



King County

1200 King County
Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Meeting Agenda

Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

Councilmembers:

*Teresa Mosqueda, Chair;
Rhonda Lewis, Vice Chair;
Jorge L. Barón, Steffanie Fain*

Lead Staff: Wendy Soo Hoo (206-477-0890)

Committee Clerk: Angelica Calderon (206-477-0874)

9:30 AM

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Room 1001

Hybrid Meetings: Attend King County Council committee meetings in person in Council Chambers (Room 1001), 516 3rd Avenue in Seattle, or through remote access. Details on how to attend and/or provide public comment remotely are listed below.

Pursuant to K.C.C. 1.24.035 A. and F., this meeting is also noticed as a meeting of the Metropolitan King County Council, whose agenda is limited to the committee business. In this meeting only the rules and procedures applicable to committees apply and not those applicable to full council meetings.

HOW TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: The Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee values community input and looks forward to hearing from you on agenda items.

There are three ways to provide public comment:

1. In person: You may attend the meeting and provide comment in the Council Chambers.
2. By email: You may comment in writing on current agenda items by submitting your email comments to kcccomitt@kingcounty.gov. If your email is received by 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting, your email comments will be distributed to the committee members and appropriate staff prior to the meeting.
3. Remote attendance at the meeting by phone or computer (see "Connecting to the Webinar" below)

You are not required to sign up in advance. Comments are limited to current agenda items.



Sign language and interpreter services can be arranged given sufficient notice (206-848-0355).
TTY Number - TTY 711.

Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing loop, which provides a wireless signal that is picked up by a hearing aid when it is set to 'T' (Telecoil) setting.



Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

You have the right to language access services at no cost to you. To request these services, please contact Language Access Coordinator, Tera Chea at (206) 477 9259 or email Tera.chea2@kingcounty.gov by 8:00 a.m. at least three business days prior to the meeting.

CONNECTING TO THE WEBINAR:

Webinar ID: 842 7675 9952

By computer using the Zoom application at <https://zoom.us/join> and the webinar ID above.

Via phone by calling 1 253 215 8782 and using the webinar ID above.

HOW TO WATCH/LISTEN TO THE MEETING REMOTELY: There are several ways to watch or listen in to the meeting:

- 1) Stream online via this link: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/kctv>, or input the link web address into your web browser.
- 2) Watch King County TV on Comcast Channel 22 and 322(HD) and Astound Broadband Channels 22 and 711(HD)
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1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Approval of Minutes** **p. 4**
4. **Public Comment**

To show a PDF of the written materials for an agenda item, click on the agenda item below.



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Briefing

5. [Briefing No. 2026-B0015](#) **p. 10**

The impacts of Federal Funding Cuts and future service needs at Harborview Medical Center

*Ian Goodhew Chief External Affairs Officer, UW Medicine
Sommer Kleweno Walley – CEO, Harborview Medical Center
Madeline Grant Chief Administrative Officer, Harborview Medical Center
Lindsey Grad – Legislative Director SEIU Healthcare 1199NW
Registered nurse representative*

6. [Briefing No. 2026-B0016](#) **p. 11**

Impacts of Federal Funding Cuts and Scheduling Restrictions at Valley Medical Center

*Representative from OPEIU
Liz Nolan, Chief Communications & Philanthropy Officer, Valley Medical Center
David Smith, Chief Legal Counsel, Valley Medical Center
Rick Polintan, Commissioner, Valley Medical Center Commission
Representative from NW Health Law Advocates/ Pacific Islander Health board*

Discussion and Possible Action

7. [Proposed Motion No. 2026-0017](#) **p. 12**

A MOTION stating the council's support for continued entheogen-related research for alternative treatment modalities, structured medical models, and full decriminalization of entheogen-related activities and requesting that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any adult engaging in certain entheogen-related activities be among King County's lowest criminal enforcement priorities.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

Nick Bowman, Council staff

Other Business

Adjournment



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Meeting Minutes

Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

Councilmembers:

*Teresa Mosqueda, Chair;
Jorge L. Barón, Steffanie Fain*

Lead Staff: Sam Porter (206-263-2708)

Committee Clerk: Angelica Calderon (206-477-0874)

9:30 AM

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Room 1001

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1. Call to Order

Chair Mosqueda called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

3. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Barón approval of the minutes of the September 11, 2025 Special meeting. Seeing no objections, the minutes were approved

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Consent

5. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0230

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Eric Buley, who resides in council district two, to the King County children and youth advisory board.

Sponsors: Zahilay

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

Excused: 1 - Dunn

6. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0231

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Ellie Wang, who resides in council district nine, to the King County children and youth advisory board, as a youth representative.

Sponsors: Dunn

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion FAILED by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

7. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0232

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Briyanna Stewart, who resides in council district eight, to the King County children and youth advisory board.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

8. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0233

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Asma Ahmed, who resides in council district four, to the King County children and youth advisory board.

Sponsors: Barón

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

9. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0239

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Yessica Osorio Duran, who resides in council district five, to the King County children and youth advisory board, as a youth representative.

Sponsors: Quinn

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Councilmember Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

10. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0240

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Megan Walsh, who resides in council district three, to the King County children and youth advisory board.

Sponsors: Perry

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

11. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0242

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Eric Dodd, who resides in council district six, to the King County children and youth advisory board.

Sponsors: Balducci

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

12. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0215

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Kathryn Hill, who resides in council district one, to the King County women's advisory board, as the district one representative.

Sponsors: Dembowski

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

13. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0234

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Negin Khanloo, who resides in council district six,

to the King County women's advisory board, as the district six representative.

Sponsors: Balducci

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

14. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0254

A MOTION confirming the executive's appointment of Jeni Johnson, who resides in council district eight, to the King County mental illness and drug dependency advisory committee, as a representative of unincorporated King County.

Sponsors: Mosqueda

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

15. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0175

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the 2024 health through housing annual report, in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 24.30.

Sponsors: Mosqueda and Balducci

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

16. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0217

A MOTION acknowledging receipt of the third annual report on the second Best Starts for Kids initiative, in accordance with Ordinance 19354.

Sponsors: Mosqueda and von Reichbauer

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

17. Proposed Motion No. 2025-0237

A MOTION approving the 2024 annual mental illness and drug dependency evaluation summary report, in compliance with K.C.C. 4A.500.309.

Sponsors: Mosqueda and von Reichbauer

This item was expedited to December 9, 2025 Council Agenda.

**A motion was made by Fain that this Motion be Recommended Do Pass Consent.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Yes: 3 - Barón, Mosqueda and Fain

Briefing

18. Briefing No. 2025-B0161

Continuum of Care: Distilling the Federal Contract and Local Consequences

Kelly Rider, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) and Sunaree Marshall, Director of the Housing and Community Development Division DCHS were present to brief via PowerPoint presentation and answer questions from the members. Jeff Simms Chief Program Officer, King County Regional Homelessness Authority and Kelsey Beckmeyer, Continuum of Care Manager, King County Regional Homelessness Authority, briefed the Committee via PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the members. Also, Representative Nicole Macri and Dan Wise, Agency Director at Catholic Community Services, briefed and answered questions from the members.

This matter was Presented

Other Business

There was no other business to come before the Committee.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Approved this _____ day of _____

Clerk's Signature



Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

February 3, 2026 Meeting

**Agenda Item No. 5
Briefing No. 2026-B0015**

**The impacts of Federal Funding Cuts and
future service needs at Harborview Medical
Center**

**No Materials for this item will be available before
the meeting.**



Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

February 3, 2026 Meeting

**Agenda Item No. 6
Briefing No. 2026-B0016**

**Impacts of Federal Funding Cuts and
Scheduling Restrictions at Valley Medical
Center**

**No Materials for this item will be available before
the meeting.**



Metropolitan King County Council Health, Housing, and Human Services Committee

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	7	Name:	Nick Bowman
Proposed No.:	2026-0017	Date:	February 3, 2026

SUBJECT

A motion stating the Council's support for entheogen related research and the decriminalization of entheogen related activities, as well as requesting that County law enforcement actions toward certain entheogen-related activities be among the County's lowest priorities.

SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2026-0017 would state the Council's support for continued research for entheogen-related treatments and for full decriminalization of the personal use of entheogens at the state and federal level. The proposed motion would also request that criminal enforcement actions against adults engaging in the cultivation of entheogens for certain uses and personal practices be designated among the County's lowest priorities.

