

Minutes

Human Services Advisory Board held April 14, 2025

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

Staff present: Richard Uri and Jami Mitchell

Guests: Justin Paulsen, San Juan County Councilmember; Trillium Swanson

No one from the public was in attendance.

Ray 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.

Trillium Swanson presented on the Sequential Intercept Mapping Pilot Project

The project received legislative funding 2 years ago. Two communities participated, Stevens County and San Juan County. The goal was to establish a coordinated care network.

5/2024 the stakeholders identified gaps

To be served: adults with serious behavioral health problems who were involved in the criminal justice system

Objectives:

Find gaps for intercepts to take place

How to get through all 6 intercept points

Action to improve. Priorities for action identified:

- a. Improve mechanisms for communication and collaboration
- b. Build capacity
- c. Infrastructure development

Universal release of information form *Uri explained that there was a lot of resistance to this by a key stakeholder.

Resource list

Increase buy-in from the community

Embed mental health with law enforcement

Involve community paramedicine with medication management and compliance

Establish warm handoffs at all stages

Establish supportive housing

Alternative Court: Community Court within District Court

Majority of participants with non-violent charges would be eligible for community peer Recovery Navigators (RN) from Compass Health. RNs would need to attend District Court meetings to facilitate warm handoffs. However, both federal and state funding is uncertain—possibly next year.

Resource Directory: 30 subscriptions were paid by the pilot grant. “gethelpwa” See presentation by Paul Berry from previous HSAB meeting.

Release of Information: shared RoI is key to collaborating and intercepts across services. Other counties, including King, have monthly staff meetings, not daily or as-needed, where information is shared. Law enforcement, fire, and EMS are agencies that need to be included. All need to understand HIPAA in terms of care coordination.

Supportive Housing: a need too large to address in a 6-month project. A work group forming a 5-year homeless plan with RNP and Recovery Café is working with Ryan Page. Lopez Island FRC is working on something possibly on the mainland. Paulsen commented that a Recovery Board on the mainland is needed, but individuals like single parents can be supported. Emergency housing is complicated and supportive housing is best supplied by private venture. Island providers report that they encounter people who need these types of housing on a weekly basis.

Groundwork for continued collaboration: Ellen Wilcox, Crisis Care Community Health Network, Resource Centers, Hospital Districts. Community paramedicine (only SJI has this now). Identify shared goals.

Next:

Spend last \$60-70K of grant by end of May

Continue collaborative projects

Continue community court development

Option: continued support from Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) to revisit SIM and county-wide progress on priorities

Comments on SIM presentation:

Uri thanked Judge Jewitt who went after this grant. The desire is to increase community collaboration.

However, without the universal release of information, it will be harder to coordinate ongoing care.

Paulsen commented that funding for a Recovery Navigator is on the chopping block at the state level. Is there possibly ACH money?

Uri noted that recovery navigators aren't as integral in larger counties which already had co-response and more outpatient capacity. State Health Care Authority wants to claw back funding due to \$9M budget shortfall. They would give this need to the MCOs to supply. Mitchell and Uri met with James Dixon and North Sound about crisis and co-response funding.

Mitchell added to her report:

Board Membership: The county's website has been updated to reflect actual board membership, position numbers and dates of terms.

Uri added to his report:

San Juan Island Schools have said they will request a budget increase.

Schools don't have embedded Compass Health counselors. Now they are trying to hire to remedy the shortage of personnel. San Juan County pays.

Next meeting:

Discuss RFP. Budget information will be more accurate then because the state budget will be done.

Send Uri ideas prior to next meeting.

May 12 at 1:30pm

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm