## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 8 | **Name:** | Miranda Leskinen |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2016-0146 | **Date:** | August 31, 2016 |

**SUBJECT**

Proposed Motion 2016-0146 would approve the appointment of Mary Ann LaFazia to the King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

**SUMMARY**

Ordinance 18170, enacted by Council in November 2015 with an April 1st, 2016 effective date, created the King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board to serve as an advisory body on behavioral health policy, programs and services.

Proposed Motion 2016-0146 would confirm the appointment of Mary Ann LaFazia to the King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board.

**BACKGROUND**

King County, as directed by the state, has been engaged in transition efforts towards achieving a fully integrated behavioral health services system[[1]](#footnote-1). In November 2015, Council passed four ordinances related to behavioral health integration[[2]](#footnote-2). One of the ordinances, Ordinance 18170, created the King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board to serve as the unified behavioral health advisory board for the County, replacing two existing advisory boards addressing mental health and substance use disorder services[[3]](#footnote-3).

**Board Duties.** Among the Board’s duties are: 1) to serve in an advisory capacity to King County on matters concerning behavioral health disorders including education, prevention, treatment and service delivery in the region; 2) to participate with the behavioral health organization (the Behavioral Health and Recovery Division) to enhance the ability of the behavioral health system to work effectively and deliver high-quality services to consumers; 3) to provide input to the state on various regulatory, policy and programmatic issues related to behavioral health; 4) to participate with the behavioral health organization to facilitate equitable access to education, prevention, treatment and recovery from behavioral health disorders; and 5) to advocate for the needs of individuals living with behavioral health disorders at the local and state level.

**Board Composition.** In terms of participation, the Board must meet the following requirements per Ordinance 18170: 1) be composed of no less than nine and no more than fifteen members; 2) be broadly representative of the community and geographical and demographic mix of the populations served; 3) include persons that compose at least 51 percent of the group’s membership who have lived experience or parents or legal guardians of persons having lived experience with behavioral health disorders or persons self-identified as being in recovery from a behavioral health disorder and, included among these persons, at least one quarter of the Board members shall be recovered persons with substance abuse disorders; 4) include representation from law enforcement; 5) include no more than four elected officials at any time as serving Board members; and 6) consist of one-quarter of the initial Board members serving a partial term of one year, another quarter of the initial Board members serving a partial term of two years, and the remaining initial Board members serving a full term of three years.

Board members may potentially serve up to two, full three-year terms in addition to any partial term. Fourteen of the initial members have to date been confirmed by Council to serve on the Board.

**Proposed Motion 2016-0146**. This proposed motion would confirm the Executive’s appointment of Mary Ann LaFazia, who resides in Council District Eight. Mary Ann LaFazia is a retired Grant Administrator and Project Director for Special Prevention Research Projects for the Washington State Department of Social and Human Services and, among her experience, notes her membership on the King County Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Administrative Board.

**ANALYSIS**

Information furnished by the Executive confirmed that the initial cohort of appointees to the Board conformed to the membership requirements established in Ordinance 18170 with the exception of the initial terms lengths for two appointees, one of whom was Mary Ann LaFazia. Letters correcting the initial appointment terms at issue have since been transmitted[[4]](#footnote-4). Consequently, Proposed Motion 2016-0146, regarding the initial term length to the Board for Ms. LaFazia, needs to be technically amended to match the correct term length.

**AMENDMENT**

Amendment 1 would make a technical correction to the transmitted legislation to correct the appointment term for Mary Ann LaFazia from an initial two-year term expiring on March 31, 2018 to a three-year term expiring on March 31, 2019.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Motion 2016-0146 (Attachments are available upon request)
2. Transmittal Letter dated February 12, 2016.
3. Executive letter dated March 31, 2016 correcting the initial appointment term for Mary Ann LaFazia
4. Amendment 1 to Proposed Motion 2016-0146.

**INVITED**

1. Jim Vollendroff, Director, Behavioral Health and Recovery Division
1. In 2014, the State Legislature enacted Second Substitute Senate Bill 6312 (which became Chapter 225, Laws of 2014) relating to state purchasing of mental health and substance use disorder (together referred to as behavioral health) treatment services. As part of this legislation, the state Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) was directed to coordinate the purchase and delivery of behavioral health and physical health services to Medicaid clients in Regional Service Areas called Behavioral Health Organizations (BHOs) within a fully integrated managed care system for behavioral health services by 2020. Of note, while mental health treatment services were already purchased by the state under a managed care model, substance use disorder treatment services were purchased by the state using a fee-for-service model. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. King County will operate the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) for the King County region through the Department of Community and Human Services Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (DCHS-DBHR). The County, per state-authorized discretion, has chosen to first integrate mental health and substance use disorder services purchasing beginning in April 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The King County Behavioral Health Advisory Board replaces the King County Mental Health Advisory Board and the King County Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administration Board. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Of note, the letter dated March 31, 2016 to correct Ms. LaFazia’s initial term length contains a reference typo regarding the incorrect initial term length included in the Executive’s February 12, 2016 appointment letter. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)