

September 6, 2023 | 10:00-11:30 am

Meeting materials: <https://www.betterhealthtogether.org/bold-solutions-content/bh-forum-materials-june2023>

Forum Overview

- The BHT Behavioral Health Forum is a convening body for partner organizations throughout the Better Health Together region that provide behavioral health services, enhance the behavioral health workforce, or interact in other ways with behavioral health systems.
- Current focus is allocating \$1.2 million to support the behavioral health workforce.
- Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in discussion. Voting members (one vote per organization) are organizations working with BH clients or educating the workforce in the BHT region
- Helpful documents/links:
 - [Workforce Initiatives Landing Page](#)
 - [June 2023 Meeting Materials](#)
 - [Guiding Principles](#)

Workforce Initiatives: Updates on Currently Active/Planned Buckets

Behavioral Health Supervision Support

- Funding to support provider organizations with supervision for master's level behavioral health staff
- \$150,000 allocated; \$10,000 maximum per organization
- 15 contracts in place (9 organizations returning from the first round of funding, 6 new applicants). Opportunity is closed – all funding is allocated.
- Reporting numbers from the first round of funding are available [at this link](#).

SUDP Alternative Certification

- Covers the cost of the alternative certification coursework at the Community Colleges of Spokane. For behavioral health providers serving Medicaid populations in the BHT region.
- \$66,000 allocated (plus remaining funds from a previous round of funding), \$5499 per person to enroll.
- 8 people, including clinicians from Providence, SRHD, and Spokane Public Schools, are enrolled for the spring quarter. 10 slots still available. [Flyer with details](#).
- Email Hannah@BetterHealthTogether.org to request funding or get more information.

SFCC Bachelor's in Integrated Behavioral Health Scholarship

- \$45,000 allocated from the Forum to support students in this new Bachelor's program. First cohort starts this month. More applicants than space in the program. Many are currently working in behavioral health roles professionally.
- Contract with SFCC is in place to disperse funds. SFCC team will make scholarship decisions using student application materials and will provide quarterly data to share with the Forum.

Peers/CHW Joint Trainings – culturally specific/accessibility

- Forum handed this funding (\$47,000) to the E. WA CHW Network to use for training.

- Contact Kim Wilson (kim.wilson@BetterHealthTogether.org) for more information and to get connected to the Network.
- Three upcoming trainings. Kim will share information as it becomes available.
 - Mental Health First Aid through Frontier – September and October
 - Disaster preparedness for CHWs and others – October
 - Advanced medication management – October.
- New staff member Alexis Herrera is now also supporting the CHW training team at BHT.
- Community-based workforce survey coming soon.
- Working on 2023-2024 training schedule.

CHW Training Program Dollars (from Emerging Opportunities dollars)

- \$75,000 allocated to support the HRSA-funded CHW training program for individuals who aren't eligible to use these federal dollars because of citizenship status or other barriers.
- Supporting three individuals in the first training cohort with enrollment in the hybrid Spanish DOH CHW core competency course.
- Connecting with organizations that work with refugees and immigrants about opportunities to participate in the CHW training program (e.g. Thrive/Manzanita House resource fair).

Certified Peer Counselor and WRAP Training

- \$60,000 allocated by the Forum for CPC and WRAP training.
- Contracting with Passages for a fall CPC training for Eastern Washington candidates: **November 13-17**. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information about registration.
- Passages trainers are getting re-certified to lead WRAP. Will set that up later this year or early next year.

Design and Vote: Internship Support Funding

- **Overview**
 - Topic of discussion since February. Lots of brainstorming and discussion related to specific directions.
 - Decision in June that the group wants this funding to be flexible, allow organizations to use in ways that fit their context. This was a successful model for the behavioral health supervision support funding, and we have adapted that structure for this opportunity.
- **Framework Outline**
 - **Purpose** is to provide financial support to organizations in the BHT region that are training the behavioral health workforce through formal practicum and internship programs
 - **Potential areas for funds request (not exhaustive):**
 - Stipends for Medicaid-serving behavioral health interns
 - Offsetting lost billable hours for intern supervisors
 - Funding staff time to develop a new internship program or build relationships with educational institutions
 - Other options that fit within parameters are also a possibility – partner will need to describe when applying for funds.
 - **Eligible organizations** provide BH services (including SUD) to Medicaid clients in the BHT region, have current internship programs training BH students or intend to start programs, are current BHT partner organizations.
 - **Application:**

- Rolling application process – allows time for full proposal to be developed and submitted. BHT will screen, provide support if needed, and then get contract in place. (Contract is with BHT – based on guidelines set by Forum.)
 - Online form – fully developed proposal (be specific – we’re accountable for use of funds), include budget with description
 - Qualifying rather than competitive – open while funds last
 - **Payment structure:** 50% at contract signing, 50% at 6-mo reporting
 - **Reporting:** brief written reporting including budget with narrative at 6 months and annually. (Set up as two year contracts.) Final reporting include information about intern-to-employee conversion, post-internship employment info if available.
 - **Sustainability note:** these are one-time funds – no anticipated renewal opportunities. Consider when planning for use of funds.
- **Framework Discussion**
 - Question about SUDP-T eligibility as well as MH. Answer: yes, this is for SUD and MH.
 - Affirmation for the framework in the chat.
 - *Looks reasonable and appropriate*
 - *Sounds great, excited for this support! Much needed!*
 - *This sounds helpful, thank you!*
 - *Looks great to me*
 - *Thoughtful and appreciated!*
 - *Looks good*
 - *Very excited to learn more*
 - *Much needed and looks good.*
 - *This looks great!*
 - *Looks great*
 - *This is helpful. Thank you for not limiting it to just new so that it does not hurt those of us who are currently working with interns and trying to improve/grow our internship program.*
- **Finances Outline**
 - Current allocation is \$125,000. Suggestion to pull \$25,000 from the Remaining Balance (unallocated dollars) to add here for a total of \$150,000.
 - \$10,000 per award with 15 awards available.
- **Finances Discussion**
 - Agreement registered in the chat for this proposal
- **Vote: Motion to approve the internship support framework.**
 - Moved: Dave Crump
 - Second: Ron Tussey
 - Yes votes: Dave Crump (SPS), Hallie Burchinal (CAT), Mary Beazer (CHSW), Christi Lyson (IFD), Christie Pelz (Partners), Becky Hammill (Passages), Joshua Everett Mayer (STARS), Ron Tussey (CTC), Shelly Hahn (LCSNW), Mark Ingoldby (Providence), Katrina Bryant (CHAS)
 - No votes: N/A
- **Vote: Motion to allocate an additional \$25,000 from the unallocated Workforce Retention & Recruitment funds to the Internship Support funds to bring the total up to \$150,000.**
 - Moved: Dave Crump
 - Second: Hallie Burchinal
 - Yes votes: Mary Beazer (CHSW), Christi Lyson (IFD), Joshua Everett Mayer (STARS), Becky Hammill (Passages), Shelly Hahn (LCSNW), Mark Ingoldby (Providence), Halie Burchinal (CAT), Brandy Tarala (United We Rescue), David Crump (SPS), Ron Tussey (CTC), Christie Pelz (Partners), Katrina Bryant (CHAS).
 - No votes: N/A

- **Next steps:**
 - Opportunity for people to give additional feedback and for member organizations who didn't vote to do so in the next week.
 - BHT will prepare the application form, contract template, and publicity materials. Opportunity will go live at the end of next week – watch for an email from Hannah with full information.

Peer Apprenticeship Presentation, Q-and-A

- **Background:**
 - One of the small bucket initiatives is a peer practicum/internship model pilot. \$50,000 allocated. Recognizes the need for additional support for peers after completing their initial 40-hour CPC training. Peer Apprenticeship opportunity is one way to build the peer workforce with additional support.
- **The Training Fund contacts:**
 - Marijo Manaos, Strategic Partnerships Manager, mmanaois@healthcareerfund.org
 - Leigh Christopherson, lchristopherson@healthcareerfund.org
 - Nakia Becerra, nbecerra@healthcareerfund.org
- **Presentation materials with information about Peer Apprenticeships:**
 - Slides
 - Behavioral Health Apprenticeships Partner Toolkit
 - Peer Counselor Apprenticeship: Related Supplemental Instruction & On-the-Job Training
 - Grant Incentive Funding for Employers / Employer Supports
- **Q-and-A**
 - What about smaller employers?
 - *Employers of multiple sizes participate. For more rural and small partners, documentation and ethics/boundaries classes increase quality of counselors as they're onboarded as billable providers. Provides a pathway for their own profession, potentially feeds into other opportunities. Could be an added bonus for smaller employer – championing PD for employees. Critical classroom and skill development form confident peer counselors. Current employer participants: Peer WA, Valeo Vocation, Consejo Counseling, to name a few*
 - Can current CPCs participate?
 - *Yes, you could choose to have current CPCs participate, they would transfer in CPC and then take the additional college coursework. Design is to support a better prepared/education employee.*
 - Coursework seems very relevant.
 - *Classroom days are in the classroom – not expected to step away to cover other work. Open to feedback – trying to tailor to meet employer needs. After week 5, in the classroom for one day. OTJ training, billable services, etc. After week 27, just on the job.*
 - More about the mentor role?
 - *Mentor doesn't have to be CPC but has to have experience equivalent to peer modalities. Mentor is a key part of supporting on the job training – are they qualified to train for the competencies that are mapped out?*
 - Financial commitment from organizations?
 - *Incentives don't require seed funding from employer from the beginning. Sustainability agreement with The Training Fund – intention (not a hard commitment) to continue long-term apprenticeship. Sign on as a training agent and receive outreach from the Fund. Always trying for more funding to sustain. Other than paying a new body their CPC wage (state standards) – only impact to org is perhaps that the mentor is taken away from some billable*

counseling services. Apprentices are shadowing rather than disrupting workflow and then delivering with supervision.

Looking Ahead and Wrap Up

- **Prioritizing Next Steps** – submit feedback in the chat about what you’d like to focus on moving forward and at the November meeting:
 - Training and education x2
 - No preference x3
- **Medicaid Waiver 2.0 Update**
 - Medicaid Waiver 1.0 ended in 2022. For Waiver 2.0, ACHs were surprised that clinical integration was not included as an area of work or funding (despite being a big focus on the first waiver).
 - HCA is now negotiating funding, and our region won’t see any dollars until the end of 2023. BHT has budgeted to allow for this gap including through the Integrated Managed Care funds that the Forum is using for workforce initiatives.
 - Major focus will be on community-based care coordination. Under the first waiver, lots of work to build the community-based workforce, a critical piece of navigating care in integrated settings → through-line from waiver 1.0 to 2.0.
 - BHT will continue to build the Hub care coordination work and support organizations doing care coordination.
 - State level groups are working on details and will share more communication as they become available.
- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, November 1 from 10 to 11:30 am

Announcements

- **Mental Health First Aid at Community Colleges of Spokane**
 - November 2, \$50 fee
 - Registration link: <https://www.campusce.net/spokane/course/course.aspx?c=1042>
- **HCA Operationalizing Peer Support (OPS) Training**
 - 10/19 and 10/26 – 8 am to 1:30 pm with 30 minute lunch and breaks throughout
 - OPS overview: <https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/billers-and-providers/82-0388-operationalizing-peer-support-training.pdf>
 - Email staff to register or ask questions: HCAOPSOrg@hca.wa.gov