

Regular Meeting
August 26, 2020

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Board Members:

- Beau Bakken, Citizen
- Eric Onisko, Council, City of Shelton
- Cappy Shapiro, Citizen
- Peggy VanBuskirk, MC Board of Health
- Mark Freedman, Administrative Service Organization (ASO)

Staff Members:

- Lydia Buchheit, MC Public Health
- Todd Parker, MC Public Health

Guests:

- Greg Twiddy, Telecare Evaluation & Treatment Center
- Margaret Grysho, Veterans Affairs

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Motion was made by Peggy VanBuskirk and seconded by Eric Onisko to approve the agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Motion was made by Peggy VanBuskirk and seconded by Eric Onisko to approve the regular minutes as amended from July 2020 meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. MEETING TOPICS:

- a. New Member Welcome:** Cappy Shapiro was introduced and shared to be currently working as a self-employed social worker and previously worked on the Telecare Crisis Team and for the City of Shelton as the Housing program position which was recently eliminated due to budgetary concerns. Cappy applied for the citizen position on the Housing and Behavioral Health Board being very interested in this work in the community.
- b. Guest Speakers**
 - i. Behavioral Health: Evaluation & Treatment Center, Greg Twiddy-** Greg shared that the E&TC opened their first floor with 16-bed capacity for short-term mental health treatment which is 90 days or less, on December 20, 2019. Last week the second floor

opened for Long-Term treatment, or more than 90 days. which also has a 16-bed capacity. The E&TC has seen 147 clients since opening. 50% of the clients are from Thurston and Mason County and 25% of these clients are Mason County residents. All clients are referred through Designated Crisis Response staff and must have a medical clearance before admittance. Medical clearance typically comes from an emergency room evaluation. Discharge planning is accomplished with each client, so clients are not just released to the streets.

- ii. **Housing: Veterans Affairs, VASH Vouchers, Margaret Johnston-Grysho**-Margaret works with VASH, a Joint HUD and VA supportive housing program. The housing authority of Bremerton handles the section 8 vouchers and income eligibility and VA handles the clinical eligibility and case management support such as medical care, DSHS connections to help veterans get and stay housed.
Bremerton Housing Authority (BHA) oversees Mason County's vouchers. There are only 4 VA vouchers in Mason County and BHA did not meet criteria for more. There are two types of vouchers, Tenant based (go with client) and Project based (stay with housing unit) and Mason County only has tenant based. BHA opted to not participate in the new Veteran tiny homes project-based vouchers; however, tenant-based vouchers may be used that the veteran village.
Some of the barriers to getting veterans housed are limited housing stock, landlords not wanting to wait until vouchers are processed and limited ability for face-to-face outreach encounters during COVID-19.

c. **General**

- i. **By-laws and resolution revamp**-Todd reviewed updates discussed at the July meeting. Question if there should be an attendance requirement? Peggy & Beau shared if three meetings in a row without excused absence occur, should move forward and utilize a board process to be replaced. Beau will send language to Todd for the By-laws to address this area.

Motion to send Resolution reflecting changes in By-Laws on to BOCC with amended language by Peggy Vanbuskirk, Eric Onisko 2nd Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- ii. **Contract Evaluation Process: The purpose of the contract evaluations is to meet Mason County contract deliverables (project and system level) to the Department of Commerce under the Consolidated Homeless Grant and 5-year plan requirements.**
Todd reviewed tools to help the board evaluate the subcontractors toward Mason County meeting performance outcomes. One tool was an excel sheet with ratings, met, not met, and corrective action based on a numeric general scoring and new additional score range descriptions. 5-point scale, 4 would mean above expectations in their program and 5 would be the work in outreaching to community. The board is in favor of a self-evaluation process by the sub-contractors, to invite the subcontractors into the board meetings throughout the year and to send letters reflecting good work or to comment on areas needing improvement.

Procedural monitoring ideas were requested from the board. Ideas were given for positive reinforcement.

d. **Housing**

- i. **Grant Updates:**

Eviction Rent Assistance Program Grant-Todd reviewed progress. New contract and sub-contracts (Shelton Youth Connection, Crossroads Housing and North Mason Resources) approved this past week by Board of County Commissioners. Unique criteria requirements.

Shelter Grant Program- application and proposal were approved by the Dept. of Commerce and contract will soon follow. Funds will be awarded to Community Lifeline to expand female beds and bed capacity during months they were traditionally closed to become a year-round shelter.

e. Behavioral Health

i. New Grants:

LEAD-Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion is on target with a report coming out next month on progress.

HRSA RCORP-Rural Community Opioid Response Program- Mason County Public Health was awarded \$1,000,000 over 3 years, in partnership with Peninsula Community Health Services, North Mason Regional Fire Authority and Mason Health to further the community work around substance use recovery through developing Peer Support services.

6. Good of the Order:

i. City of Shelton updates: Eric Onisko lost connection, will review next month.

7. Closure- The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: September 23, 2020 via Zoom