Multnomah County
Behavioral Health Division
Behavioral Health Advisory Council Meeting
June 10th, 2026 10AM - Noon

Community Lived Experience/Family/ Advocate Representatives	Public Service Representatives	Staff	Guests
☑ Barb. Rainish	☐ **CareOregon** Cassi Sturtz	☑ Anthony Jordan	☑ Mira Peraja
☑ Courtney Shannon	☑ **Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare** Dave Kohler	☑ Deandre Kenyanjui	☑ Jodie Traslavina; Oregon State Hospital
☐ Daniella Quebrado	☐ **Central City Concern** Tuesday Hailey	☑ Jay Auslander	☑ Jennifer Butcher; PPB BHU
☑ Etta Assuman	☑ **Lifeworks NW** Mary Fakhoury	☐ Jenny Tsai	
☑ Joni Scheib	☐ **Multnomah County Sheriff's Office** Rachelle Ross-Schank	☑ Jessica Jacobsen	
☑ June Howard Johnson	☑ **NAMI Multnomah** Kerri Melda	☑ JJ Jessee	
☑ Katrina Malachowski	☐ **NARA NW** (Resigned)	☑ Mario Cardenas	
☑ Kevin Fitts	☑ **New Narrative** Haven Taylor	☐ Olivia Kilgore	
☑ Laura Bueford	☑ **Quest Center** Allison Haws/Victoria Haberkorn	☑ Roger Garth	
☑ Lisa Yu	☑ **Street Leaves** JoAnne Lang	☑ Rachael Banks	
☐ Mamie Gathard	☐ Vacant	☑ Jessica Guernsey	
☑ Mary Avalon	☐ Vacant		
☑ Patty Hamit Arvizu			
☑ Robert Fentress			
☑ Ruthie Benjamin			
☑ Ryan Hamit			
☐ Vacant			

Topic	Notes:
Welcome and Introductions Group Agreements	Roger led everyone through a round of introductions. BHAC Co-facilitators Robert Fentress and Katrina Malachowski read through the group agreements.
Office of Consumer Engagement (OCE) Updates	**Office of Consumer Engagement (OCE) Updates** • June Steering Committee and Community Workgroup Meetings Cancelled Due to Staffing • No BHAC General Council Meeting in July. (Regularly scheduled summer meeting break) • OCE has finished their yearly data. • Roger's position was part of budget cuts and today will be his last meeting.
OCE & BHD Director's Office Updates	**OCE Update** • **Staff Departures & Budget Impact:** Roger Garth announced that this would likely be his last meeting with the OCE due to county budget cuts and reassignments. Colleagues expressed deep appreciation for his leadership and growth. • **Data and Future Presentations:** OCE has finished collecting its yearly data. A new spreadsheet was created to re-enter data due to logging issues, and a full presentation on past projects and areas needing development will be shared once Olivia returns from leave in late June. • **Advisory Council Meetings:** Remaining BHAC meetings for June are canceled due to staffing; members will receive email updates. • **Director's Office Updates** **Budget Reductions & Operating Budget:** FY27 operating budget is reduced to $129 million (down from $150 million this year) due to constraints from CareOregon, the state, and county general funds.

Topic	Notes:
	FTE Impacts: Exact FTE impact numbers are not yet finalized (estimated over 30) due to union bumping and seniority rules, with final figures expected in two weeks. **Budget Amendments & Investments:** **Recovery Housing:** Commissioner Moyer put forth a $2.1 million amendment to fund up to 3 months of recovery housing for over 120 families with children and individuals in intensive services. **Bridgeview Housing:** A funding gap for the Bridgeview Housing Program was filled, ensuring it is fully funded for FY27. **BHRC Funding:** The Behavioral Health Resource Center (BHRC) was made whole with no reductions. **Peer Services Grant:** Received a $377,000 grant through LPSCC (Local Public Safety Coordinating Council) to support peer services for mental health court and aid and assist populations. **Council Q&A & Discussion** **BHRC & OCE Management Concerns:** Barb Rainish raised concerns that the BHRC manager position was reclassified to a senior program specialist due to span-of-control rules, and warned that OCE having a supervisor oversee only two staff members threatens its future. **Disinvestment in Peer Services:** Kerri Melda (NAMI Multnomah) highlighted a $300,000 loss in contracting, resulting in the cancellation of 33 monthly support groups, 6 recovery classes, and free peer specialist training. Members discussed how peer and culturally specific services bore a disproportionate share of budget cuts. Anthony Jordan and DeAndre acknowledged the impact, pointing out statutory constraints on funding and ongoing state advocacy efforts. Council final input: words are great but an action plan is needed to garner the funding to make peer and css services a priority again.

Topic	Notes:
Community Announcements	Quest Summer Social and Resource Fair. 6/26/2026 4-6pm. Flyer attached. https://quest-center.org/events/summer-social-and-resource-fair Hollywood Senior Center Positive Aging Celebration Summer Block Party: 11am-3pm; 6/27/2026 BHRC Clothing Drive: Men's and women's undergarments are the priority. All June. 333 SW Park Ave. Darcelle's XV Plaza Park grand opening next Thursday from 11am-1pm. CW Member Patty Jackson is very ill. Please reach out to her and pray on her behalf.
Minute Approval	April and May Minutes approved with minor changes.
BHAC Steering Committee Nominations	Nominees: • Ryan Hamit • Joanne Lang • Laura Bueford • Courtney Shannon • Mary Avalon • Mamie Gathard (via email)
BHD Leadership Hiring Process	**Rachael Banks and Jessica Guernsey presented the hiring plan for the Division Director and Medical Officer positions. (Slides attached)** **Context & Challenge:** High turnover and burnout among previous Behavioral Health Division (BHD) directors revealed that the role had become too demanding for a single person, exacerbated by an increasingly complex landscape and the transition to the CCO 2.0 era. **System Assessment Findings:** A review by Dr. Rachel Solatorov highlighted fragmented strategies, siloed leadership, a need for better coordination, data

Topic	Notes:
	access improvements, and a highly committed workforce facing severe stress while prioritizing equity and culturally specific work. **Core Recommendations:** • Focus strategically on the post-CCO 2.0 era by prioritizing core CMHP requirements, high-acuity/equity needs, unique county positioning, and fiscal sustainability. • Strengthen inclusive partnerships and internal collaboration across data, integrated clinical services, and corrections health. **New Leadership Structure:** To avoid a confusing "co-director" model, the role is split into two distinct positions: • **Behavioral Health Director:** Focuses on administration, statutory roles, fiscal management, workforce development, and operational alignment. • **Behavioral Health Officer:** A county-wide clinical leader (psychiatrist) focusing on clinical policy, external communication/spokesperson duties, system-wide technical assistance, and cross-departmental trauma-informed care (including corrections health). **Timeline:** Recruitment for the Behavioral Health Director began around April/May 2026, with onboarding targeted for July, followed by recruitment for the Behavioral Health Officer. --- **Q&A and Discussion Summary**

Topic	Notes:
	Staffing and Deputy Directors: Rachael Banks clarified that the interim dual deputy director roles were temporary placeholders; the permanent structure will consist of one BH Director, one BH Officer, and one deputy director. • **Concerns Over Peer Services and OCE:** Council members (including Barb Rainish, Kevin Fitts, and OCE Supervisor, DeAndre Kenyanjui) expressed deep concern and heartbreak over budget cuts affecting the Office of Consumer Engagement (OCE) and peer positions (specifically noting Roger Garth's departure). They stressed that OCE provides vital system-level peer advocacy and support that cannot be lost. Rachael Banks acknowledged the impact of layoffs, shared her background as a community health worker, and affirmed her commitment to supporting peer work. • **CCO 2.0 and Prevention vs. Crisis Funding:** Haven Taylor raised concerns about the systemic deprioritization of prevention and ongoing wellness in favor of crisis-focused services. Rachael Banks agreed on the need for dynamic data modeling to demonstrate the value of prevention and to advocate around state financial constraints. • **Hiring Process & Community Involvement:** Jessica Guernsey noted that the BH Director recruitment is national and rolling (with about 35 initial applicants so far). Both Rachael and Jessica emphasized their commitment to involving BHAC members in interview panels, meet-and-greets, and scenario-based question design for both leadership roles. • **Rebuilding Leadership Relationships:** Members highlighted the historical importance of direct access and strong relationships between the advisory council, OCE, and county commissioners, calling for restored, ongoing engagement with leadership moving forward.
Next Meeting	August 5th, 2026 from 10am-Noon

BHAC General Council Meeting
06/10/2026

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Multnomah County
Health Department
Behavioral Health Division

BHAC Meeting Reminders and Group Agreements

Making space for all voices

- Hold space, make space
- Remember WAIT (Why Am I Talking?) & principles before personalities
- Stay engaged to the best of your ability
- Share your experience & hear the experience of others - Use "I statements"
- Acknowledge intent and center impact (pure intention does not eliminate harmful impact)
- Name and account for power dynamics in the the work
- We are here to work collaboratively, and share responsibility for the success of our work together
- Limit comments to two minutes
- Limit acronyms and jargon
- Interrupt conversations that cause harm



2

BHAC Meeting Reminders and Group Agreements

Self-care

We support one another by taking care of ourselves

Pause before speaking when feeling stressed - respond rather than react

Expect and accept non-closure

Experience discomfort - (creating a safer space for challenging conversations can be uncomfortable at times)

Take the conversation off-line with staff

Virtual meeting reminders

Try not to talk over each other - raise hand; use chat; accommodate people on the phone and tech issues

Silence microphones when not speaking

Go off camera when necessary

3

BHAC Meeting Reminders and Group Agreements

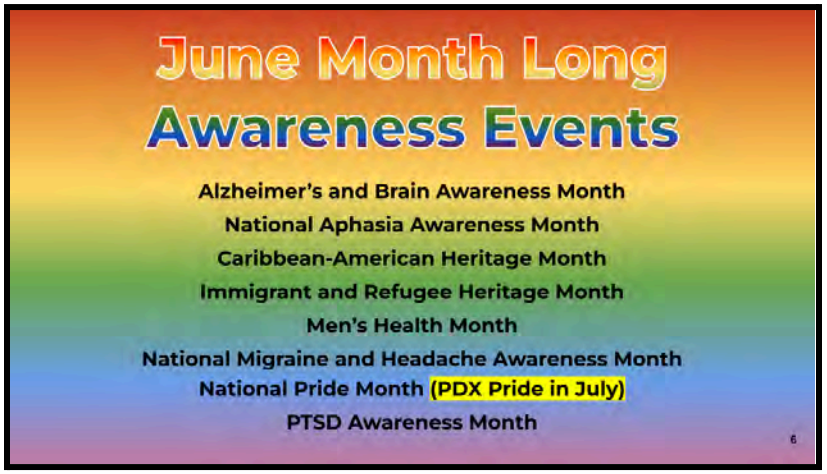
Disruptive behavior during the meeting will result in:

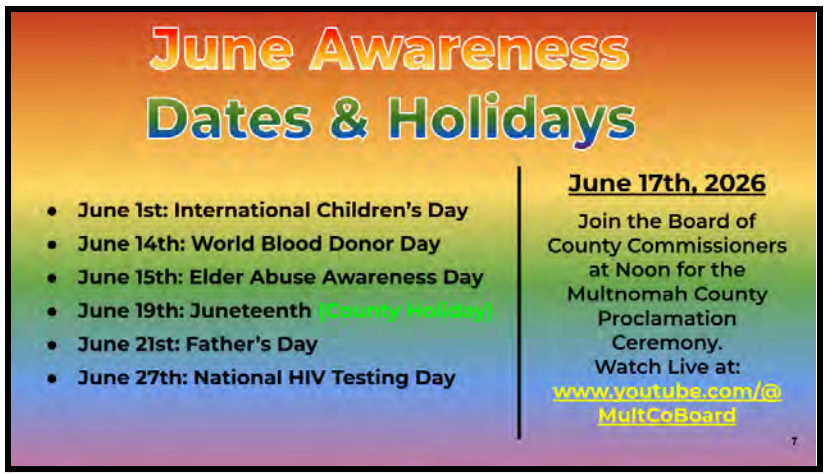
1. Facilitator calls attention to harmful behavior
2. If behavior continues, participant will be reminded of impact and warned of potential meeting separation via private chat or via verbal warning if on phone
3. Separation from meeting with continued disruption

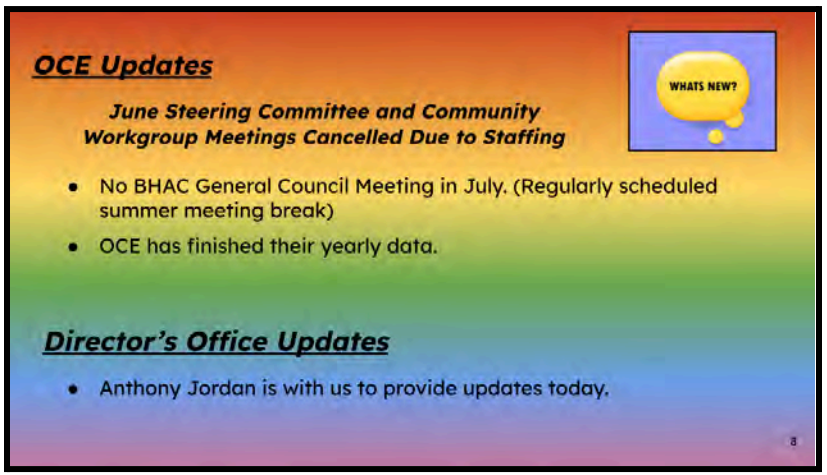


4


This meeting is recorded
OCE will review the recording for note taking and group accountability purposes
BHAC General Council and Community Workgroup meetings are open to the public
5


June Month Long Awareness Events
Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
National Aphasia Awareness Month
Caribbean-American Heritage Month
Immigrant and Refugee Heritage Month
Men's Health Month
National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month
National Pride Month (PDX Pride in July)
PTSD Awareness Month
6


June Awareness Dates & Holidays
June 1st: International Children's Day
June 14th: World Blood Donor Day
June 15th: Elder Abuse Awareness Day
June 19th: Juneteenth (County Holiday)
June 21st: Father's Day
June 27th: National HIV Testing Day
June 17th, 2026
Join the Board of County Commissioners at Noon for the Multnomah County Proclamation Ceremony.
Watch Live at:
www.youtube.com/@MultCoBoard
7


OCE Updates
June Steering Committee and Community Workgroup Meetings Cancelled Due to Staffing
WHATS NEW?
No BHAC General Council Meeting in July. (Regularly scheduled summer meeting break)
OCE has finished their yearly data.
Director's Office Updates
Anthony Jordan is with us to provide updates today.
8



