

Behavioral Health Bridge Briefing

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Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee – July 2026

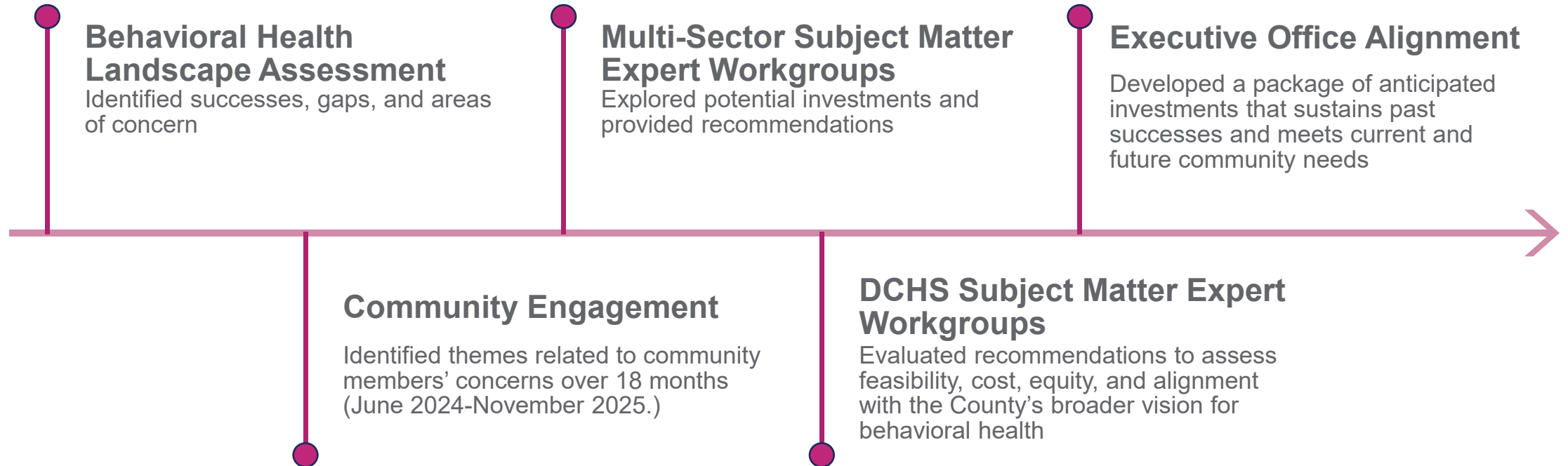


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Agenda

- Development of the Implementation Plan
 - Community engagement behind the plan
- What's Different
 - Updated 5 strategy areas
 - Procurement for DCHS
 - One County Approach to Outcomes, Measures, and Accountability
- Procurement Timeline and Process
- Inflation Analysis

IP Development Steps



MIDD Advisory Committee Engagement Throughout

Community and Subject Matter Expert Engagement

Community Engagement Overview

- Over 2200 people engaged over 18 months through listening sessions, community events, and an online survey in 21 languages.
- Half of people engaged were BIPOC, including Black, Latinx, AAPI, Middle Eastern, and Native/Indigenous.
- Significant engagement from youth, elders, LGBTQIA+ people, people with lived experience, and people who are incarcerated.

Engagement took place across all 9 districts of King County from June 2024 to November 2025.

Engaging Subject Matter Experts

Multi-sector subject matter expert (SME) workgroups

- One workgroup for each strategy area, consisting of **over 100 subject matter experts**.
- They produced a set of **preliminary goals and investment ideas** to improve behavioral health for King County residents.
- Staff at DCHS, Public Health, and the Executive Office **evaluated and refined** the results.

The result: An implementation plan with 13 goals and a set of anticipated activities that respond to the most pressing needs in King County's behavioral health system.

Executive Office Alignment & Priorities

- **Implement a countywide approach with an emphasis on integration** of behavioral health services and crisis response systems, as well as services for people who are incarcerated, hospitalized, or unhoused.
- **Promote overall accountability across county investments** that will respond to behavioral health needs across different systems, through competitive procurements and other accountability mechanisms.
- **Make stronger investments with data-driven decisions** that have clear performance goals across multiple systems, including the criminal-legal system.
- **Streamline** complex braided funding for services and treatments.

What's New



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BH Bridge Investment Considerations

- Streamline investments to align with funding source and separate braided funding.
- Investments respond to changing fiscal projections throughout implementation in 2028-2034.
- Introduction of a reserve to create flexibility during anticipated sales tax volatility.
- Strengthen monitoring and compliance by right-sizing staffing to support the investment of \$100M per year.

BH Bridge Strategy Areas

1. Care Transitions & Diversion Services

2. Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery

3. Equitable Access to Behavioral Health Care

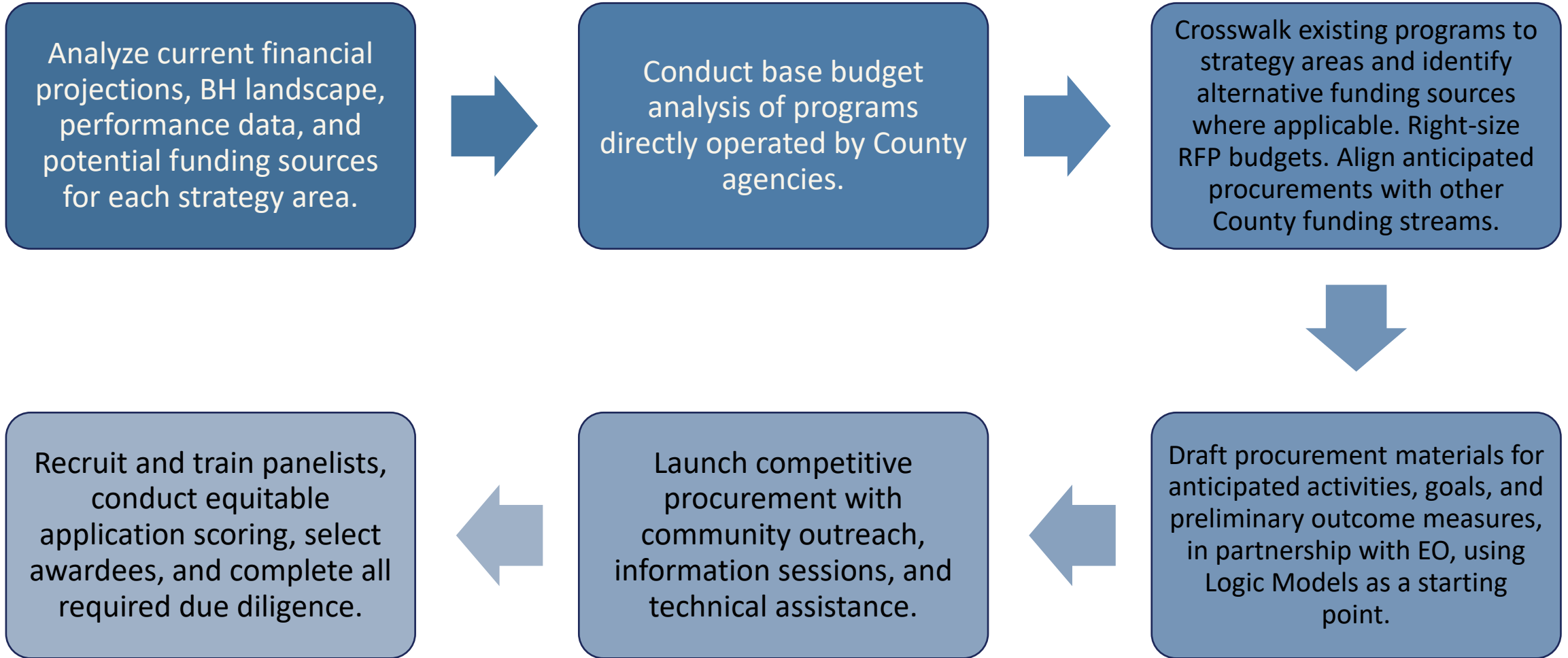
4. Child, Youth, and Young Adult Mental Wellbeing

5. Behavioral Health Workforce Development

Countywide Approach to Accountability and Outcomes

- Five Strategy Areas with specific goals and identified measures
- Competitive procurement process for DCHS programs
- One County Approach with Executive Office to Measure, Monitor and Support Accountability

