from the August 2021 meeting.
5. Board Comments – None.

A motion was made, and the board approved to adjourn the meeting.

DECISIONS:

ACTIONS:

- The ASO Administration will have Recovery Navigators present at a future meeting.

NEXT EVERY OTHER MONTH MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION:

November 22, 2021 - 3:00 p.m. / Zoom Meeting

Name of recorder:

Nancy Locke