**DCHS Behavioral Health Integration IT Data Consolidation Project**

**Status Report 2**

1. **Budget and Expenditures to Date**

The DCHS Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) IT project has a total Capital Appropriation of $982,633 including contingency of $199,452. Total project spending to date is $277,544; the spending breakdown is as follows:



1. **The status of state dependencies and their impact on the project including the status of the state database with which the County database must interface and what guidance the state has provided with regards to federal confidentiality rules**

State Data System

On January 4, 2016 the state Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) held a meeting where final requirements were expected to be provided. The state again delayed the release of the final versions of the elements listed below until January 15, 2016.

* BHO Data Dictionary
* BHO Access to Care (ACS) Guide
* Service Encounter Reporting Instructions (SERI) Guide

The BHI IT team has mitigated these delays by moving forward with development of our internal provider data dictionary. A draft version of the data dictionary was provided to our partners on January 8, 2016.

At this time, the delays to the ACS and SERI guides are expected to be low impact due to the architecture of the King County Behavioral Health IT system. The final elements in the ACS and SERI guides will be added to our system by updating configuration tables which can be done with minimal effort.

Confidentiality

The Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) conducted a comprehensive study of the Legal Action Center’s *Guide to the Federal Drug and Alcohol Confidentiality Law* and *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)*. The Legal Action Center is considered the national authority on 42 CFR. It is clear from the guide that King County, as the behavioral health organization, can receive substance use data and store it in a single database with the mental health data. This was confirmed by the King County prosecuting attorney’s office (PAO). King County Information Technology (KCIT) is modifying the current data system to accommodate the collection of substance use disorder (SUD) data as required by the state and KCBHO operational needs. A release of information form (ROI) has been developed to authorize contracted agencies to share confidential SUD data with the King County behavioral health organization (KCBHO). This ROI was shared with providers on January 20, 2016 as part of a provider forum to prepare for transition and providers were trained on the use of this ROI. Client consent on this ROI is required in order for the client to receive services through the KCBHO. If a client refuses to sign this ROI, the agency cannot share client data with the KCBHO. As a result, the KCBHO will not be able to authorize benefits or make payment to providers.

KCBHO is further limited as to what information can be shared within the provider network without a proper Release of Information (ROI) signed by the client. BHRD staff, in consultation with the PAO, has created an ROI that authorizes the KCBHO to make limited client information available to other providers within the KCBHO network for purposes of coordination of care. This ROI is not required to receive services. If a client refuses to sign this ROI, all client SUD data will be protected and not available to other agencies within the network. This ROI was provided to agencies at the January 20, 2016 provider forum and providers were trained on the use of this form. A field will be added to the integrated database to track ROIs received from providers to indicate client consent. This flag will be used to determine if the client data can be shared within the provider network and displayed on application screens, queries, and reports.

Finally, BHRD has created new Business Associate Agreements (BAA) for SUD only providers who currently do not submit electronic data to the King County data system. This BAA will allow new providers to connect with the data system for the purposes of testing data transactions and submissions prior to April 1, 2016. The BAAs are being routed for County and Agency signature and should be in place no later than mid-February to allow testing to begin.

1. **Status and timeline of provider readiness**

To mitigate the delays in final state requirements the King County BHO IT project has implemented a number of measures. A primary mitigation strategy has been the development and implementation of a manual data load interface. This tool will allow SUD providers to manually enter data in a web form. The data entered will then be loaded into the IT system via the standard batch process. This should significantly reduce the immediate burden to the SUD providers as this system is similar to the TARGET system already in use by the state.

In addition, the business and IT team have identified team members who are acting as provider liaisons. These individuals are in close contact with the providers and are supporting them through assistance in modifications to electronic health system, training on the manual data entry tool, and tracking of third party vendor readiness.