

MENTAL HEALTH CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND THERAPEUTIC COURT PROGRAM 2025 ANTICIPATED SCOPE OF WORK

Projects must implement interventions and programs that address a minimum of one Goal, Objective and Strategy from the following list prioritized in the 2021 Behavioral Health Strategic Plan.

Goal #1: Improve the health status and wellbeing of Kitsap County residents.

Objective #1: Decrease the impact of systemic racism on the mental health and well-being of Kitsap County's communities of color.

Strategies include:

- Examine funding priorities and decision-making process from an equity lens.
- Examine policy and procedures with an equity lens, including evaluating common practices.
- Involve communities of color in shaping funding decisions, performance outcomes and evaluation.

Objective #2: Expand prevention and early intervention programs for youth.

Strategies include:

- Increase capacity of programs that provide evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs.
- Promote proactive support for student well-being in schools starting at elementary.
- Deliver culturally relevant materials, education and outreach.

Objective #3: Increase Trauma Informed Care training, policies and practices.

Strategies include:

- Provide education on equity, inclusion, diversity and historical trauma to the behavioral health workforce.
- Provide targeted funding for organizations to invest in trauma-informed care.
- Require workforce policy and procedures be developed through a trauma informed lens.

Goal #2: Reduce the incidence and severity of chemical dependency and/or mental health disorders in adults and youth.

Objective #1: Increase the variety and options of nontraditional behavioral health treatment programs and approaches.

Strategies include:

- Fund nontraditional treatment approaches including Housing First, Workforce Development programs and Harm Reduction programs - neuroscience informed and body-based.
- Develop culturally appropriate and sensitive programs and services for individuals who shy away from traditional behavioral health approaches.

- Establish behavioral health support groups with a focus on the needs of gay, lesbian, transgender and questioning youth.

Objective #2: Address service gaps along the behavioral health Continuum of Care, especially targeting services for children, youth and the aging populations.

Strategies include:

- Establish more certified youth behavioral health treatment providers county wide including outlying areas of the County.
- Ensure behavioral health treatment services are available in all of the schools at all of the age levels.
- Establish in home behavioral health services for individuals who are struggling to age in place.

Objective #3: Enhance Recovery Support Services.

Strategies include:

- Build in options for work, school, or volunteer experiences for individuals in behavioral health treatment programs.
- Provide transportation to ancillary services not covered by Access or Paratransit, including court appearances, social service appointments, and to and from jail.
- Create more diverse and nontraditional self-help groups.

Goal #3: Reduce the number of chemically dependent and mentally ill youth and adults from initial or further criminal justice system involvement.

Objective #1: Enhance diversion approaches, practices and programs for individuals with behavioral health disorders.

Strategies include:

- Offer more prevention services targeting juveniles before they become involved in the criminal justice system.
- Sustain and enhance juvenile therapeutic treatment courts.
- Offer pretrial diversion, such as voluntary, post-charging diversion programs in which formal adjudication is avoided and charges are dismissed upon completion of a specific set of requirements, such as participating in treatment, completing community service, and paying restitution.

Objective #2: Expand police training in crisis intervention and de-escalation approaches, practices and policies.

Strategies include:

- Support Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for all law enforcement agencies countywide.
- Advocate for Crisis Intervention Training to include ongoing and advanced training; expand partnership with community organizations; and include neuroscience and equity.

- Promote coordination and collaboration with law enforcement for better handling of people with psychiatric issues.

Objective #3: Increase specialized police responses in dealing with individuals with behavioral health disorders.

Strategies include:

- Expand specialized law enforcement responses, such as co-response teams, in which a police officer and a mental health professional respond to calls together.
- Expand navigator programs to offer individuals with behavioral health issues and have potential involvement in the criminal justice with advocacy.
- Promote differential police response.

Goal #4: Reduce the number of people in Kitsap County who cycle through our criminal justice systems, including jails and prisons.

Objective #1: Improve availability and coordination of in-jail behavioral health screening, assessment, treatment and referral services.

Strategies include:

- Expand training for correctional officers in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model.
- Reinforce screening of inmates as soon as possible for symptoms of a behavioral health issue.
- Expand behavioral health treatment options and recovery support services within the jail.

Objective #2: Intensify transitional behavioral health services for individuals reentering the community from jail and/or inpatient treatment services.

Strategies include:

- Enhance behavioral health transition services to support successful reentry to the community.
- Strengthen the continuum of effective behavioral health reentry services including outpatient, inpatient and recovery support services.
- Provide direct admission into treatment from jail to services-inpatient and outpatient programs.

Objective #3: Expand Therapeutic Court Programs to provide access to all eligible individuals in the community.

Strategies include:

- Expand therapeutic treatment courts to include superior, district and municipal jurisdictions.
- Support coordination, screening and swift referral and entry into all therapeutic court programs
- Enhance behavioral health treatment and recovery support services for all therapeutic courts.

Goal #5: Reduce the number of people in Kitsap County who use costly interventions including hospitals, emergency rooms, and crisis services.

Objective #1: Expand behavioral health treatment providers, approaches and options for high utilizers.

Strategies include:

- Establish less restrictive local options to the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA).
- Strengthen partnerships with Law Enforcement, EMS, and Fire to create co-response or follow-up (DCR/Crisis Worker/behavioral health staff) units with a paramedic and Law Enforcement officers.
- Establish low-barrier crisis services for the hard-to-engage.

Objective #2: Intensify supportive and/or treatment services for family members experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Strategies include:

- Designate shelter services for women (and/or men) with behavioral health issues and their children.
- Provide families approaching crisis wraparound services and support.
- Support easily accessible 24/7 sexual assault hotline with trained providers.

Objective #3: Intensify supportive and/or treatment services for youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Strategies include

- Provide behavioral health specialist to work with children/adolescents and their families in their homes, after responding to engage with them at Emergency Department.
- Establish a Juvenile Designated Crisis Responder.
- Establish a Crisis Residential Center providing short-term crisis services for youth.

Goal #6: Increase the number of stable housing options for chemically dependent and mentally ill residents of Kitsap County.

Objective #1: Expand behavioral health services for the homeless who experience mental illness or substance use disorders.

Strategies include:

- Provide strong case management to support the homeless with behavioral health issues.
- Establish a proactive, community-based approach to preventing homelessness for those with behavioral health issues.
- Provide access to treatment services prior to getting housing assistance and placement.

Objective #2: Strengthen support for individuals with behavioral health disorders to establish and maintain housing long-term.

Strategies include:

- Provide access to more subsidized housing options for individuals with behavioral health issues.
- Offer rental assistance to individuals with behavioral health issues with realistic limitations including fixed rent/housing.
- Recruit more private apartment- community housing for individuals with behavioral health issues.

Objective #3: Increase supportive shelter, transitional and permanent housing options for individuals with behavioral health disorders.

Strategies include:

- Build affordable housing for individuals with behavioral health issues with onsite caseworker support.
- Build additional shelter(s) for individuals with behavioral health issues with 24/7 access.
- Establish more long-term housing supports and options for individuals with serious mental illness.