

NEWS RELEASE

May 3, 2011

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584**

**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: Seeking members for 1/10th of 1% Sales & Use Tax for Mental Health,
Substance Abuse, and Therapeutic Court Advisory Committee**

The Mason County Commissioners are seeking volunteers to serve on an Advisory Committee which will review reports and data regarding the mental health and substance abuse needs in Mason County. Additionally, the Advisory Committee will identify and review current mental illness/substance abuse services — public and private, and determine the gaps in services. The Committee will look at the cost drivers for mental illness and substance abuse issues in the criminal justice system. The Committee will identify and review best practices, evidence-based, and promising practices for prevention and treatment services. The Committee will also select a fund allocation system that assures fairness and cost effectiveness as well as an evaluation/quality improvement process and an effective reporting system that includes an annual report to the citizens of Mason County if the Committee recommends that the sales and use tax be implemented.

The Advisory Committee will hold public meetings and seek input for consideration in their final report. They will also present their findings and recommendations in a series of community meetings.

The Advisory Committee will be staffed by a facilitator who will prepare discussion materials and write a final report based on the work of the Committee and to be approved by the Committee and forwarded on to the County Commissioners for their consideration. The report will contain recommendations on the implementation of the Sales and Use Tax authorized by the Legislature to address mental health and substance abuse treatment issues at the county level.

It is anticipated that this work will be completed within a relatively short timeframe and the report will be presented to the County Commissioners by September 13, 2011.

The Advisory Committee will be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. Following is the representation sought for the Advisory Committee:

- County Commissioner/Board of Health Representative
- School Superintendent

- City of Shelton Commissioner
- School Youth Counselor
- Youth Representative
- Juvenile Justice Representative
- Mason Matters Executive Director
- Non-profit/United Way Representative
- Business Representative(s)
- Citizen from each of the three County Commissioner Districts
- Three at-large members

Others may be considered and/or invited to participate or serve on subcommittees as the Commissioners or Advisory Committee deem appropriate.

If you are interested in serving on the One Tenth of One Percent Sales and Use Tax for Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment and Therapeutic Courts Advisory Committee, please complete the county form which can be found on the Mason County Website. On the Mason County Home Page, click on Advisory Committees and then click for advisory board form. Please submit a completed form to the Mason County Commissioners at 411 North 5th Street, Shelton, WA 98584 by May 20, 2011.

For questions, please contact Vicki Kirkpatrick, 360-427-9670, Ext. 260; 360-2754467, Ext. 260 from Belfair; or 360 482-5269, Ext. 260 from Elma
[Email: vickik@co.mason.wa.us](mailto:vickik@co.mason.wa.us)

Lynda Ring Erickson
Chair

Jerry Lingle
Commissioner

Tim Sheldon
Commissioner