



**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) Special Meeting</b>		
Meeting Date: <b>August 23, 2021</b>	Location: <b>Zoom meeting/Conference Call</b>	Start Time: <b>3:00 p.m.</b> Adjourn Time: <b>4:15 p.m.</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>X=Present</b>	<b>E=Excused</b>
<b>Name</b>		<b>U=Unexcused</b>
		<b>Representing</b>
<b>BOARD</b>		
Alex Knox	X	Spokane County (Chair)
Alicia Paschall	X	Spokane County (Vice-Chair)
Andrew Van Winkle	X	Spokane County
Craig Davenport	X	Spokane County
James Mires	E	Stevens County
Jill Burkholder	E	Spokane County
John Nowels	U	Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Kim Taylor	X	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	E	Ferry County
<b>OTHERS</b>		
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
Joanne Napier	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Justin Johnson	X	CSHCD SCR BH
Kathleen Torella	E	CSHCD SCR BH
Nancy Locke	E	CSHCD SCR BH
Tom Gose	X	Consumer Consultation Panel (CCP)
<b>MCOs – Guests</b>		
Liz Perez	X	Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)

**AGENDA / MINUTES:**

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

**2. Administrative Presentation – CSHCD SCRBH – Justin Johnson**

- Today's meeting is an overview and history of the SABG and MHBG plans and budget allocations already approved by the board last month, as well as to address new business specific to the COVID Block Grant Plans which are required by the state to submit in September 2021. The plans are special federal block grant plans that were provided in response to some of the COVID rescue funds passed in December 2020.
- Justin provided a history of background to help the board understand the full range of what the ASO is doing with the current funds and current funding allocations to contracted providers.
- An extensive presentation on the SAMHSA Federal Block Grant Funds, as well as an overview of the COVID SABG and MHBG Plans, were provided.
- The base block grant plans' annual amount is provided by the state by a bi-annual plan submitted by the fed to the state. Generally, those funds do not shift and are ongoing. The COVID plans were a one-time provision of funds during the December 2020 American rescue funding passed by congress that provided for COVID relief as it applies to Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health. The funds are available until March 2023 and the ASO wants to use the funds effectively; to target services needed that fit under that umbrella and look at the opportunity for new programs.
- Justin provided a synopsis of the project goals intended for the COVID Block Grant Funds, specific to Workforce development and the needs identified in the community. Based on Providers' feedback, ongoing HCA work, and the identified regional crisis workforce shortage, the targeted goal of addressing workforce challenges to improve service delivery and reduce the impact to Individuals desperately needing services was thoroughly discussed. Justin answered questions on the impact to current providers, the need to ensure equitability across the entire contracted network, and the importance of ensuring the investment into workforce would go to improving services for Individuals receiving the services. No other concerns were identified during the meeting.
- The board made motions and seconded to unanimously approve both the COVID SABG and MHBG plans as presented.

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

**DECISIONS:**

- The COVID SABG and MHBG plans were unanimously approved by the board.

**ACTIONS:**

**NEXT EVERY OTHER MONTH MEETING DATE/TIME/LOCATION:**

September 27, 2021 - 3:00 p.m. / Zoom Meeting

**Name of recorder:**

Nancy Locke