BACKGROUND

Entheogen is a term that encompasses any living, fresh, dried, or processed plant or fungal material, including teas or powders, that may contain currently scheduled or analog psychoactive indolamines, tryptamines, or phenethylamines, including, but not limited to, psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca tea, mescaline, and iboga. There is well documented historical and cultural evidence that many entheogens have been used for religious, spiritual, and ceremonial purposes in various societies around the world.¹

In the United States, entheogens are generally classified as Schedule 1 substances making their possession and use illegal under federal law.²

Despite their illegality at the federal level, there is a growing body of scientific evidence showing potential medical and therapeutic benefits from the controlled, clinical use of entheogens for certain mental health conditions. The United States Food and Drug Administration designated psilocybin-assisted therapy as a breakthrough therapy for treatment-resistant depression in 2018 and major depressive disorder in 2019.³ More

¹ [Sayin, H.U. \(2014\), Bouayad, A. \(2019\), Malcolm, B. J., & Lee, K. C. \(2018\).](#)

² 21 USC 812: Schedules of controlled substances

³ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/37247807/>

recently, a 2024 systematic review found that psychedelic substances, including psilocybin, LSD, ayahuasca, and MDMA, demonstrated therapeutic benefits for mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety, with psilocybin supported by the greatest number of studies.⁴

The potential therapeutic and medicinal benefits of entheogens has been cited by number of jurisdictions in Washington State which have passed resolutions supporting the decriminalization of entheogens for therapeutic and personal use, including the cities of Olympia, Seattle, and Tacoma and Jefferson County.⁵ Nationally, the states of Colorado, Oregon, and New Mexico have either decriminalized entheogen use or legalized entheogen use with a therapist or licensed facilitator.⁶

ANALYSIS

Proposed Motion 2026-0017 would state the Council's support for continued research for entheogen-related alternative treatment modalities and structured medical models and its support for the full decriminalization of the personal use of entheogens at the state and federal level.

The proposed motion also requests that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any adult engaging in the cultivation of entheogens for use in religious, spiritual, healing, or personal growth practices be designated among King County's lowest criminal enforcement priorities, and that County resources not be expended for such law enforcement actions. The proposed motion clarifies that these requests are limited to unincorporated areas and are not intended for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) to decline the prosecution of cases for entheogen-related offenses which involve other substances or where public safety is put at risk.

The proposed motion further states that passage of the motion does not reflect any intent on the part of the Council to support or encourage:

- Driving under the influence of entheogens;
- Possession or distribution of entheogens in schools;
- Use of entheogens on any form of public transit;
- Possession, distribution, or sale of entheogens by or to minor children;
- Commercial manufacturing or sales of entheogens; or
- Conduct that puts public safety at risk.

In response to staff's inquiries regarding the proposed motion the PAO provided the following information:

"Drug possession cases have not been felony crimes since 2021 (when the State Supreme Court's Blake decision ruled felony drug possession unconstitutional; this was followed by a 2023 state law (SB 5536) which made drug possession

⁴ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0165178124001719?via%3Dihub>

⁵ [Olympia Resolution M-2549](#), [Seattle Resolution 32021](#), [Jefferson County Resolution 1923](#), [Tacoma Resolution 41609](#)

⁶ <https://psychedelicalpha.com/data/psychedelic-laws>

and use a gross misdemeanor statewide). As a result, drug possession cases - street use cases - are handled at the city level by law. Law enforcement would only refer possession cases to [the PAO] if they occurred on state roadways or in unincorporated areas of King County. [The PAO's] focus is going after drug trafficking and drug dealing, particularly fentanyl and meth."

The King County Sheriff's Office responded with the following information:

"KCSO prioritizes its investigations on behaviors and circumstances that are unsafe for a person and/or other people in community and/or criminal in nature. If while interacting with someone [and] one of these substances are mentioned or encountered, deputies will typically note them in a report. If the substances are present, deputies will usually take possession of them for disposal. KCSO does not typically focus on the possession or use of entheogens as a sole reason for investigating or enforcing laws on someone."

KCSO conducted a search of its Mark 43 Offense database using the terms entheogen, psilocybin, and mushrooms for 3 years beginning January 1, 2023 and found 125 responsive cases where there was mention of these substances. Of the 125 cases there were 11 cases with enforcement[,] of which 10 were controlled substances cases where other narcotics or cannabis was involved and 1 was a DUI. In the remaining cases, if these substances were encountered, deputies typically confiscated them for disposal without further action."

