



2020 Cities Thrive Mental Health Coalition Monthly Call Series

Tuesday, August 25th

2:15-3:30pm/Eastern Time

“Taking Matters into your Own Hands – Achieving Dedicated Mental Health Funding”

Call-In: 347-719-7789 (No Pin)

AGENDA

- 2:15-2:20pm:** Introductions and Call Framing
- 2:20pm:** Introduction of Jared Hymowitz
- 2:20-2:30pm:** Baton Rouge, LA Presentation
- 2:30-2:35pm:** Baton Rouge, LA Q&A
- 2:35pm:** Introduction of Lorez Meinhold
- 2:35-2:45pm:** Denver, CO Presentation
- 2:45-2:50pm:** Denver, CO Q&A
- 2:50pm:** Introduction of Sarah Wilhelm, Kelli Nomura, and Robin Pfohman
- 2:50-3:00:** King County, WA Presentation
- 3:00-3:05pm:** King County, WA Q&A
- 3:05pm:** Introduction of Maggie Merritt and Julie Synder
- 3:05-3:15pm:** California Presentation
- 3:15-3:20pm:** California Q&A
- 3:20-3:25pm:** Closing Remarks

PARTICIPANTS

Baton Rouge, LA – Mental Health Tax

Presenter: Jared Hymowitz, Director of the Mayor’s Healthy City Initiative, City of Baton Rouge

Description: The council authorized a 1.5 mills tax for a period of 10 years to be used entirely and exclusively for the purpose of operating and maintaining a treatment center that will provide mental health and substance abuse services.

Denver, CO – Caring for Denver

Presenter: Lorez Meinhold, Executive Director, Caring for Denver

Description: Founded and funded by Denver, Caring for Denver Foundation was created on November 6, 2018 when seventy percent of Denver turned an idea into a reality. The ballot initiative was simple, yet powerful. For every \$100 spent in Denver, 25 cents totaling over \$30 million dollars (dependent on the economy) goes toward addressing mental health and substance misuse needs in Denver. The increased revenue will be used for mental health services, including suicide prevention programs; substance abuse treatment, prevention, and recovery programs; facilities and programs for those with mental health diagnoses; and training for first responders. The goal of the program is to improve long-term recovery rates, reduce the use of substances, decrease homelessness, and take the burden of dealing with mental illness away from the courts and place it in the hands of treatment providers.



King County, WA – Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) Sales Tax Levy

Presenters: Sarah Wilhelm, Strategic Advisor for Trauma-Informed Systems, Best Starts for Kids; Kelli Nomura, Behavioral Health & Recovery Division Director, King County Department of Community & Human Services; and Robin Pfohman, MIDD Coordinator, Behavioral Health & Recovery Division, King County Department of Community & Human Services

Description: King County's MIDD is a countywide 0.1% sales tax generating an about \$136 million per two-year biennium, specifically for programs and services for people living with or at risk of behavioral health conditions.

California – Mental Health Services Act

Presenter: Maggie Merritt, Executive Director, Steinberg Institute and Julie Synder, Government Affairs Director, Steinberg Institute

Description: Proposition 63, now known as the Mental Health Services Act, imposed a 1 percent tax on people who earn more than \$1 million annually to pay for expanded mental health care in California. Since its passage, it has generated approximately \$15 billion for counties in California to provide mental and behavioral health services.