Multnomah County
Behavioral Health Division
Behavioral Health Advisory Council Meeting
May 13th, 2026 10AM - Noon

Community Lived Experience/Family/ Advocate Representatives	Public Service Representatives	Staff	Guests
☑ Barb. Rainish	☐ **CareOregon** Cassi Sturtz	☐ Anthony Jordan	☑ Daniella Quebrado
☑ Courtney Shannon	☑ **Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare** Dave Kohler	☐ Deandre Kenyanjui	☑ Mira Peraja
☑ Eric Bray	☐ **Central City Concern** Tuesday Hailey	☐ Jay Auslander	☑ Manzie Butler **New Narrative**
☑ Etta Assuman	☑ **Lifeworks NW** Mary Fakhoury	☑ Jenny Tsai	
☑ Joni Scheib	☑ **Multnomah County Sheriff's Office** Nora Mains (NWIAS) - Rachelle Ross-Schank	☑ Jessica Jacobsen	
☑ June Howard Johnson		☐ JJ Jessee	
☑ Katrina Malachowski		☑ Mario Cardenas	
☑ Kevin Fitts		☑ Olivia Kilgore	
☐ Laura Bueford		☑ Roger Garth	
☑ Lisa Yu	☑ **NAMI Multnomah** Kerri Melda	☐ Diego Basabe	
☑ Mamie Gathard	☐ **NARA NW** Albie Lemos	☐ Leah Drebin	
☑ Mary Avalon	☑ **New Narrative** Haven Taylor	☐ Marc Harris	
☑ Patty Hamit Arvizu	☑ **Quest Center** Allison Haws/**Victoria Haberkorn**	☐ Sharmila Bose	
☑ Robert Fentress		☐ Maren Zieba	
☑ Ruthie Benjamin	☐ **Street Leaves** JoAnne Lang		
☑ Ryan Hamit	☐ Vacant		
☐ Vacant			
☐ 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** ● Working on OCE Annual Plan ○ What gaps are in OCE work? ○ How can we get in more spaces? ● Possible position being cut from OCE due to budget reductions. ● Olivia going on medical leave through June. ● NAMIWalks is this weekend. BHD will be tabling the event. ● Interior at Sobering Center has been demolished and cleared.
BHD Director's Office Updates	● Jessica reviewed the budget process to date and shared that in the Chair's proposed budget, 3 FTE on the gun violence response team and 4 FTE in the School Based Mental Health are restored. ● Kevin Fitts shared that he had a big hand in creating the Office of Consumer Engagement. There is 1 FTE that has been proposed to be eliminated from OCE. How can consumers advocate for this team to remain whole? ○ Jessica followed up and shared they really support OCE. BHD has had to make some really tough decisions due to reduction in funds this year. BHD is mandated to certain populations (as listed in the CFAAs), and unfortunately peers aren't in that so they are having to make some very difficult decisions. At this point, the budget is in the hands of the Board. If folks want to advocate, they should reach out to the Board of County Commissioners.

Topic	Notes:
	• NAMI Multnomah has lost funding for their peer support groups, outreach and presentations in community and with school. The 5% county reduction has actually resulted in a 40% programming cut for NAMI.
Community Announcements	N/A
Minute Approval	Olivia is finishing up the notes from last month and will send them out to BHAC soon! They will be ready to vote on at the next BHAC meeting.
BHAC Membership Elections	There are currently 3 vacancies on BHAC and we received 3 applications from Daniella Quebrado, Joni Scheib and June Johnson. All applicants were given the opportunity to say a few words about why they are interested in joining. A vote was taken and all three applicants were voted onto the council.
Peerpocalypse Reflections	Members who went to Peerpocalypse shared about their experience with the group. Some comments include: • Keynotes were good. • Would like to spend more time as a group to relationship build. • Appreciated presentations on being a peer support specialist and working with friends and the history of the peer movement. • Liked being able to attend the “party events” virtually. The talent event provided a humorous perspective on behavioral health.
Program Closures and Updates	New Narrative experienced funding cuts to a variety of programs: • Washington County: Comfort Zone • Self-directed services defunded and will wrap up 6/30/26. • Hoping commissioners support a small amount of funding so they can honor rent assistance that current participants are counting on. • Northstar also received a Multco funding cut but has enough braided funding to continue operating, but won’t be able to move to a larger site.

Topic	Notes:
	• Executive team moved from 3 FTE to 2 FTE. • Haven is stepping back and Manzi Butler will be replacing her on BHAC. Mira shared some changes to the TriMet Lift program: • Won't come to door for pickup and leave if you are not out in 5 minutes • Insurance no longer covers Lift. Kevin Fitts wants to know if current leadership is in support of the proposed cuts, especially to OCE. How can the group advocate and be heard? Why isn't leadership at this meeting where they are supposed to receive input from the community? Where can they go to publicly disagree with leadership decision to go along with the chair's budget cuts?
Next Meeting	June 10th, 2026 from 10am-Noon



BHAC General Council Meeting 05/13/2026

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

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



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

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




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

Announcements

OCE Updates

- OCE is working on the office's annual plan
- Staffing - Olivia will be on medical leave beginning this Friday 5/15
- NAMI Multnomah is this Saturday, May 16th 11AM-2PM at Peninsula Park

Director's Office Updates

- See next slide…
- Jessica Jacobson is here to share additional BHD updates

Demolition







The interior at 440 SE Stephens Street has been demolished and cleared.

Community Updates



Close Slides for Presentation/Discussion