

**MASON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HOUSING AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD**

415 N 6th STREET, SHELTON, WA 98584
Zoom Meeting held

Regular Meeting
May 22, 2024

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Kevin Shutty called meeting to order at 9:00 am

2. ROLL CALL:

Board Members:

- Kevin Shutty, BoCC
- Eric Onisko, City of Shelton
- Peggy VanBuskirk, Board of Health
- Mark Freedman, Administrative Service Organization (ASO)
- Amanda Gonzales, Citizen
- Beau Bakken, Citizen
- Heather Kennedy, Citizen

Staff Members:

- Melissa Casey, Public Health & Human Services
- Haley Foelsch, Public Health & Human Services
- Todd Parker, Public Health & Human Services
- Kaela Moontree, Public Health & Human Services

Guests:

- Lindsay Sapp, Councilmember, City of Shelton

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

Approval of the agenda was made by Peggy VanBuskirk, seconded by Mayor Onisko

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Peggy VanBuskirk has corrections; corrections will be reviewed and approved at next meeting

6. MEETING TOPICS:

a. Treatment Sales Tax Contract Renewals/Program Sustainability

i. Approve TST funding recommendations for program sustainability

1. Total amount in ask \$148,927.70

2. Peggy moved, Eric seconded recommend continuing funding for NWR II and OHRS for remainder of 2024
- ii. **Approval to allocate \$72,000 from TST Reserve**
 1. About \$2 million in the fund
 2. Purpose of reserve is to fill gaps; have put in the work to identify these are the gaps both Boards
 3. Appropriate to take it from the Reserve; Reserve can handle this kind of allocation
 4. **ACTION:** Peggy motioned to allocate \$72,000 from TST Reserve, seconded by Eric
- iii. **Approval to de-obligate \$77,000 from unspent TST Crossroads Housing funds**
 1. Contract is currently on 2-year cycle FY24-25; year-to-date spenddown presented for FY24, broken down by month
 2. 3 unduplicated household's (HH) only funded in August 2023, November 2023, December 2023, and January 2024
 3. What qualifies for this funding? – Centralized way for Behavioral Health organizations to access sober housing rent (similar to NWR II)/rental assistance while clients are in treatment; housing is part of coordinated treatment program
 4. What has been done to help current agency be successful? County has provided technical assisting, made marketing recommendations, reviewed Policies & Procedures; trends over the years have shown current agency has not done outreach to all providers
 5. Purpose of de-obligating is to expand access to all BH providers and help agencies develop their programs; this is an opportunity to take money back and utilize more efficiently
 6. Potential to add more funding to NWR II; with similar amount of funding, served ~56 unduplicated HH with TST funding which does not include case management also provided with the rent subsidy
 7. **ACTION:** Amanda motioned to de-obligate funding from Crossroads Housing for re-allocation, seconded by Peggy
- b. **Emergency Housing Fund: Budget Adjustment for program capacity building**
 - i. EHF is a separate contract (federal, Dept of Commerce) that is rolling into the Consolidated Homeless Grant in FY25
 - ii. Subcontractors will be awarded a slight increase in funding in FY25 via budget adjustments
 - iii. Dedicate funding to staffing for Crossroads & Youth Connection Eviction Prevention and Rapid Rehousing → help agencies develop their programs
 - iv. By and For – delegated responsibility to Crossroads and Youth Connection to partner with By and For (10% of funding) → not fulfilling these partnerships/out of compliance with contract, so taking back funding and partnering directly with Dispute Resolution Center
 - v. Additional funding through CHG was briefed to BoCC on 5/20
 1. FY24 inflation increase for staff retention, recruitment, training (has to be spent by June 30; amendments follow same allocation/formula to appropriate additional amount to each agency)
 2. Have RFQ's out to agencies to adjust/update needs on budget line → takes care of self because funding has specific uses

3. CHG standard FY25 and LDRF Support; LDRF has been drastically reduced and state has attempted to backfill with additional funding
- c. **RFP for additional FY25 CHG Funds (CHG Supplemental and LDR Support)**
 - i. Public Health shared recommendations on what to fund with consideration of updated 5-Year Plan being developed in FY24; emphasis on continuing program development
 - ii. Approval from Board to put out RFP for additional funds
 1. Mark recommends detailing more that facilitator of 5-year plan development will also be writing the plan; recommends revising RFP to emphasize *expanding* programs
 - iii. **ACTION:** Peggy motioned to approve recommending RFP to BoCC, seconded by Mark
- d. **Encampment Mitigation Efforts**
 - i. Board discussed encampment outreach in regards to the upcoming sweeps
 - ii. Encampment outreach is effective in bringing services to the camps, develop the relationships, and build trust
 - iii. Christina has been coordinating the providers conducting outreach; Providers with a Purpose event is on June 13th at the Shelton Youth Connection
 - iv. Where will people go when they leave the camps? There have been concerns with the adult emergency shelter re: bed bugs and Community Lifeline lacking the funds to meet the required staffing ratio for increased capacity. Todd shared that CLL entered into a contract with the Balance of State for \$600,000 over the next three years; allowable activities include supportive services, case management, food, housing navigation
 - v. Board discussed importance of involving people with lived experience/people it's impacting in the decision-making process

7. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. Mark's last meeting with us, retiring, thank you for your participation, wisdom, and experience! Founding member of this group a few years ago; appreciate your contributions. Will have replacement for the Board from BH-ASO, someone who is tied into outreach activities in Mason.

8. CLOSURE:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

9. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 26, 2024