

Minutes

Human Services Advisory Board held September 8, 2025

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

Staff present: Richard Uri

Guests: Justin Paulsen, County Councilmember

No one from the public was in attendance.

Ray called meeting to order at 1:32pm and made the public service announcement.

Agenda: Board approved the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the August meeting were approved.

Uri's report additions:

- RFP for peer support pilot program: Uri clarified that there are three RFPs coming out and their release is staggered. One is for Outpatient Addiction Recovery Services (OARS), which has received at least one proposal so far and has a deadline of October 6. Second is the one for peer support that the HSAB endorsed last meeting, which will have a 60 day window for submissions. Third is for the sheriff's behavioral health co-responder, which is waiting for final edits. Hope is for all programs to be running in the first quarter of 2026. Uri is the one who communicates with proposal submitters.
- Most likely Compass Health will submit a proposal for Co-response, but will it need to be on a union pay scale?
- Transportation voucher program: Lawyer will help resolve a signature issue which delayed startup.
- Literacy program on Lopez: Follow-up on funding ideas from last meeting: nothing has worked so far. Bezos has a foundation, but will only consider invited proposals. Can someone get an invitation? Another idea is to ask for private donor(s) to support. Cost is \$26K/year. Ward added another idea, ballmergroup.org.

Board discussion:

- Compass Outpatient is now on San Juan Island only. The staffing they allocate is based on the numbers they have, so they can claim full coverage, but there are more needs that are not being counted.
- Is there another organization besides Compass Health? Will North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (NSBHASO) go through re-procuring? Washington State Health Care Authority doesn't monitor or enforce contracts, which causes consequences in rural areas. Paulsen added that Washington state is 8 years behind on re-procurement. Uri will attend meetings to express San Juan County needs. Funds are prioritized for large counties with urban centers, leaving rural counties short.
- Paulsen noted that virtual access doesn't equal access. Dispatch from Island County isn't equal.
- Uri requested input from people about their experiences after referrals. This could provide evidence where individuals wanted help, but an evaluation said there was no disorder so no services were provided.
- Paulsen reported that NSBHASO had its regional meeting on SJI, which helped demonstrate the challenges islanders face. Services are all within one block. They will have a board retreat soon.

- Ward noted that Ancora clinics are a potential provider. Uri said there is one provider for medication assisted treatment now and they are not providing treatment coordination for SUD.
- Bresler opened additional discussion about the opioid settlement(s): Paulsen said two more opioid settlements are coming.
- Uri noted that Didgwalic Wellness Center (Anacortes) is the existing resource for treatment.
- Paulsen said all pharmacies being sued are in some form of bankruptcy. If a pharmacy doesn't have branches in a county, none of its settlement money is allocated there.

Next meeting:

October 20 at 1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm