
MENTAL ILLNESS AND DRUG DEPENDENCY ACTION PLAN**Timeline of Development**

2005 Washington State Legislative Session – RCW 82.14.460 adopted, allowing counties to impose a 0.1 percent sales tax to be used “solely for the purpose of providing new or expanded chemical dependency or mental health treatment services and for the operation of new or expanded therapeutic court programs.”

June 19, 2006 – Briefing No. 2006-B0103 to the Committee of the Whole on problems and opportunities in caring for people with seriously disabling mental illness and chemical dependency. There were two panel presentations:

Panel 1 – Criminal Justice and Advocate Perspective – Susan Rahr, King County Sheriff; Reed Holtgeerts, Director, Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention; Sally Bagshaw, Chief Civil Deputy, Prosecuting Attorney’s Office; Jim Adams, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, South King Chapter

Panel 2 – Treatment Perspective – Amnon Shoenfeld, Director, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division (MHCADSD); Trish Blanchard, Chief Clinical Officer, Seattle Mental Health; Joan Clement, Member, Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Administrative Board; Wesley Saint Clair, Drug Court Judge, King County Superior Court; Arthur Chapman, Mental Health Court Judge, King County District Court

July 6, 2006 – Briefing No. 2006-B0113 to the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee on the development of an action plan to divert people with mental illness and chemical dependency from the criminal justice system to effective treatment and housing. Council committee staff, Doug Stevenson and Cliff Curry, briefed the committee regarding the development of an action plan and answered questions. Amnon Shoenfeld, MHCADSD Director, answered additional questions.

July 20, 2006 – Motion 12320 passed by the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee, calling for development of a three-phase action plan “to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness and unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice and emergency medical systems and promote recovery for persons with disabling mental illness and chemical dependency by implementing a full continuum of treatment, housing and case management services.”

July 24, 2006 – Motion 12320 passed by the King County Council.

Council Calls for Action Plan for Treatment of Chronic Mental Illness, Chemical Dependency: Plan aims to “stop the revolving door at the jail”

http://www.metrokc.gov/council/news/2006/0707/chronic_actionplan.htm

September 1, 2006 – Phase I completed and submitted by the executive to the council, offering a description of the system improvements needed to initiate the development of a full continuum of services, including short-term actions that could be taken using existing resources.

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November 26, 2006 – Seattle Times story, *Mental illness dilemma for jail*
<http://archives.seattletimes.nwsourc.com/cgi-bin/texis.cgi/web/vortex/display?slug=homelesstax27m&date=20061127>

December 7, 2006 – Briefing No. 2006-0B0181 to the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee on the mental health and chemical dependency crisis reduction action plan – Phase I. MHCADSD staff, Amnon Shoenfeld, Director, and Susan McLaughlin, Children’s Mental Health Coordinator, presented on adult and youth service gaps and needs for those with a mental illness or chemical dependency involved in the justice system.

January 11, 2007 – Councilmember Bob Ferguson guest column, *The jail as mental institution*, Seattle Times
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/opinion/2003518876_bobferguson11.html

April 2, 2007 – Phase II completed and submitted by the executive to the council, addressing the changes needed in criminal justice case processing to more effectively deal with people with disabling mental illness and chemical dependency, with separate plans for youth and for adults, acknowledging the differing needs of those populations.

April 11, 2007 – Briefing No. 2007-B0083 to the Operating Budget, Fiscal Management and Mental Health Committee on the Phase II mental health and chemical dependency plan. Amnon Shoenfeld (MHCADSD) presented an overview of this plan for assisting large numbers of people with mental illness and chemical dependency in the criminal justice and other crisis systems.

June 1, 2007 – Phase III completed and submitted by the executive to the council, providing service and budget details on the proposed range of services and criminal justice improvements needed to meet the needs of the target populations and the goals of the motion.

June 25, 2007 – Town Hall Meeting on the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Action Plan hosted by the Council Committee of the Whole to gather public comment on the plan draws a record audience of more than 400 people, far surpassing attendance at any previous Town Hall meeting. All citizens who came forward spoke in favor of the plan. To watch the Town Hall meeting, go to the King County Council Web page at <http://www.metrokc.gov/council/mentalhealth/index.htm>.

Overflow audience voices strong support for effective Mental Health and Drug Dependency Programs at Council Town Hall in Shoreline http://www.metrokc.gov/council/townhall/2007-06_mental_health/

Mental health hearing by county draws hundreds, Seattle Times
http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003762713_mentalhealth26m.html

July 11 and August 22, 2007 – Council briefings on the action plan before the Operating Budget, Financial Management and Mental Health Committee.

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July 26, 2007 – Council briefing on the action plan before the Law, Justice and Human Services Committee.

September 7, 2007 – Special Meeting of the Council Operating Budget, Fiscal Management and Mental Health Committee to discuss the action plan.

September 26, 2007 – Motion 12598 passed by the Operating Budget, Fiscal Management and Mental Health Committee. The motion accepts “the mental illness and drug dependency action plan to prevent and reduce chronic homelessness and prevent and reduce unnecessary involvement in the criminal justice and emergency medical systems, and promote recovery for persons with disabling mental illness or drug dependency by implementing a full continuum of treatment, housing and case management services.”

October 8, 2007 – Motion 12598 passed by the King County Council.
Council accepts action plan to divert mentally ill and drug dependent from jails and emergency rooms: Public safety enhanced by stopping “revolving door” at jail
<http://www.metrokc.gov/council/news/2007/1007/mentaldrug.htm>

To date, seven counties have enacted the 0.1 percent sales tax for mental health and chemical dependency treatment and therapeutic courts: Clallam, Clark, Island, Jefferson, Okanogan, Skagit and Spokane.