

## **The Housing and Behavioral Health Advisory Board Annual Report**

According to resolution 33-18 the Housing and Behavioral Health Advisory Board will submit report containing recommendations for funding priorities to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) by January 31 of each calendar year.

The Housing and Behavioral Health Advisory Board (HBHAB) had its first meeting on August 22, 2018. This first annual report will attempt to summarize the work that has been done thus far and illuminate a few of the discoveries surrounding funding priorities.

The first five months have been dedicated to establishing the structure of the HBHAB, becoming educated on the issues that face the community, funding sources and the agencies that are currently under contract. The focus has been on the housing funding and the corresponding agencies to provide a foundation and prepare for the forthcoming Request for Proposal to be released in the first quarter of 2019 with contracts to start July 1, 2019.

Some of the accomplishments and actions taken are as follows:

- Creation and approval of By-Laws and elections of a vice-chair
- Full membership including 3 citizen members
- Training on the Open Public Meetings Act
- A letter of support for the Veterans Tiny Home Project that was then approved by the BOCC and submitted to the City of Shelton Council
- An Interlocal Agreement between the County and City of Shelton that is in the approval process
- Review of current contracted agencies to recommend disbursement of additional local document recording fees
- Recommend to the BOCC to approve the increased 2019 budget request for Superior Court to include the Therapeutic Courts
- Recommended to the BOCC to approve a change of use of the property owned by Homes First that is under contract with Mason County
- Reviewed and recommended to the BOCC the adoption of the document "Housing Funding Policies and Procedures of Mason County Community Services, Public Health Department".
- Heard agency presentations by:
  - Crossroads Housing
  - North Mason Resources
  - Turning Pointe
  - Community Action Council
  - Community Lifeline
  - Department of Commerce Office of Adult and Family Homelessness

The HBHAB acknowledges the complexity of the action needed to end homelessness and will work in coordination with other planning efforts in the City and County to address issues of affordable housing and homelessness. The board recognizes the need for innovative efforts in these areas, staff development within the non-profit sector, and partnership with the private sector to aid in the supply of housing to keep pace with population growth and is available to various income levels. Future reports may also include recommendations related to non-funding actions that would lessen the impact of homelessness in the County.