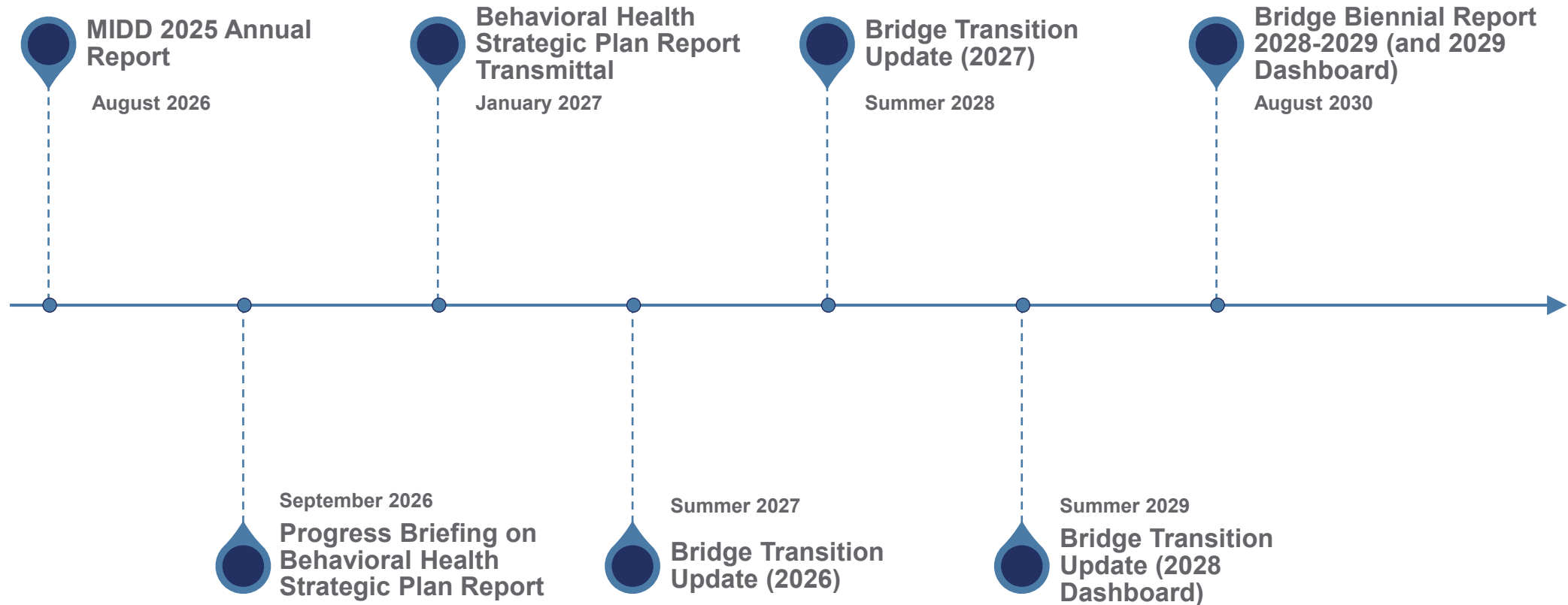
Anticipated Steps to Procurement



Estimated Timeline for Phased Procurements and Non-funded Program Ramp-down

Strategy area	Procurements announced	Applications due & Selection process	Successful applicants announced	Ramp down for MIDD 2 programs no longer receiving funding	Anticipated launch of programs (reprocured or with new base budget)
SUD Treatment and Recovery (SUD)	Start of Q2 2027	Q3 2027	End of Q4 2027	Q 1& 2 of 2028	Q3 of 2028
Equitable Access to Behavioral Health Care (EA)	Start of Q2 2027	Q3 2027	End of Q4 2027	Q 1& 2 of 2028	Q3 of 2028
Care Transitions and Diversion Services (CTD)	Start of Q4 2027	End of Q1 2028	End of Q2 2028	Q 3 & 4 of 2028	Q1 of 2029
Behavioral Health Workforce Development (WF)	Start of Q4 2027	End of Q1 2028	End of Q2 2028	Q 3 & 4 of 2028	Q1 of 2029
Child, Youth, and Young Adult Mental Wellbeing (CYA)	Start of Q2 2028	End of Q3 2028	End of Q4 2028	Q 1 & 2 of 2029	Q3 of 2029

Upcoming Reports and Briefings



Inflation Analysis

Inflation Analysis in this Plan

Responsive to Council Budget Proviso

- DCHS integrates provider inflation rate adjustments into implementation plans and budget proposals for local funds to:
 - Support human services providers to maintain service levels/retain workers
- Expenditure growth is predicted to outpace revenue growth
- Implementation plan establishes sustainable Bridge spending for 2028-34 by:
 - Planning expenditures to fit within anticipated 7-year revenue total
 - Reducing inflation adjustments when a revenue drop is anticipated (2029), but maintaining them otherwise

Questions?



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