

Minutes

Human Services Advisory Board held March 10, 2025

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

Staff present: Richard Uri and Jami Mitchell

Guests: Tamela Bresler, board member applicant; Justin Paulsen, San Juan County Councilmember;

No one from the public was in attendance.

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

Agenda: Board approved the agenda.

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

Board Membership:

The county's intent is for members to serve 3-year terms. The 3 districts are: 1. San Juan Island, 2. Orcas and Waldron, 3. Lopez, Shaw and Decatur. At this time, membership consists of:

Position #	District	Name	[Started?]	Term Expires
11	at large	Theresa Chemnick		12/2025
1	1	Diana Porter		12/2026
3	3	Amy Ray		12/2025
*	2	Beth Eden		12/2025

* Eden doesn't appear on the county's list at this time.

County Ordinance specifies that the Board should have one representative from each district, with a total membership minimum 9 and maximum 12.

New members Tamela Bresler and Teresa Ward will be recommended to the County Council and added. A possibility is that memberships can be renewed early to help balance the rotation.

Pilot Program Request for Proposal:

- RFP: \$100K per year for 1-2 years.
- Peer support is the category of need to address. Broad support is the concept. RFP should include expected outcomes.
- Bresler noted that the target people should be identified. Who are the lonely people on the islands. What groups are in need? Resources used could be meetup, hospital district virtual meeting rooms. Linking together people and resources is important.
- Porter: the applicant organization would answer these questions. Does the RFP need to say it is for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder?
- Uri: Peer support is enough of a description and keeps the scope broad. Groups in need are seniors, people in recovery, youth, new parents, single parents.
- Bresler added that research overwhelmingly shows that a lack of social support leads to a lot of problems.

- Porter offered to contribute a peer support definition paragraph.
- Eden: Communities can be enriched in many ways. E.g., citizenship and belonging. A colleague holds potlucks for democracy. Food, mental health and social skills are combined.
- Can 2 programs be offered within 1 RFP? Uri will find out. He noted that smaller number of more robust programs is best so that admin work and number of contracts can be kept to a minimum.
- Uri will draft the RFP and email it to the board. It will use everyone language and emphasize social connection.

Uri added to his report:

- Board members agreed that guests will be scheduled for every other board meeting. Minutes are being uploaded to the County's website.
- Contracts on schedule, including Community Wellness Program (CWP) and SafeCare San Juan being signed this week.
- Changes to SafeCare: the program is not fitting the demographic; a home visit program with more latitude is needed. San Juan County has permission to use the SafeCare program independently, saving \$9K. This allows more community access with less cost. The name will be changed from SafeCare to In-Home Visits. Eventually each island will have people taking care of this program. Mitchell added that Mark Tompkins supports this change, as the SafeCare pilot program lasted 8 years. Uri said the reporting and tracking will remain the same. Flexibility is important as well as trusting the people who are delivering the services.

Next meeting April 14 at 1:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm