

NEWS RELEASE

May 24, 2005

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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SHELTON, WA 98584

(360) 427-9670 EXT. 419

TO: KMAS, KRXV, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: NACO Community Engagement Luncheon – May 26th, 2005

Mason County was one of three counties nation-wide to receive a National Association of Counties grant to help us better understand the economic impact of the health care sectors on Mason County's larger economy and begin to think about the health care system we need and want. The grant activities included a series of four Community Engagement events. These are opportunities for all our community leaders and interested citizens to come together and discuss the issues and guide the direction of the grant activities. The second Community Engagement event is scheduled for May 26th from 12:15 – 1:15 p.m. at the Shelton Civic Center. Lunch will be provided. During this event, we will be discussing what we need to know in order to better understand where and why Mason County residents go for their health care services. This discussion will be used to develop a telephone survey that will be conducted in Mason County during the weeks of June 8 and 15th. The telephone survey will be conducted on behalf of the Mason County Commissioners. Community members interested in participating in the survey development discussions should contact Kim Klint, with Mason Matters at 427-9670 ext. 543 or kak@co.mason.wa.us. This is an open meeting; any interested citizens are welcome to come. Just phone in your RSVP, so a lunch will be ordered for you.

The first Community Engagement Event was held on April 12. At that event, the Mason County community learned that our local health care system generates about 1,990 jobs; most are well-paying jobs with health insurance benefits. These 1,900 jobs account for about \$82M in payroll. These payroll dollars, in turn, generate another \$49M of economy activity in Mason County and account for about \$385,000 in local sales tax revenue for the county. For complete copies of the Economic Development Report, contact Kim. The final two Community Engagement events are scheduled for June 14 and July 28. If you want to be included on the invitation list, please contact Kim at the earlier mentioned telephone/e-mail addresses.

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