

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) started August 22, 2018. This is the second annual report that will attempt to summarize the work that has been done throughout 2019, identify gaps and future funding priorities.

Some of the accomplishments and actions taken are as follows:

- Housing Funding Policies and Procedures
- Recommended awarding \$1,402,861 in funding to six agencies (Community Lifeline, Crossroads Housing, North Mason Resources, Community Action Council, Shelton Family Center, and Turning Pointe) for the Homeless Crisis Response system through a request for proposal process. Money was from the Consolidated Homeless Grant and 2163 Local Document Recording Fees.
- Support funding allocation to have an adult emergency shelter open daily for 7 continuous months (the maximum allowed by the special use permit)
- Input to the Consolidated Homeless Grant Application
- Recommend the resolution to adopt HB 1406 tax retention for affordable housing
- Supported updates to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Shelton and Mason County to include language regarding HB1406
- Recommended awarding \$340,000 between the Housing Authority for building repairs and Quixote Communities toward the veteran tiny home village from the 2060 Local Document Recording Fee fund
- Input, evaluation and recommendation to adopt the required local 5-year plan on Housing and Homelessness
- Many local and state agency presentations to the board to educate and inform on the services and remaining gaps.
- Involved in how the transition from Medicaid mental health and chemical dependency services and financial management will shift from the Behavioral Health Organization to Managed Care Organizations will impact continuity of services and identifying any gaps that may be funded with the Treatment Sales Tax.
- Participation in the WorkForce Housing Summit

The HBHAB continues to acknowledge 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.

General Recommendations:

- Consider set aside for research projects such as program return on investment (program effectiveness) and current housing vacancy rate.
- Consider fee for services rather than block funding

- Collect racial data on entrance into therapeutic court programs to see if there are any disparities.
- The Advisory Board will also continue to look at funding priorities based on community need, other funding available to support programs or agencies.

Capital Funding

- Find partner for Housing Trust Fund project and consider the North Mason area
- Prioritize housing for single adults as this is the subpopulation that is increasing in homelessness
- Figure out how to pay for supportive services and infrastructure that supports the intent of the capital purchase
- Leverage the funds collected by HB 1406 with the local document recording fee 2060 fund.
- Evaluate 5-year projected capital projects proposals from local agencies
- Continue to evaluate how to best preserve and expand affordable housing in Mason County

Housing

- Evaluate how Coordinated Entry (CE) is working in the community to inform any shifts in how CE operates within the homeless crisis response system within the County.
- Look at affordable housing options for single adults and ways to increase availability.
- Evaluate program outcomes and work with the agencies to maintain areas of success and improve any underperforming areas.

Behavioral Health

- 2020 is a transition year from Behavioral Health Organizations (BHO's) to Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) paying for Medicaid Mental Health and Chemical Dependency services. BHO's has non-Medicaid funds to support gaps for services not covered by Medicaid. This has impacted services in the jail and to uninsured or underinsured households. The advisory board will continue to monitor gaps in services through this transition. The needs have resulted also from an impact on the closure of Western State Hospital.
- Recognizes the need for Treatment Sales Tax funds to help pay for housing for people that are part of a coordinated mental health or substance use disorder treatment program.
- Evaluate priorities for behavioral funding that is allocated through a request for proposal to support community needs and county departments (i.e. jail, juvenile detention, public health).