

Oversight Plan
For the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan
REVISED April 23, 2008

A. Introduction

In 2005, the state Legislature authorized counties to implement a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax to support new or expanded chemical dependency or mental health treatment services and for the operation of new or expanded therapeutic court programs. In October 2007, the Metropolitan King County Council voted to accept the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Action Plan. In November 2007, the council passed Ordinance 15949 authorizing the levy collection and legislative policies of an additional sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for the delivery of mental health and chemical dependency services and therapeutic courts. The ordinance also established a policy framework for measuring the effectiveness of the public's investment, requiring the King County Executive to submit oversight, implementation, and evaluation plans for the programs funded with the tax revenue.

The Oversight Planning Group met in January, February and March 2008 to develop and finalize content for the Oversight Plan. A subgroup of the Oversight Planning Group met during February 2008 to draft this plan. In mid-February, the county council communicated to the Oversight Planning Group support for a more formalized Oversight Committee to be established in code.

In accordance with Ordinance 15949, this Oversight Plan proposes a committee (referred to as the Oversight Committee) that will be responsible for ongoing oversight of MIDD sales tax-funded strategies and programs. This plan describes the proposed membership and purpose of the Oversight Committee, the initial and ongoing tasks of the committee, the election of chairs and length of their terms, and the coordination of the committee with other groups.

To develop the Oversight Plan, the King County Office of Management and Budget in partnership with the King County Department of Community and Human Services convened an Oversight Planning Group. This group was comprised of representatives from King County departments and agencies including the Office of Management and Budget, Community and Human Services, Public Health, Adult and Juvenile Detention, Superior Court, District Court, Sheriff's Office, Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Judicial Administration, and staff of the County Council.

B. Goals for MIDD Sales Tax Funded Programs and Strategies

The goals identified in Ordinance 15949 will inform the work of the Oversight Committee. The primary goals, summarized below are:

1. A reduction of the number of people with mental illness and chemical dependency using costly interventions like jail, emergency rooms and hospitals.

2. A reduction of the number of people who cycle through the jail, returning repeatedly as a result of their mental illness or chemical dependency.

3. A reduction of the incidence and severity of chemical dependency and mental and emotional disorders in youth and adults.

4. Diversion of youth and adults with mental illness and chemical dependency from initial or further justice system involvement.

5. Explicit linkage with, and furthering the work of, other council directed efforts including, the Adult and Juvenile Justice Operational Master Plans, the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County, the Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan and the Recovery Plan for Mental Health Services.

C. Proposed Membership of the Oversight Committee

Consistent with the requirements of Ordinance 15949, the Oversight Committee will include membership from county, state and community agencies and entities involved in the mental health, substance abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, homeless, justice, public health and hospital systems. The state will be represented through the Systems Integration Initiative representative to the Oversight Committee.

The proposed list of Oversight Committee members aims to represent the many service areas addressed by the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan, as well to include both community and government entities. It is recommended that *one representative* from each of the following entities will have membership in the Oversight Committee:

1. The council;
2. The executive;
3. The superior court;
4. The district court;
5. The prosecuting attorney's office;
6. The sheriff's office;
7. The department of public health;
8. The department of judicial administration;
9. The department of adult and juvenile detention;
10. The department of community and human services; ~~which includes the office of the public defender~~
11. The King County mental health advisory board;
12. The King County alcoholism and substance abuse administrative board;
13. A provider of both mental health and chemical dependency services in King County;
14. A provider of culturally specific mental health services in King County;
15. A provider of culturally specific chemical dependency services in King County;
16. A provider of domestic violence prevention services in King County;
17. A provider of sexual assault victim services in King County;

18. An agency providing mental health and chemical dependency services to youth;
19. Harborview Medical Center;
20. The Committee to End Homelessness in King County;
21. King County systems integration initiative, which is an ongoing work group established by the executive for addressing juvenile justice matters;
22. The Community Health Council;
23. The Washington State Hospital Association, representing King County hospitals;
24. The Suburban Cities Association;
25. The city of Seattle;
26. The city of Bellevue;
27. Labor representing a bona fide labor organization; and
28. Office of the Public Defender
29. The National Alliance on Mental Illness

