

Minutes

Human Services Advisory Board held January 13, 2025

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

Staff present: Richard Uri and Jami Mitchell

Guests: Paul Berry, manager of the mobile crisis outreach team and recovery navigators, part of the Crisis Services department of Compass Health.

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 December meeting were approved.

Board Recruitment follow-up:

The County has sent a news release that members are needed on several citizens' advisory boards. An application has been received. Next steps will be: Ray will send an invitation to attend a meeting. Uri will invite the applicant to talk one on one and ask any questions. Another potential applicant may join the next meeting also. A more general letter asking for volunteers will be going to the Resource Centers from Ray. Ray to follow up on Lopez; Uri will follow up on other islands.

Paul Berry presented on Get Help Washington. (gethelpwashington.com/resources)

- ~~It has been formally adopted by the county for resource referral information. It has been adopted by San Juan County's Human Services division as a pilot for resource referral information.~~
- For use by providers to search for and send resources to the people they serve. Not public-facing, but frequent users like resource centers, deputies, etc. can share info with public.
- Easily search by location and filters, e.g. insurance, setting (level of care), service type, individual therapy, shelters, SUD counseling
- Updates will be made by a designated employee with expertise so it can be kept current.
- Uri explained that this meets a critical need. A Google search does not provide what is needed. The County doesn't have someone available to keep a database of resource and referral info current.
- Berry added that accuracy comes from collaboration with professionals and a person always making changes as necessary. Machines can't do it.
- Berry: it gets the right resource to the right person at the right time.
- Mitchell noted that Senior Services will use it; it can be tailored for their use. Berry added that churches and community organizations are other main users.

Mitchell added to her report:

- Developmental Disabilities: she and other county coordinators will go to Olympia to discuss issues with legislators.
- Sequential Intercept Model: in March will review successes and plan future actions.

- Senior Services have updated stats showing a lot of use and volunteers.

Uri added to his report:

- A lot is going on: wind-downs for the end of the year, quarterly reports.

Discussion:

Ray: Federal funds are not assured due to the new administration.

Mitchell: State, County and community are all supportive, but state money is short. Belt-tightening may be needed.

Uri: the County is covering amounts that should be covered by insurance, the managed care organizations, and Medicaid.

Porter: next discussion of new programs? February agenda item.

Mitchell: will find legal language/rules for new programs. Usually a new program can begin as a pilot project.

Uri: what are our unmet needs? How much would a request for proposal be?

Mitchell: February discussion can be idea generation.

Eden: Friday Harbor hostel is closing, eliminating a unique housing resource.

Next meeting February 10 at 1:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm