

Good afternoon BHECN participants,

Thanks to the extraordinary work that everyone has put into this project over the last year and a half, we've reached an exciting inflection point. As most of you know, this effort started in the wake of the closure of the sobering center in late 2019 and has grown into a wider conversation about further resourcing and better aligning behavioral health crisis services in our community. There have been many conversations and draft proposals about the next phase of work, and we're glad to announce that we are moving into high gear for planning the implementation of a stabilization center.

As we launch this new phase of work to make the vision of BHECN a reality, in partnership with the City of Portland, Multnomah County as the Local Mental Health Authority will be taking on the lead role for activating the concepts and ideas discussed over the last two years. The Core Team will remain the central leadership committee, providing guidance to the County's Behavioral Health Division. And over the coming month, we will be analyzing the current structure of the project to ensure it is best aligned for the work to come. Lones Consulting will continue serving in a facilitation and project management capacity, at the direction of the City and County. Finally, the County has also proposed funding for additional project staffing in the FY23 budget.

From the beginning of this project, we all set out to tackle a system that, to many on the outside, appears unfixable. Stakeholders, interested parties, and concerned citizens joined in an organic effort to find a better way forward. We are inspired by the power of everyone's belief that this system is more than fixable, and that in BHECN, we have an opportunity to build an entirely new vision to serve some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We look forward to

continuing to join everyone around the table as we embark on this exciting journey to launch a coordinated effort.

Thank you.

Office of Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler

Office of Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury