

Behavioral Health Advisory Council 101

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Overview

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- ▶ Council Mandates
- ▶ Council Structure

▶ Understanding Block Grant

- ▶ Overview of Block Grants
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▶ Membership Expectations and Resources

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Council Statutes and Structure

▶ Review

- ▶ Review the state's block grant application and report and make recommendations

▶ Advocate

- ▶ Advocate for needs and gaps in behavioral health services.

▶ Monitor

- ▶ Monitor, review and evaluate the adequacy of mental health services in the state.

Council Statutes and Structure-

Duty 1: Review

▶ Review

- ▶ Review the state's block grant application and report and make recommendations
- ▶ BHAC Reviews the combined application of both the MHBG and SUPTRS block grant
- ▶ BHAC recommendations, letter and meeting minutes are submitted with the Block Grant Application to demonstrate the council's continuing review of the Block Grants

Council Statutes and Structure-

Duty 2: Advocate

- ▶ Highlight changes needed in delivery systems, access to care, and public knowledge
- ▶ Serve as a network to leverage alliances and strategic relationships to increase impact of advocacy efforts

Council Statutes and Structure-

Duty 3: Monitor

▶ **Block Grant Peer Review**

- ▶ Review the state's block grant application and report and make recommendations

▶ **Presentations to Council from Block Grant funded organizations**

- ▶ Advocate for needs and gaps in behavioral health services for adults and children in Washington State.

Council Structure

- ▶ Required representatives from federally specified State Agencies:
 - ▶ Mental Health, Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Criminal Justice, Housing, Social Services and Medicaid
- ▶ At least 51% of the Council must have lived experience and/or be caregivers of children with serious mental health diagnosis.

Where Does the Block Grant Come From?

- ▶ The Block Grants are SAMHSA formula grants awarded to States to allow States to address their unique behavioral health issues.
- ▶ Who is SAMHSA?
 - ▶ SAMHSA is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
 - ▶ Formula vs Competitive Grants

What is the Block Grant?

- ▶ There are two types of block grants:
 - ▶ Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS)
 - ▶ Community Mental Health Services Block Grant (MHBG).
- ▶ Regular Block Grant awards are received annually, beginning October 1st and are open for two years (ending September 30th). Awards must be obligated within one year and fully spent within two years.
- ▶ Under each of the Block Grants (SUPTRS and MHBG) we may also receive technical assistance funding on an annual basis (funding amounts and availability varies)
- ▶ We occasionally receive supplemental awards
 - ▶ Supplemental awards include Covid Enhancement, ARPA, etc.
 - ▶ Supplemental awards typically run on different cycles

Mental Health Block Grant

Purpose

Provide mental health services to adults diagnosed with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and children diagnosed with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED).

Services paid for with MHBG must not be Medicaid covered.

Required Set-Asides

10% minimum First Episode Psychosis

5% minimum Crisis Services

5% maximum Administrative costs (HCA only)

Mental Health Block Grant

Requirements/Allowable Activities

- ▶ MHBG may be used to provide comprehensive community mental health services to adults diagnosed with SMI and children diagnosed with SED. Allowable activities include:
- ▶ Treatment services not covered by Medicaid for individuals diagnosed with SMI or SED
- ▶ Crisis services for individuals diagnosed with SMI or SED
- ▶ Revolving funds for establishment of group homes
- ▶ Direct transportation costs to get SMI/SED diagnosed individuals to treatment services

Mental Health Block Grant Unallowable Expenses

- ▶ MHBG funds may not be used to supplant state funding of mental health treatment programs.
- ▶ Inpatient hospital services
- ▶ Cash payments to intended recipients of health services
- ▶ Purchase or improvement of land, buildings or other facilities
- ▶ Purchase of major medical equipment
- ▶ To satisfy any matching requirements
- ▶ Primary prevention or preventive intervention for those at risk of SMI or SED
- ▶ Rent or housing vouchers (room and board is an allowable cost for SED diagnosed individuals)

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS)

Purpose

- ▶ Plan, carry out and evaluate activities for the prevention, treatment and recovery of substance use for individuals not covered by Medicaid.

Required Set-Asides

- ▶ 20% minimum Primary Prevention
- ▶ 5% minimum services for pregnant women and women with dependent children
- ▶ 5% maximum Administrative costs (HCA only)

Targeted Populations

- ▶ Pregnant women and women with dependent children
- ▶ Intravenous drug users

Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services Block Grant (SUPTRS)

▶ **Requirements/Allowable Activities**

- ▶ SUPTRS BG can be used for projects related to the development and implementation of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation activities directed to the diseases of alcohol and substance use, including:
 - ▶ Treatment: assessment, outpatient counseling, residential rehabilitation – including therapeutic communities, hospital-based care (not inpatient hospital services); vocational counseling, case management
 - ▶ Outreach
 - ▶ Detoxification
 - ▶ Prevention: education, counseling and other activities designed to reduce the risk of substance abuse
 - ▶ Group homes for persons recovering from substance use disorders
 - ▶ Program administration

SUPTRS Unallowable Expenses

- ▶ SUPTRS BG funds may not be used to supplant state funding of alcohol and other drug prevention and treatment programs.
- ▶ Inpatient hospital services
- ▶ Cash payments to intended recipients of health services
- ▶ Purchase or improvement of land, buildings or other facilities
- ▶ Purchase of major medical equipment
- ▶ To satisfy any matching requirements
- ▶ Purchase of treatment services in penal or correctional institutions
- ▶ SUPTRS BG funds cannot be used for anything that cannot be tied directly to a treatment or prevention activity. Unallowable examples include:
 - ▶ Rent
 - ▶ Utilities, cell phones, internet/cable, car payments
 - ▶ Personal items (i.e. shoes, denture cream, feminine hygiene products, etc.)
 - ▶ Grocery items for non-prevention activities

Understanding Block Grants

▶ **Combined Application**

- ▶ Opens July 1st
- ▶ Due September 1st to SAMHSA
- ▶ Biennial full application, that includes full priority updates occurs every two years.

▶ **Priorities**

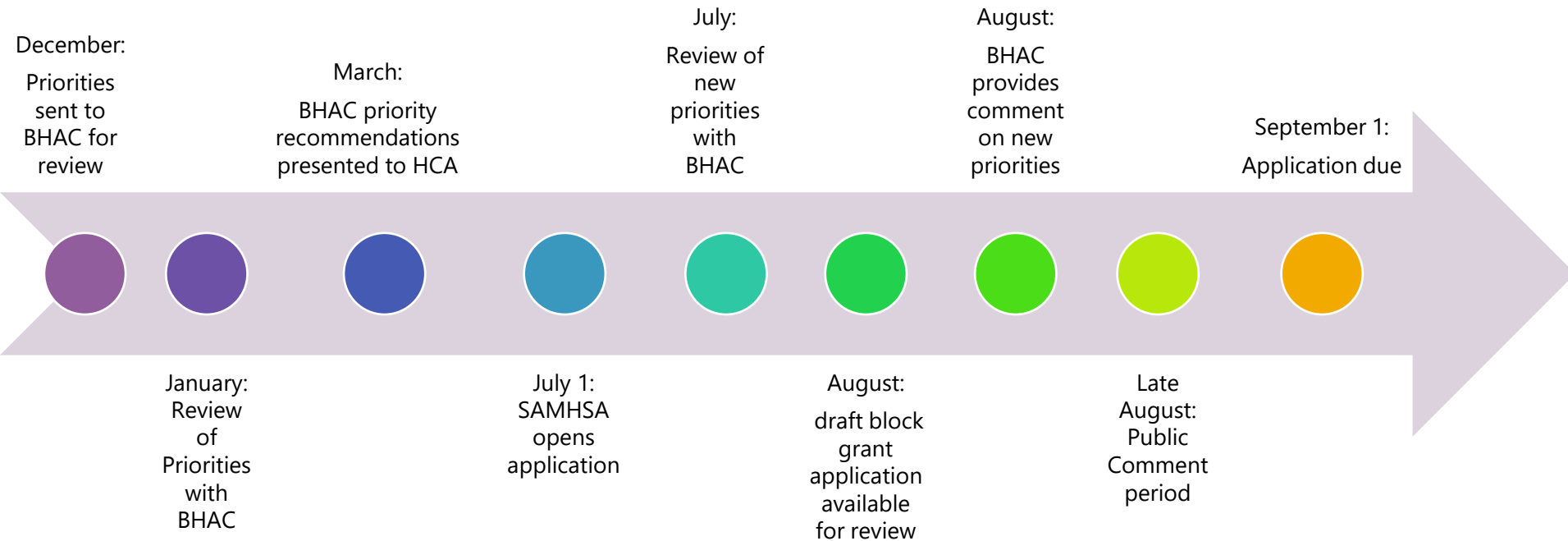
- ▶ Priorities are set within the application every other year
- ▶ Achievements reviewed during the progress report
- ▶ Recommendations to DBHR drive new priorities and identifying gaps in service.

▶ **Block Grant Progress Report**

- ▶ Due December 1st to SAMHSA.
- ▶ Reports on Priorities measures achieved or not achieved

Block Grant Biennial Application and Timeline

The Block Grant biennial application prioritizes federal funding to address SUD and MH needs within Washington.



Draft BHAC Meeting Calendar

January	March	May	July	September	November
Block Grant Progress Report	BHAC Block Grant Recommendations	Legislation Session Recap	Block Grant Application	Peer Review workgroup formed	Officer Elections
Peer Review Recommendations	Legislative Session ends		BHAC writes application response		Annual Review
Legislative Session begins			Peer Review underway		Peer review workgroup drafts recommendations

BHAC Member Expectations-

▶ **BHAC Meetings-**

- ▶ Occur the second Tuesday of every odd month and typically occur from 9:30am to 3:00pm
- ▶ Meetings are hybrid and open to the public.

▶ **Workgroups**

- ▶ Block Grant Application Recommendations
- ▶ Peer Review

▶ **Subcommittees**

- ▶ Executive Committee, Membership Committee,
- ▶ More to Come

BHAC Member Expectations- Bylaws

▶ Member Terms

- ▶ Membership terms are three calendar years
- ▶ Members can apply for a second term but shall not serve more than two consecutive terms
- ▶ Members representing required state agencies or tribal governments do not have a term of office.

▶ Member Attendance

- ▶ any member who has two (2) **unexcused absences**, as recorded in the minutes, during a calendar year from regularly scheduled meetings shall be terminated from the Council's membership and a vacancy shall be declared.
- ▶ The Co-Chairs will review the circumstances of members with three (3) **excused absences** in a calendar year and will submit a recommendation for action to the full Council.

BHAC Member Resources

- ▶ **Travel Reimbursement**
- ▶ **Lived Experience Stipend**
- ▶ **SharePoint**
- ▶ **BHAC Coordinator and Block Grant Team**

Questions



Contact

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Learn More:

[Behavioral Health Advisory Council](#)
[SharePoint](#)