~~It is proposed that separately elected officials and the executive agencies within King County will designate their own representatives. For these representatives, County Council confirmation would not be required. Members of existing county boards, such as the King County Mental Health Advisory Board and King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Board, who have already been confirmed would not be required to go through the confirmation process a second time. All other representatives will be subject to appointment by the County Executive and confirmation by the County Council.~~

Separately elected officials and king county agency directors or their designees are bnot required to be appointed or confirmed. A member of the oversight committee who has been confirmed to serve on another county board or commission is not required to be confirmed to serve on the oversight committee. All other members of the oversight committee are subject to appointment by the county executive and confirmation by the county council.

Until all members of the oversight committee are appointed, the executive will utilize the oversight planning group to begin collaboration on the development of the implementation plan. For this purpose, the executive may expand membership of the planning group to include representatives of all of the entities that will be included in the oversight committee. This planning group will expire on June 1, 2008. It is the expectation of the county that executive appointments shall be completed on or before this date.

To the maximum extent practicable, members of the committee should represent the highest positions of their respective organizations in order to facilitate timely, system wide decision making.

~~Ordinance 15949 calls for collaboration of the Oversight Group on the development of both the implementation and evaluation plans, which are due to the County Council on June 1, 2008 and August 1, 2008 respectively. Because of this time frame, and the request that the Oversight Group be a formal committee whose members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council, it is recommended that an interim group be established. This Interim Oversight Group will ensure that development of the implementation and evaluation~~

~~plans moves forward in a timely way during the appointment and confirmation process. Interim group members will be identified by the Executive with consultation from the Oversight Planning Group. It is anticipated that members of the Interim Oversight Group may continue to serve on the Oversight Committee once members are seated in accordance with the process described above. The Interim Oversight Group will disband as soon as the Oversight Committee members are seated or a maximum of 180 days after approval of the Oversight Plan by the County Council, whichever comes first.~~

D. Purpose, Initial Tasks, Ongoing Role, Staffing and Structure of the Oversight Committee

The role of the Oversight Committee is an advisory body to the Executive and Council.

The Oversight Committee will provide a forum to ensure that the implementation and evaluation of the strategies and programs funded by the tax revenue are transparent, accountable and collaborative. Recognizing that King County is the regional provider of mental health and substance abuse services, the Committee will work to ensure that services are provided to those who are most in need throughout the county.

The work of the Oversight Committee will occur in two phases. Initially, the Oversight Committee will provide input on the implementation and evaluation plans, and review the Revised 2008 Spending Plan for MIDD sales tax-funded programs. Subsequently, the Oversight Committee will provide ongoing oversight of MIDD sales tax-funded programs until all funds have been expended and the final evaluations have been submitted.

The Oversight Committee as a body will not make recommendations on the requirements or processes involved in requests for proposals or in the selection of providers of services or specific financial allocations.

i. Initial Tasks

The initial tasks of the Oversight Committee include:

- Reviewing and providing input on the development of the Implementation and Evaluation Plans and making recommendations to the Executive and Council.
- Reviewing and providing input on funding strategies as outlined in the revised 2008 Spending Plan to assure consistency with the Implementation Plan and relevant legislative direction.
- Serving as a forum to discuss and promote coordination and collaboration between the various agencies and organizations involved in implementing the MIDD sales tax-funded programs.

ii. Ongoing Role

Once the implementation and evaluation plans have been transmitted to the County Council, the Oversight Committee will continue to meet in order to:

- Review and provide written recommendations to the executive and the council on the implementation and effectiveness of the county's sales tax funded programs in meeting the goals established in Ordinance 15949. ~~Review and make recommendations as to the~~

~~progress on implementation and effectiveness of the county's MIDD sales tax funded programs in meeting the goals established in Ordinance 15949. Provide review and written comment to the Executive and Council on the required quarterly and annual reports and the evaluation report.~~