Steering Committee Elections

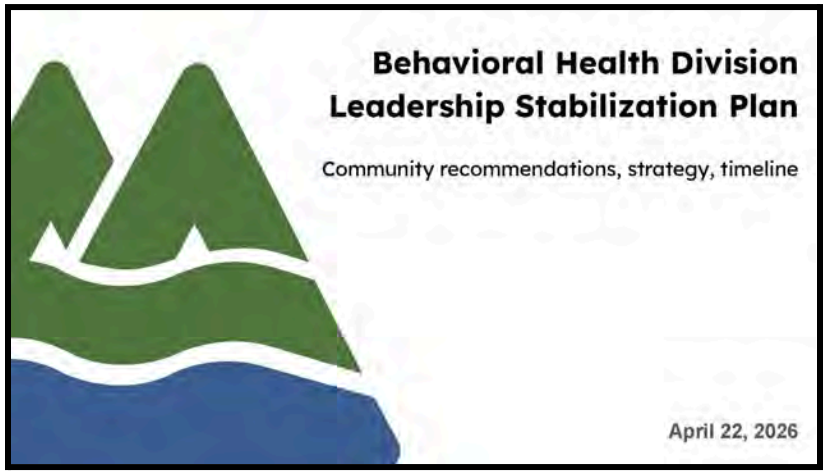
Current Members - Term Expirations

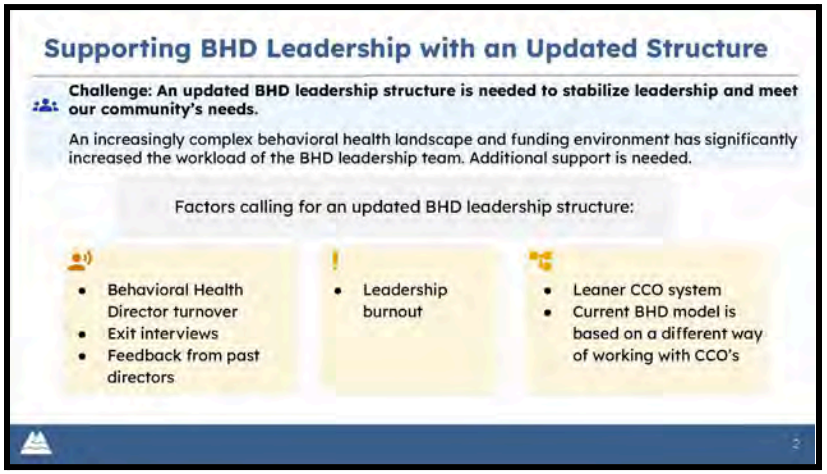
Member Name	Term Expiration
Barb Rainish	June 2027 (1st term)
Etta Assuman	June 2027 (2nd term)
Haven Taylor	Stepping Down
June Johnson	June 2027 (1st term)
Katrina Malachowski	Stepping Down
Robert Fentress	June 2027 (2nd term)
Ruthie Benjamin	June 2026 (1st term)

- → Ruthie Benjamin is seeking re-election for her 2nd term.
- → Nominations being accepted for up to 3 positions.
- → Vote will take place electronically in July and results will be announced as soon as they are available.
- → Co-facilitators will be voted on at a later date.