INVITED

- Geoffrey Thomas, Chief of Staff, King County Sheriff's Office.
- Douglas Wagoner, Director of Public and Legislative Affairs, King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Motion 2026-0017



KING COUNTY

Signature Report

ATTACHMENT 1

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Motion

Proposed No. 2026-0017.1

Sponsors Mosqueda

1 A MOTION stating the council's support for continued
2 entheogen-related research for alternative treatment
3 modalities, structured medical models, and full
4 decriminalization of entheogen-related activities and
5 requesting that the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of
6 any adult engaging in certain entheogen-related activities
7 be among King County's lowest criminal enforcement
8 priorities.

9 WHEREAS, entheogen is a term that encompasses any living, fresh, dried, or
10 processed plant or fungal material, including teas or powders, that may contain currently
11 scheduled or analog psychoactive indolamines, tryptamines, or phenethylamines,
12 including, but not limited to, psilocybin mushrooms, ayahuasca tea, mescaline, and iboga,
13 and

14 WHEREAS, depression, severe anxiety, problematic substance use, post-
15 traumatic stress, end-of-life anxiety, grief, isolation, intergenerational trauma, and other
16 physical and mental conditions are plaguing many communities, and scientific and
17 clinical studies show the benefits of entheogens in treating these conditions, and

18 WHEREAS, communities face unprecedented mental health crisis, unprecedented
19 suicide rates, especially among veterans and marginalized groups, and a deepening opioid

20 addiction crisis and the Washington state Legislature can contribute to removing stigmas
21 through public education and supporting community mental health efforts, and

22 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration-sanctioned clinical
23 trials show positive results that demonstrate the safety and efficacy of psilocybin assisted
24 therapy, and

25 WHEREAS, the United States Food and Drug Administration designated
26 psilocybin-assisted therapy as a breakthrough therapy for treatment-resistant depression
27 in 2018 and major depressive disorder in 2019, and

28 WHEREAS, human cultures around the world recognize entheogens as sacred
29 and have used them as part of their cultural, spiritual, and religious practices for
30 generations, and

31 WHEREAS, a variety of jurisdictions in the United States, including the cities of
32 Olympia, Port Townsend, Seattle, and Tacoma and Jefferson County, have supported
33 decriminalization of entheogens, and Colorado, Oregon, and Washington, D.C., have
34 decriminalized some or all entheogens through successful ballot initiatives, and

35 WHEREAS, decriminalization of entheogens does not undermine the seriousness
36 of the opioid epidemic and impact of harmful substances on the lives of individuals,
37 families, and communities;

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

39 A. The council states its support for continued research for entheogen-related
40 alternative treatment modalities and structured medical models. The council further
41 states its support for the full decriminalization of the personal use of entheogens at the
42 state and federal level.

43 B.1. The council requests that investigation, arrest, and prosecution of any adult
44 engaging in the cultivation of entheogens for use in religious, spiritual, healing, or
45 personal growth practices be designated as among King County's lowest criminal
46 enforcement priorities, and further requests that county funds or resources not be used for
47 investigation, prosecution, or arrest of individuals possessing or using entheogenic plants
48 or fungi for religious, spiritual, healing, or personal growth practices.

49 2. The request is only intended to request King County sheriff's office designate
50 entheogen cultivation for the aforementioned purposes as among the lowest law
51 enforcement priorities in unincorporated areas. The request does not reflect any intent on
52 the part of the council for King County sheriff's office deputies in the Muckleshoot tribe
53 or contract cities to deviate from the tribe or contract cities' laws, procedures, or
54 priorities.

55 3. This section B. reflects the intent on the part of the council only to request the
56 King County prosecuting attorney designate cases under its jurisdiction for the
57 aforementioned purposes related to entheogens as among the lowest prosecution
58 priorities. This section B. does not reflect any intent on the part of the council to request
59 the King County prosecuting attorney decline to prosecute cases for this offense which
60 involve other substances or where the conduct has put public safety at risk.

61 C. The council's passage of this motion does not reflect any intent on the part of
62 the council to support or encourage:

- 63 1. Driving under the influence of entheogenic plants or fungi;
- 64 2. Possession or distribution of entheogens in schools;
- 65 3. Use of entheogenic plants or fungi on any form of public transit;

66 4. Possession, distribution, or sale of entheogenic plants or fungi by or to minor
67 children;
68 5. Commercial manufacturing or sales of entheogenic plants or fungi; or
69 6. Conduct that puts public safety at risk.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Sarah Perry, Chair

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, _____.

Girmay Zahilay, County Executive

Attachments: None