- Review and report to the executive and the council on the quarterly, annual and evaluation reports as required by Ordinance 15949.
- Review and provide comment on evolving and emerging priorities for use of the MIDD sales tax funds, keeping in mind the existing goals, ongoing policy initiatives and best practices in the relevant service areas.
- Continue to serve as a forum to discuss and promote coordination and collaboration between the various entities involved in implementing the MIDD sales tax-funded programs.
- Educate the public, policymakers and stakeholders on MIDD sales tax-funded programs, ongoing needs, strategies and outcomes.
- Coordinate and share information with other related efforts and ongoing groups as described below.
- Annually review and assess the Oversight Committee's role, composition, tasks and operating procedures.

The oversight committee will provide ongoing oversight of mental illness and drug dependency tax-funded programs until all revenue have been expended and the final evaluation of the mental illness and drug dependency programs and services has been submitted to the council.

~~The Oversight Committee will remain in place until all funds from the tax have been expended and for one year afterwards in order to review the final evaluations.~~

The Oversight Committee is encouraged to establish standing and ad hoc work groups focusing on specific strategies, programs related to the tax funded programs and services.

At the completion of the Committee's first three-year term, the Oversight Committee will submit a summary report to the Executive and Council. The executive, in partnership with the Oversight Committee, will assess the structure, membership and responsibilities of the Oversight Committee. By June 1, 2011, the executive, in partnership with the oversight committee, will report to the Council on the assessment, the need for and benefits of modifying the structure, membership and responsibilities of the Oversight Committee. The report will contain a review of the activities and major accomplishments of the oversight committee, as well as the executive's recommendations for ensuring continued transparent, accountable and collaborative oversight process of the programs, strategies and services funded by the tax revenue. The Executive will provide a report to the Council that assesses the function and structure of the Oversight Committee and recommends any changes if warranted.

iii. Staffing and Subcommittees

The Office of Management and Budget and the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division of the Department of Community and Human Services will provide staffing of the oversight committee. Staffing will be provided by the Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and

~~Dependency Services Division of the Department of Community and Human Services, the lead agency for implementation of MIDD sales tax funded programs and strategies.~~

Subcommittees and work groups may be formed in response to the needs of the Oversight Committee.

E. Election of Chairs and Length of Terms

The oversight committee will adopt rules governing its operations at its first meeting.

The committee will elect a chair or co-chairs. One co-chair will be from a community agency and one will be from a King County government entity. The executive will establish staggered terms for appointed committee members in accordance with K.C.C. 2.28.010.C. Each Committee member will serve a three-year term and may be reappointed for a term of one, two or three years.

Subcommittees and workgroups may be formed at the discretion of the oversight committee.

At each meeting of the oversight committee, the oversight committee should provide an open comment period.

F. Coordination with Other Groups

The Oversight Committee will coordinate with other ongoing efforts and groups including but not limited to county groups such as the Criminal Justice Council, the Committee to End Homelessness and the veterans and human services levy oversight boards. Staff to the Oversight Committee will ensure that this coordination occurs by communicating regularly with

the staff of other efforts and groups, sharing meeting summaries from the Oversight Committee meetings, and highlighting issues from the meetings that have particular relevance to the work of the other groups. The purpose of this coordination is to ensure that where there are common goals between groups, information is shared, and when appropriate, that efforts are linked and not duplicated. To ensure inclusiveness and transparency, the Oversight Committee may invite additional entities whose work is closely related to MIDD programs and strategies to participate in Committee meetings as liaisons.

Stakeholders will be invited to review and comment on the draft plans, and periodically on ongoing implementation efforts.

Appendix A
Oversight Planning Group for the
Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan
January-March, 2008

Co-Chairs:

Bob Cowan, King County Office of Management and Budget

Jackie MacLean, King County Department of Community and Human Services (in Jackie's absence, Terry Mark, Deputy Director helped Co-Chair meetings.)

Elissa Benson, King County Office of Management and Budget

Kelli Carroll, Metropolitan King County Council

Clif Curry, Metropolitan King County Council

Elisa Elliott, King County Sheriff's Office

Judge Helen Halpert, King County Superior Court

David Hocraffer, King County Office of the Public Defender

Virginia Kirk, King County Sheriff's Office

Bruce Knutson, Juvenile Court Services, King County Superior Court

Judge Barbara Linde, King County District Court

Leesa Manion, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Barb Miner, King County Department of Judicial Administration

Toni Rezab, King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Amnon Shoenfeld, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division, King County Department of Community and Human Services

Lois Smith, King County District Court Mental Health Court

Dorothy Teeter, Public Health – Seattle & King County

Mike West, King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

Janna Wilson, Public Health – Seattle & King County

Staff: Meg Crager, King County Office of Management and Budget

**Appendix B:
Summary of Stakeholder Comments on the Oversight Plan for the Mental Illness and Drug
Dependency Action Plan
March 2008**

The draft Oversight Plan for the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan was distributed to nearly 50 stakeholder coalitions, organizations and groups and was posted on the King County Department of Community and Human Services website for public review and comment. The plan was posted for one week, from March 5 through March 12. Thirty-four stakeholders responded through the web page during the comment period. In addition, several stakeholders e-mailed King County Executive Ron Sims and King County Councilmember Bob Ferguson. In total, over 100 stakeholder comments were received.

Themes

Stakeholder comments focused on the following themes:

1. Geographic Representation on the Oversight Committee

Some stakeholders commented that the Oversight Committee had disproportionate representation from King County government, and asked whether King County representation could be consolidated. Additional seats were requested from the subregional areas, including representatives from north, south and east King County. In addition, these stakeholders requested that language be added to assure the new services and funds be distributed proportionately across the county, as everyone in the county is contributing to the sales tax.

2. Consumer Membership on the Oversight Committee

Stakeholders requesting consumer membership on the Oversight Committee represented the largest group responding. Numerous stakeholders from HERO House, a consumer operated clubhouse on the Eastside, requested that HERO House have membership on the Oversight Committee. Many of those writing in support of HERO House noted the benefits of participation in this program. There was an additional request for a representative from NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness). Other stakeholders emphasized the need for consumer membership of a person recovering from mental illness and a person recovering from chemical dependency.

3. Worker and Union Membership on the Oversight Committee

In a separate group of e-mails sent directly to Executive Sims, more than 40 union wrote to recommend union representation on the Oversight Committee. The majority of union members who wrote in were not from King County. One mental health worker recommended against union involvement. In addition, some stakeholders recommended that front-line workers in the mental health and chemical dependency fields should also be included.

4. Other Stakeholder Comments on Oversight Committee Membership

There were numerous recommendations for expanded membership, with requests for inclusion of representatives from a variety of different areas. The list below summarizes these requests:

- separate representatives for domestic violence and sexual assault providers, as they serve different communities with different needs
- a representative from a long-term care setting representing the elderly
- two additional representatives from the City of Seattle and a municipal jail representative
- a representative from Fairfax Hospital, and non-public clinicians
- a veteran's representative/advocate
- a representative from the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse of the Washington Department of Social and Health Services
- a representative from the public defense agency serving Seattle Municipal Court
- a King County school superintendent
- a representative from the state Washington Department of Corrections
- Municipal Courts (especially considering larger jurisdictions such as Seattle)
- a King County state legislator from the appropriate committee of jurisdiction (maybe they alternate between House and Senate)
- Suburban cities and/or King County Police Chiefs (to address local jail issues)
- Seattle Municipal Court, which participated in development of the MIDD Action Plan.

A few stakeholders voiced concerns that the size of the Oversight Committee was too large to be effective and recommended that the Committee be much smaller.

5. Content of the Oversight Plan

Stakeholders had some specific recommendations for changes and/or questions about the content of the Plan. Several of these were related to service planning and implementation and will be carried over for consideration in development of the Implementation Plan. A few stakeholders wrote in appreciation of the plan. Two stakeholders requested clarification about the organizational structure of the Oversight Committee. One stakeholder commented that the plan needs to provide for an effective public involvement process.