



## King County

### **Behavioral Health and Recovery Division**

Department of  
Community and Human Services

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### **Dear MIDD Partners,**

In our ongoing effort to share information about King County's Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) programming and processes, this letter contains important information and updates on a variety of MIDD matters including:

- Adopted 2017-2018 MIDD budget
- Contracting and Request for Proposal (RFP) and Request for Information (RFI) timelines
- Implementation and Evaluation planning

This letter also addresses the uncertainty about potential forthcoming Federal policy and funding changes that may impact the Affordable Care Act, behavioral health, and King County's MIDD.

### **Adopted Budget**

The King County Council adopted the 2017-2018 biennial budget on Monday, November 14. There were a few modifications to the Executive Proposed MIDD budget, though none are expected to impact direct services planned for MIDD. The MIDD Service Improvement Plan (SIP) was adopted with amendments reflecting the budget changes. Changes to the MIDD budget are described below.

- Reduction to MIDD administration budget and a proposed FTE reflecting a policy decision by the King County Council to not compensate community members for their participation on the planned Consumers and Communities Council (ad hoc work group); reimbursement for "expenses" is allowed
- Elimination of the Emerging Issues Initiative as a funded initiative; establishes Emerging issues as a reserve in the financial plan for the MIDD fund
- Reprogramming of \$1M of reduced funds to support shelter
- Special allocation of \$50,000 for Consejo Counseling

King County staff, in collaboration with the MIDD Advisory Committee, are currently reviewing the Council's budget actions to better understand the implications for MIDD. Of particular interest is the ability to involve consumer and community voices in MIDD in an ongoing and meaningful way given reduced funding and staffing constraints.

### **Planfully Preparing for Evolving Federal Policies and Funding**

King County is beginning to assess and plan for potential changes in the Affordable Care Act and to Medicaid expansion so that we can thoughtfully respond to changes when they occur. While we know changes will be coming, we don't know the details of what changes may be headed our way. King County is committed to continuing the prevention, intervention, diversion, reentry and recovery work that is funded in part by MIDD. At the same time, we recognize that changes at the Federal level may necessitate adjustments to MIDD initiative implementation timelines and/or initiatives as a whole. We hope to engage with you in early 2017 to discuss our options and approaches.

### **MIDD Contracting & RFP Approaches**

Behavioral Health and Recovery Division (BHRD) is taking a prudent approach for our MIDD funded contracts in light of our uncertain environment. Each MIDD contract will include contingency language recognizing that ongoing funding for the duration of the contract of the exhibit is contingent on program performance, ability to support potential scope of work changes, and continued funding availability. Additional details on the contracting approach for existing MIDD 1 initiatives and new MIDD 2 initiative RFPs is outlined below.

- *Existing MIDD 1 Initiatives*-Most MIDD 1 initiatives (formerly known as "strategies") will be re-contracted with existing providers. For providers who contract directly with BHRD<sup>1</sup>, contracts will be sent out by the end of December for review and signature. Most contracts will be for a 2 year term, while a few MIDD 1 initiatives are planned to be re-RFPd in 2017 and will have a shorter contract period. In instances where a re-RFP is planned, contracts will be sent to existing providers for a shorter term of 6 or 9 months depending on the timeline for letting the RFP.

Providers who have contracts for existing MIDD initiatives that will be re-RFPd will receive a separate communication from BHRD about the re-RFP timeline, services transition planning, and services stabilization process.

Additionally, BHRD is planning on revising two MIDD 1 initiatives over the course of 2017, so providers will see contract amendments for those initiatives for a one year period rather than a two year period. In each case, BHRD will be bringing together workgroups, including

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<sup>1</sup> Providers who contract with other divisions of the Department of Community and Human Services, or other King County departments and agencies should follow up with contacts in those divisions, departments, or agencies regarding questions of contract timelines.

providers, in 2017 to provide input on developing revised service models/approaches, outcomes, and reporting recommendations. The following two initiatives to be revised:

1. SI-04 Workforce Development (formerly strategy 1e Training)
2. SI-03 Workload Reduction (formerly strategy 2a)

BHRD will update providers as soon as possible in early 2017 with timelines for these two initiative revisions.

- *New MIDD 2 initiatives*-RFPs and RFIs for new MIDD initiatives are to be staged for release throughout 2017. Some new initiatives will be RFPd or RFI'd, while some may be directly contracted following the procurement guidelines included in the MIDD Service Improvement Plan<sup>2</sup>. Some initiatives require additional planning in advance of RFP. BHRD staff are working with staff from across the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) to identify cross system opportunities for RFP/RFI processes in collaboration with Best Starts for Kids and other county projects.

BHRD will work with the MIDD Advisory Committee to determine when and how it will review and provide input on the implementation of new initiatives, including RFPs/RFIs. Because of these variables, the timelines for releasing new MIDD RFPs/RFIs vary. Please check county websites for RFP/RFI announcements.

### **Next Steps: Implementation and Evaluation Planning & MIDD Name Change**

The MIDD SIP acknowledges three specific next steps necessary for MIDD 2: completion of the MIDD 2 Implementation and Evaluation Plans and changing the name of the MIDD. The SIP states that each component will be developed collaboratively with the MIDD Advisory Committee and other stakeholders.

Now that the MIDD budget is final, BHRD staff are working to develop a timeline and milestones for these three bodies of work. Components of this work includes identifying timelines for RFPs/RFIs and stakeholder engagement processes. Once the initial timeline and milestones are outlined, they will be shared with the Advisory Committee and providers. Timelines and milestones are subject to modification throughout the year.

Please note that planning on some of the larger new initiatives may be delayed in order to plan and prepare for changes to the Affordable Care Act or other policy and fiscal changes at the federal level.

Thank you for your ongoing support of King County and of MIDD. We will continue to share information with you throughout 2017 regarding MIDD matters like implementation and evaluation work, and also about pending federal policy and fiscal changes that may impact MIDD and BHRD.

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<sup>2</sup> MIDD Service Improvement Plan pg., 40 and MIDD Service Improvement Plan Appendix G

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Kind Regards,

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