



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
TRANSFORMATION COALITION**
BUILDING A SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Mission

The *Behavioral Health Transformation Coalition* will improve Cowlitz County's behavioral health and protect the citizenry from the significant negative consequences inherent in untreated behavioral illness.

The Behavioral Health Transformation Coalition (BHTC) is a group of Cowlitz leaders motivated to improve our community's behavioral health. Recent State budget cuts have decimated the mental health care system for low income, uninsured people. Approximately 4,000 people with serious mental illness will not receive necessary treatment this year, amounting to a community crisis. Law enforcement, emergency departments, social services and other health care providers are overwhelmed, and will become more so, by people with untreated mental illness. It's simply unsafe and irresponsible.

The BHTC will address the behavioral health crisis by developing a community plan for improving our behavioral health, including mental health, substance abuse and treatment courts.

Goals

- Determine Cowlitz County's unmet mental health and chemical dependency needs.
- Define services and programs to effectively meet those needs.
- Quantify the community benefit from such services.
- Produce a Behavioral Health Transformation report for the Cowlitz County Commission.
- Advocate for adoption of a .1% sales tax as a means to improve Cowlitz behavioral health.

Process

The Behavioral Health Transformation Coalition will engage a diverse group of community stakeholders invested in improving the behavioral health of Cowlitz County. We will facilitate a process to gather comprehensive feedback, culminating in a white paper to Cowlitz County Commissioners, which will define Cowlitz County's outstanding behavioral health needs and targeted solutions.

**One penny on a ten-dollar purchase can transform our future.
We appreciate your support!**

For additional information, please contact Eric Yakovich, Project Coordinator, at eric.yakovich@ccgacares.com, or (360) 577-0249 ext.111