



**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: <b>November 22, 2021</b>	Location: <b>Zoom meeting/Conference Call</b>	Start Time: <b>3:00 p.m.</b> Adjourn Time: <b>3:45 p.m.</b>
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>X=Present</b>	<b>E=Excused</b>
		<b>U=Unexcused</b>
<b>Name</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	E	Spokane County
James Mires	U	Stevens County
Jill Burkholder	X	Spokane County
John Nowels	U	Spokane County Sheriff's Office
Kim Taylor	U	Spokane County
Leta Phillips	U	Ferry County At-Large Rep.
Mark Bullock	X	Spokane County
Dr. Michael Lemberger	X	Spokane County
Michael Lindsly	X	Spokane County
Ronald Bacon	U	Ferry County
<b>OTHERS</b>		
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)
<b>MCOs – Guests</b>		
Liz Perez	E	Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW)
Ashley Nelson	E	Molina Healthcare

**AGENDA / MINUTES:**

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

- The July and August 2021 minutes were approved as written. The November 22, 2021 meeting minutes will be reviewed at the January 24, 2022 meeting.

**2. Presentation – Youth Behavioral Health Text Line Update – Justin Johnson, SCR BH**

- Excelsior was chosen for the overall project with an October 1, 2021 contract implementation start time and will begin taking calls as of December 1, 2021. Excelsior is on track to be ready and able to take calls by that date, and they have selected an underlining technology service provider that will allow them to get going quicker than having to start from scratch.
- The ASO is working with Excelsior to outreach and market the line to be reflective of what Youth are experiencing in the community and ensure its useable and functional in meeting them where they are at.

**3. Ombuds 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report – Gail Kogle, Ombuds**

- A brief overview of the report was provided.

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

- a. **Recovery Navigator Program** – Jessica advised the board a Request for Information was released on October 15, 2021 for agencies who were interested in administrating the program. On November 10, 2021, the ASO facilitated received proposals and based on feedback and committee scores, the following agencies were selected:

- Pend Oreille County Counseling Services (POCCS) (Pend Oreille County)
- North East Washington Alliance Counseling Services (NEWACS) (Ferry, Lincoln and Stevens Counties)
- Pioneer Human Services (Spokane County)

A Request for Proposal was re-released for **Adams County** only, due to no respondents from the Adams County region during the first RFP release. The intended start date for the Adams County RNP contract is tentatively set for February 1, 2022.

- b. **Legislative Update: House Bill 1310** –

- As a follow-up from the board's September meeting, the response bill to HB1310 is a priority for 2022 that places significant restrictions on how law enforcement responds and engage to community non-emergent response needs. 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, law enforcement is stuck in a unique position between the communities' needs and the prohibitable engagement expectations on law enforcement faced due to HB1310.
- The ASO has been advocating quite extensively, including writing letters to our representatives expressing concern about the potential risk there is to those experiencing behavioral crisis. The last thing we want is for individuals who need help not receiving it because no one can go out because of risk to safety. In response, the ASO and on behalf of our Director, Kathleen Torella, requested legislators within the Spokane Regional Service Area, which includes all six (6) counties, support addressing new legislative changes this season if not sooner. The response by the representatives was very positive; many expressed the same things we had and identified that they would be working on this need for clarifying language in the next legislative season.

Because of this, we believe this will be addressed during next legislative session in 2022 with it providing further clarification for law enforcement and community partners.

c. **Upcoming Programs** – Justin briefly mentioned a list of upcoming new programs. Further updates will be provided on the programs when available:

- Recovery Navigator Program
- Peer Pathfinders
- Mobile Crisis Team for Youth – came out of legislation in preparation for 1477 and need to revamp the crisis system. The state recognized the need to target Youth and mobile crisis teams. The ASO is looking on how to strategically implement how to get the most out of the limited funding provided without sacrificing any unnecessary loss of service of implementation. Coming out after the January 1, 2022 contract for funding for implementation either by the Spring or June contract.
- Co-responder to fund First Responders and Law Enforcement to hire a Mental Health Professional (MHP) to work on their staff. There was not sufficient funding to provide a MHP in each county.
- Crisis Contracts pushing out January 2022. The state has provided a small amount of funding for Peers to be added to current Crisis Teams yet again, the funding was not sufficient to provide a Peer in each county. The ASO pushed out funding for all the ASO Crisis providers with the expectation they will look to hire and maybe leverage existing resources or utilize other resources not previously examined for that purpose.
- Homeless Outreach Engagement Team funds to expand MCAT Services (SB5476) – In July 2022, the ASO is expecting new funding from the RNP legislation which looks to expand and address the need in the community as a diversionary aspect instead of reactionary.
- FBH awarded First Episode Psychosis (FEP) – funding to support early identification and treatment of first episode psychosis for Individuals, Youth and young Adults. Research indicates Individuals who receive early diagnosis and treatment, have better long-term outcomes than Individuals who receive treatment later in life, and after symptoms have fully manifested.
- State adding new American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); Block Grant Plans under SAMSA rules.

5. **Consumer Consultation Panel (CCP) Report** – Tom Guse read the minutes from the September and October 2021 meetings.

6. **Board Comments** –

- The Board Officers election for Chair and Vice-Chair will be held at the January 24, 2022 meeting. Prior to the meeting date, please email Nancy Locke at [nlocke@spokanecounty.org](mailto:nlocke@spokanecounty.org) if anyone is interested in being considered for either position or would like to nominate someone.

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

**DECISIONS:**

**ACTIONS:**

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

**January 24, 2022 - 3:00 p.m. / Zoom Meeting**

**Name of recorder:**

Nancy Locke