10

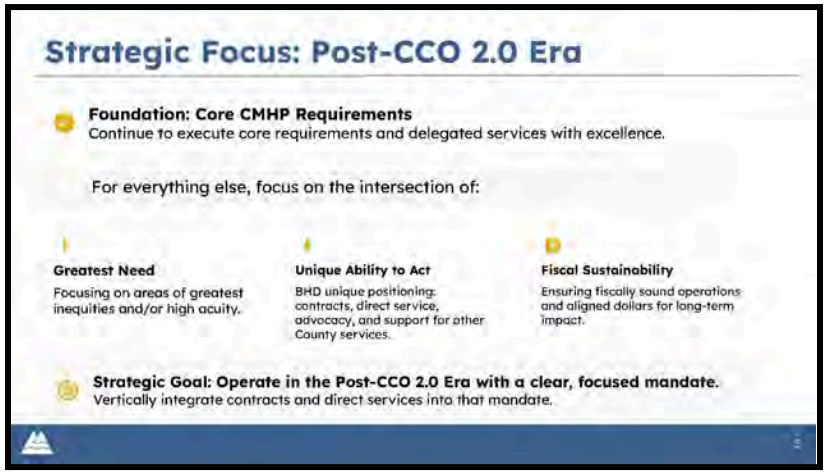


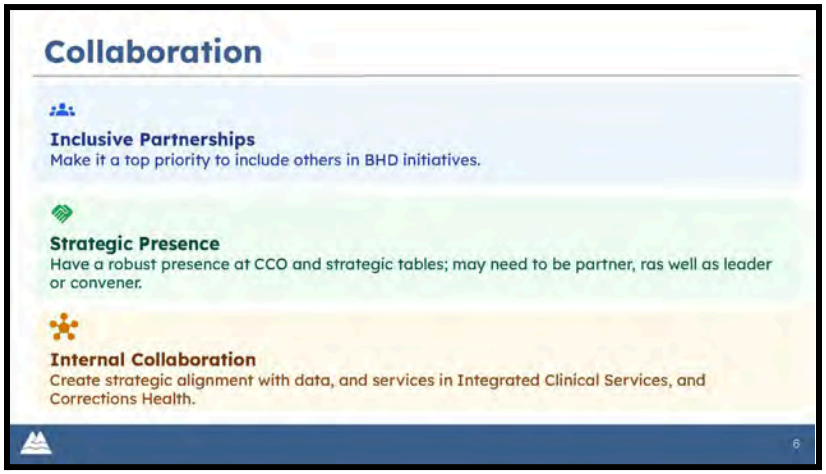

Behavioral Health Division
Leadership Stabilization Plan
Community recommendations, strategy, timeline
April 22, 2026


Supporting BHD Leadership with an Updated Structure
Challenge: An updated BHD leadership structure is needed to stabilize leadership and meet our community's needs.
An increasingly complex behavioral health landscape and funding environment has significantly increased the workload of the BHD leadership team. Additional support is needed.
Factors calling for an updated BHD leadership structure:
Behavioral Health Director turnover
Exit interviews
Feedback from past directors
Leadership burnout
Leaner CCO system
Current BHD model is based on a different way of working with CCO's


BHD Partner and System Findings
Fragmented Strategy
Current strategic approaches lack cohesive integration across departments.
Siloed Leadership
Decision-making is isolated, hindering unified progress and communication.
Coordination Need
Urgent requirement for stronger partnerships and collaboration.
Data and Access
Improvement needed in both the access to and the attention paid to system data.
Equity and Service
There is a strong, foundational emphasis on service delivery and equity.
Committed BHD Staff
Highly talented and committed workforce currently facing significant stress.

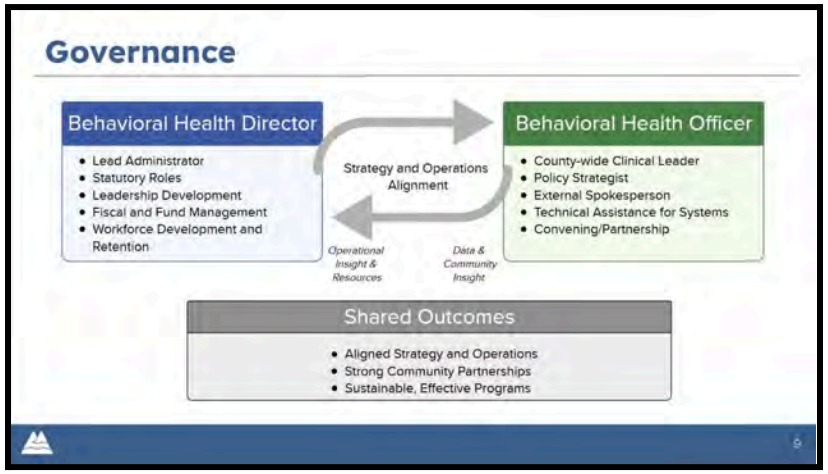

Recommendations
Strategic Focus
Operating in the Post-CCO 2.0 Era with a clear, focused mandate.
Collaboration
Working with partners as a top priority to solve systemic problems.
New Leadership Role
Redefining roles and identifying key competencies for future success.
Governance
Focusing on team-building and clear decision-making frameworks.

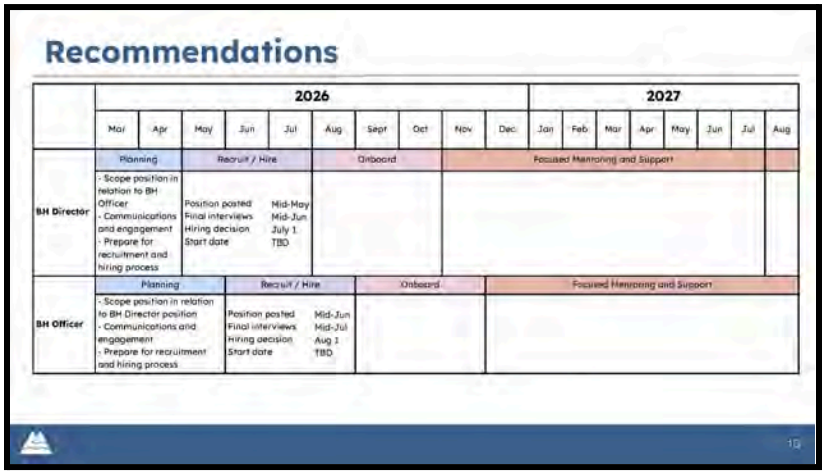

Strategic Focus: Post-CCO 2.0 Era
Foundation: Core CMHP Requirements
Continue to execute core requirements and delegated services with excellence.
For everything else, focus on the intersection of:
Greatest Need
Focusing on areas of greatest inequities and/or high acuity.
Unique Ability to Act
BHD unique positioning: contracts, direct service, advocacy, and support for other County services.
Fiscal Sustainability
Ensuring fiscally sound operations and aligned dollars for long-term impact.
Strategic Goal: Operate in the Post-CCO 2.0 Era with a clear, focused mandate.
Vertically integrate contracts and direct services into that mandate.


Collaboration
Inclusive Partnerships
Make it a top priority to include others in BHD initiatives.
Strategic Presence
Have a robust presence at CCO and strategic tables; may need to be partner, ras well as leader or convener.
Internal Collaboration
Create strategic alignment with data, and services in Integrated Clinical Services, and Corrections Health.


New Leadership Role
Opportunities for new position
Strategic leader: Focus on data-driven decisions, strategic mandates, and unique BHD positioning.
Collaborator: Strategically align with CCOs and other Counties.
Teacher/Learner: Engage partners, the public, and Commissioners.
Organizational Structure
Strongly discourage "co-director" status to ensure clear accountability.
Consider elevated director status with directors or deputy underneath.
Landed on Behavioral Health Officer and Behavioral Health Director model
Strategic Impact
This role would enable the BH Director to focus on the growth and development of the SMT and the BHD as a whole.


External System Architect, Clinical Policy Strategist, Transformational Leader
Strategic Data Insight
Behavioral population health expertise; ability to interpret trends and translate data into actionable strategy.
Systems Thinking
Understanding how to build health networks, leveraging resources, and aligning complex priorities.
Effective Educator
Continuous learner and public communicator; able to educate diverse stakeholders effectively.
Collaborative Leader
A problem-solver who excels in cross-jurisdictional collaboration and working with other payors.
Org Development
Deep expertise in organizational development and design preferred for this leadership role.
Trusted Advisor
Ability to provide cogent advice to the Director to facilitate data-driven decision-making.


Governance
Behavioral Health Director
Lead Administrator
Statutory Roles
Leadership Development
Fiscal and Fund Management
Workforce Development and Retention
Strategy and Operations Alignment
Operational Insight & Resources
Data & Community Insight
Behavioral Health Officer
County-wide Clinical Leader
Policy Strategist
External Spokesperson
Technical Assistance for Systems
Convening/Partnership
Shared Outcomes
Aligned Strategy and Operations
Strong Community Partnerships
Sustainable, Effective Programs


Recommendations
2026
2027
Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug
BH Director
Planning
Recruit / Hire
Onboard
Focused Mentoring and Support
- Scope position in relation to BH Officer
- Communications and engagement
- Prepare for recruitment and hiring process
Position posted Mid-May
Final interviews Mid-Jun
Hiring decision July 1
Start date TBD
BH Officer
Planning
Recruit / Hire
Onboard
Focused Mentoring and Support
- Scope position in relation to BH Director position
- Communications and engagement
- Prepare for recruitment and hiring process
Position posted Mid-Jun
Final interviews Mid-Jul
Hiring decision Aug 1
Start date TBD


Thank You