



King County

Behavioral Health and Recovery Division

Department of
Community and Human Services

CNK-HS-0400
Chinook Building
401 Fifth Avenue, Suite 400
Seattle, WA 98104

206-263-9000

206-296-0583 Fax (Reception)
206-205-1634 Fax (Clinical Services)
7-1-1 TTY/TDD

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Dear Behavioral Health Partner, Community Members, and Stakeholders,

Work on Mental Health and Drug Dependency (MIDD) renewal continues. We are nearing the end of Phase II of our four-phased MIDD renewal process, the Analysis and Collective Review Phase. We have much to update you on, including sharing a revised timeline with you.

Services Stabilization Pool: We heard from providers last spring that stabilizing services to vulnerable people is important as the County transitions from MIDD I to MIDD II programming, assuming passage of a renewed MIDD by the King County Council. In response, and with collaboration from the Department of Community and Human Services Chief Financial Officer and leaders from the County's Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget, we will be creating the MIDD Services Stabilization Pool. This pool will support services during the MIDD transition period between MIDD I and MIDD II. The pool funds will be used to continue services for a period of time as MIDD I programs are merged with new initiatives, end, or are re-RFPd between MIDD I and MIDD II. The pool will likely be comprised of a mix of 2016 & 2017 MIDD revenues, potentially including undesignated fund balance of the MIDD fund. The most important take away for providers is that MIDD funds won't end on 12/31/16. It is our goal that the people served by MIDD supported programs will experience little or no service disruptions during MIDD transition. We are still developing the details, and our commitment to you is to give you as much information and notice as possible around MIDD I and MIDD II changes, given the county budget process timeline.

Community Engagement: Informed by the MIDD Oversight Committee's MIDD Renewal Values and Guiding Principles, King County staff conducted a robust outreach and engagement process around MIDD renewal. From September 2015 through February 2016, King County invited communities to participate in five regional Community Conversations on MIDD¹. Between October 2015 and February 2016, county staff held 14 focus groups involving specific communities, populations, or sub-regional areas, including a focus group with individuals in the King County Jail. The purpose of these engagement

¹ *Community Conversations were held in partnership with King County staff planning for what became Best Starts for Kids.*

efforts was to hear ideas about services and programs for people living with mental illness and substance use disorders from those who need, use, or engage with our county systems. The conversations were intentionally designed so that community members have a role in informing the County's decisions around its investments for children and youth and investments for mental health and substance use disorder services and programs. For the Community Conversations, participants engaged in small discussions based on birth to young adult age groups and MIDD Strategy Areas. Focus groups ranged in size from as few as four to over 100 participants. Groups included:

- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Service Providers
- Behavioral Health Organization Leaders
- Real Change Vendors (consumers)
- Southeast King County/Maple Valley
- Asian/Asian Pacific Islander Communities
- Hispanic Communities
- Recovery Café (consumers)
- Refugee Forum
- African American Communities
- Northeast King County/Snoqualmie Valley
- Native American Communities
- Trans* Individuals
- Somali Community
- King County Jail Detainees

MIDD staff also conducted an electronic survey between September and February. Over 360 respondents took the time to answer key questions about MIDD. Summaries and themes from these groups are available on the MIDD Renewal website, along with the MIDD survey data.

New Concepts and Briefing Papers: As you know from your last MIDD update on December 10, we received 140 new concept forms from you: community members, behavioral health provider partners, and stakeholders. Dozens of staff from across King County, working in collaboration with system stakeholders and subject matter experts, have completed briefing papers on the concepts that are moving forward. The briefing papers are analytical summaries of new concepts and existing MIDD strategies that will be used to inform the decision making processes around identifying MIDD II initiatives.

A couple of key reminders: It is important to note that briefing paper content may look different than what was submitted as a new concept. You may remember that in the new concept process materials on our website, we stated that some concepts may be combined with others or integrated into existing MIDD strategies. We also stated that there were no guarantees that all concepts would advance to the next stage. A handful of new concepts were not moved forward to the briefing paper phase. I contacted each person who submitted one of the new concepts that did not move forward via email.

Briefing Paper Review Panels: The final step of Phase II are panel reviews of existing strategy and new concept briefing papers and sorting the strategies and concepts into high, medium, and low categories for potential funding consideration. Four panels, corresponding to the following four overarching MIDD II strategy areas, will be convened during the week of March 7th. Over sixty individuals have agreed to participate on the review panel teams. The panels were constructed to bring in a diverse array of lived experiences, skills, knowledge, perspectives, and insights to the sorting process. Each review panel team has about 15-18 members, with a mix of community members and MIDD Oversight Committee members or their designees. Guiding factors provided to the review panel team members to use as they conduct their reviews of the briefing papers include questions on community needs, equity and social justice, integration, and recovery and reentry. Briefing papers will be posted on the MIDD Renewal website during the week of March 14th.

Please check our website or email me (information below) if you have any questions or would like county staff to update your group on MIDD activities.

King County's MIDD II is being developed in a clear and straightforward way: four strategy areas that reflect a continuum from prevention to crisis services, linked to outcomes. We are intentionally collaborating with existing initiatives like Best Starts for Kids and the Health and Human Services Transformation work. We are focusing on increasing diversity and geographic availability of service providers. We are taking steps to integrate our behavioral health system and "busting silos" so that services are person, not program centered.

Thank you for your ongoing support of King County and of MIDD. I hope you find this update useful. We look to you as our partners and stakeholders to help us recommend meaningful changes to MIDD II that further our work to promote opportunities for all communities and individuals to realize their full potential.

Kind Regards,
Kelli Carroll

Strategic Advisor
Behavioral Health and Recovery Division
King County Department of Community and Human Services

kelli.carroll@kingcounty.gov

MIDD WEBSITE: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/MIDDrenewal>