

Regular Meeting
October 23rd, 2024

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Meeting was called to order at 9:04 am

Board Members:

- Kevin Shutty, Board of County Commissioners
- Lyndsey Sapp, Council, City of Shelton
- Peggy VanBuskirk, Board of Health
- Beau Bakken, Citizen, District 1
- Amanda Gonzales, Citizen, District 2
- Heather Kennedy, Citizen, District 3

Staff Members:

- Melissa Casey, MC Public Health & Human Services
- Christina Muller-Shin, MC Public Health & Human Services
- Shaena Garberich, MC Public Health & Human Services
- Ben Johnson, MC Public Health & Human Services

Public:

None

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Beau Bakken made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Lyndsey Sapp. **The motion carried unanimously.**

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Beau Bakken made a motion to approve the September 25th, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Lyndsey Sapp. **The motion carried unanimously.**

5. MEETING TOPICS:

a. **UPDATE: FY25 CHG Awards**

Staff shared that the Advisory Board's funding recommendations for the Special NOFO were approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Crossroads Housing was awarded \$12,000 for the Shower Program, \$25,000 for the Diversion Fund, and \$75,000 for Eviction Prevention Rent.

\$125,000 remains of the \$200,000 the Advisory Board approved for rental assistance.

\$125,000 remains for the 5-Year Plan Facilitator. Public Health staff are coordinating with the group conducting the updated Housing Needs Assessment for the Comp Plan to determine if there is availability to facilitate to the 5-Year Plan.

\$40,000 remains in Reserve for future emergent needs.

b. **UPDATE: Eviction Prevention**

Staff shared that all the concerns reported by community members and Board members regarding the Crossroads Housing Eviction Program were validated by further investigation and ongoing monitoring and fidelity reviews of the program. Staff found that the agency was not utilizing best practices for operating the program, including prioritization and progressive engagement. Staff have met with the provider over the last few weeks to determine where the inefficiencies could be improved and to streamline communications with program participants. Staff will be reviewing the Eviction Program waitlist on a bi-weekly basis to ensure that clients are being served quickly. The additional \$75,000 awarded to Crossroads should serve about 20 households. There are currently 41 active cases on the waitlist; additional funding may be awarded as staff determine the program is operating in fidelity to the best practices and clients are being served.

c. **DISCUSSION: 2024 Annual Report**

Board to revisit annual report in December. Considerations include aligning priorities with HB1590. The County chose not to move forward with adopting the sales and use tax for affordable housing, citing that there is no plan for how the collected funds will be spent. Demonstrate that there is a plan (i.e., Housing Needs Assessment was conducted, 5-Year Homeless Housing Plan, Comprehensive Plan).

d. **ACTION: Approval of revisions to Treatment Sales Tax Policies & Procedures**

Staff shared revisions to TST P&P. The purpose of revising the P&P was to align the contract cycle for RFP projects with the county budget cycle, in addition to minor edits to department names; Track Changes was used so that the revisions can be easily identified.

Board discussed the breakdown between internal vs. external programs. The Co-Responder Program in Thurston County is considered an internal TST program; consider as an option for Mason County. This would be dependent on fund balance (estimated ~\$2 million). Can we utilize funds underspent from internal programs?

Peggy VanBuskirk made a motion to approve the revised policies & procedures, seconded by Beau Bakken. **The motion carried unanimously.**

e. **DISCUSSION: Treatment Sales Tax RFP**

Staff shared options for allocating \$302,500 in FY2025 (January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025) for non-county operated programs to fill gaps in behavioral health services:

- Contract Renewals: Current contractors submit a new budget to operate the same programs. Staff shared a breakdown of existing contracts and budgets in FY23-24.
- Request for Quote (RFQ): Board determines what programs or projects to fund, and application is open to any and all organizations to submit a bid for operating the program(s). Board will review bids and make a selection based primarily on cost.
- Request for Proposal (RFP): Full solicitation open to any and all organizations to propose a new program; more detailed, comprehensive, and lengthy application, and Board will review and score applications to make a selection(s) and determine award(s).

Peggy VanBuskirk made a motion to approve extension of Law Enforcement Co-Responder Program, seconded by Lyndsey Sapp. **The motion carried unanimously.**

f. **UPDATE: City of Shelton**

Study session on 10/8 re: Affordable Sales Tax; majority of council voted in favor. Target date November 19th for public hearing and an ordinance to be presented to the council.

Potential housing projects: mitigation site, permanent supportive housing

g. **DISCUSSION: November & December Board Meetings**

Board agrees to combine November and December meetings into a single meeting in early December: December 11th at 9:00 am

6. GOOD OF THE ORDER:

None

7. ADJOURN:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am.

8. NEXT REGULAR MEETING: Wednesday, December 11th, 2024 at 9:00 am