

Committee Final Report – Summary of Comments and Response

December 12, 2024

Comment	Response
<p>1. Concern about a tight state budget for the 2025 legislative session, and request to prioritize and/or highlight recommendations for the legislature versus recommendations to inform ongoing agency work. Suggestion to use color coding or formatting to help make this distinction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added symbol coding to clarify recommendations for legislative action vs. to inform ongoing agency work.
<p>2. Clarify Funding recommendations and relationship to overarching recommendation for funding across all recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarified the overarching recommendation recognizing funding needed to implement the Committee’s recommendations. Integrated the recommendations in the Funding section as part of this overarching recommendation.
<p>3. Suggestion to add action plans that outline high-level plans for agencies to execute on each recommendation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plans are part of “how” recommendations could be implemented and would be within the scope and discretion of state agencies to develop.
<p>4. In progress section, would be helpful to see where the progress has been made (<i>i.e.</i>, legislative versus agency). This could help clarify where work needs to continue.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The progress section indicates actions and progress by the legislature and state agencies.
<p>5. Appreciate organization of recommendations by the major categories of the CRIS charge, as well as the summary of progress on each recommendation. Clarify in the progress section that progress has been made in these areas but there is still work to be done. Concern that the progress section may otherwise be read to mean that the work is complete.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjusted table headers to state “agency and legislative progress for continued efforts to build upon.” Replaced check marks with bulleted arrows to avoid confusion that the work is complete. As part of the introduction to recommendations (page 11), added language to emphasize recognition of progress over the last three years, as well as the need for continued work and improvements to build on this progress. In the Executive Summary background section, added: “This report summarizes the CRIS recommendations and recognizes progress of state agencies and legislators to address these recommendations over the past three years. While the Committee celebrates these efforts, we would like to

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	<p><i>underscore that continued investments are needed</i> to reach the Committee’s vision for behavioral health crisis response in Washington and to carry forward the Committee’s recommendations.”</p>
<p>6. Ensure the needs of agricultural communities are reflected throughout the recommendations. Highlight new emphasis needed on working “upstream” and suicide prevention in rural and agricultural communities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Overarching Funding recommendation: includes statement “Ensure equity in funding in rural communities.” ▪ Recommendation #7 (Prevention): added statement “Invest in prevention efforts statewide, particularly in rural and agricultural communities.” ▪ Recommendation #19 (Training): added “19e. Ensure training addresses the unique stressors and needs of diverse communities, including but not limited to rural and agricultural communities, individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, LGBTQIA2S+ populations, Veterans, youth, and communities of color.” ▪ Recommendation 6C (Services /systemwide): added language “Ensure response is tailored the unique needs and stressors of diverse communities, including but not limited to rural and agricultural communities, individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, LGBTQIA2S+ populations, Veterans, youth, and communities of color. See also Recommendation #19 (Training).”
<p>7. Ensure prevention recommendations reflect a clear emphasis on reducing stigma around behavioral health needs. This should include a focus on community education in relation to siting new behavioral health facilities as part of work to expand the continuum of care within ‘a safe place to be.’</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention recommendation (#7): Includes statement to “provide broad community outreach and public education to reduce stigma around behavioral health needs, promote 988, and <u>support siting of new behavioral health facilities in communities.</u>” (new language underlined) • This language is updated in the Executive Summary as well.
<p>8. Request to add a new recommendation addressing diversion of people with behavioral health needs from the criminal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Recommendation #9: Divert people from the criminal justice system to community-based behavioral health care.

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<p>justice system, as well as warm handoffs to support people transitioning from jail back into communities. This recommendation aligns with key insights identified through the Lived Experience Stories Project, as well as criminal justice and behavioral health intersections highlighted through previous CRIS discussions. Noted programs such as the recovery navigator program and community courts that divert people from the criminal justice system. (See draft recommendation slides shared during CRIS meeting)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In section with progress to build upon, recognized the work of the Recovery Navigator Program.
<p>9. Noted concern with HB 1069 licensure standards for MHPs and impact for skills needed by DCRs for detaining a person.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRIS recommendations do not address the licensure standards for MHPs in HB 1069.
<p>10. Ensure tone around emergency departments isn't negative; the EDs are often the only place that Law Enforcement have for bringing people in crisis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report does not refer to emergency departments negatively.
<p>11. Recommendation 17 re: establishing a workgroup to engage consumer voice to development strategies to expand and sustain a diverse behavioral health workforce should recognize existing efforts in this space. Recommend amending this recommendation to be a coordinated approach with existing groups rather than creating a new group with similar goals. These groups include the CYBHWG subcommittee on workforce and the Health Workforce Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edited this recommendation to remove "establish a workgroup" and start with: "Engage consumer voice to develop strategies to expand and sustain a diverse behavioral health workforce ..." • In the progress to build upon, added reference to the work of the CYBHWG and the Health Workforce Council.
<p>12. Regarding Recommendation 18 (integrate peers), the CYBHWG subcommittee on workforce has peer recommendations this session. Suggestion to align and coordinate these recommendations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added statement: "Support the CYBHWG's 2025 recommendation to expand access to peer supports in school settings and peer professional pathways for youth."