

Minutes

Human Services Advisory Board held December 9, 2024

Members present: Diana Porter, Beth Eden, Theresa Chemnick, and Amy Ray.

Staff present: Richard Uri and Jami Mitchell

Guests: Mark Tompkins, Director of Health and Community Services.

No one from the public was in attendance.

Ray called meeting to order at 1:35pm and made the public service announcement.

Agenda: Board approved the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the November meeting were approved with changes.

Tompkins reviewed the part of the department budget that includes the 1/10th funds

- We are in the 2nd year of the 24-25 biennial budget. For 2025, very similar to 2024, plus \$100K from North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization for underinsured.
- Process is to look back at previous 5 years, then project budget.
- Now about \$70K are invested in Local Government Improvement Program. Revenue comes from this investment income and the designated 1/10 of 1% sales tax, which fluctuates.
- Annual budget is about \$900K. Expenses have been about \$800K.
- Cash balance that rolls over each year is somewhat high. Should be enough to cover approximately one year of expenses but is approximately \$1.2M.
- Uri clarified: the amount designated for courts could be spent any time. The budget is based on capacities, sometimes turnout is less than expected.
- Discussion about using the apparent surplus in cash reserves ensued.
 - Porter asked about the procedure for adding new programs. Uri advised to identify an amount, then put out a call in the community. Tompkins noted that historically requests for proposals have been issued and members have had ideas. County Council needs to approve, so proposals for the 26-27 biennium should be submitted in July-August of 2025.
 - Chemnick asked about underutilization due to lack of referrals or people being unaware of services. Uri said no, he follows up with resource centers if it appears there is low usage. Tompkins noted SafeCare is only active on San Juan Island now, and Uri explained the low participation further. Mitchell noted that school based mental health significantly increased in the past and the needs are not decreasing post-covid. Uri agreed that kids are continuing to experience high levels of stress. Keep capacity funded.
 - Tompkins is available to come back for more discussion. Budget call will come from County Council in June-July 2025.
 - Other thoughts: Identify needs and how to meet them. Increase number of therapists on Orcas. DBT group component costs. Intensive Outpatient Therapy online program costs. Community Wellness Program copays and deductible costs.
 - Identifying potential programs to fund. A primary purpose of the 1/10th funds is for new programs and services. Evidence-based can mean already outdated. Promising programs

are future looking. Total amount available for new or expanded programs is about \$200K. The 1/10th funds do not have an “evidence-based” requirement.

Board Recruitment follow-up:

Ray will finalize invitation after board members’ input.

Mitchell added to her report:

- Sequential Intercept Mapping project going forward since Trillium Swanson was hired to oversee SIM workgroups.
- H&CS website is being reorganized, Uri and Mitchell have been reviewing changes.

Uri added to his report:

- Paul is curating reference
- Universal disclosure form is in process.
- He is participating in advising on ferry money for local transportation solutions.
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Next meeting January 13 at 1:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm