

Minutes

Human Services Advisory Board held November 10, 2025

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

Staff present: Richard Uri, Jami Mitchell

No one from the public was in attendance.

Ray called meeting to order at 1:40pm and made the public service announcement.

Agenda: Board approved the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Mitchell added the following to her report:

- A Food Support Collaborative is meeting monthly. It includes the resource centers and more. SNAP and WIC are fully funded through September 2026.

Uri added the following to his report:

- Monitoring of providers has started.
- Mitchell added that there is discussion about how to approach Community Wellness Program contracts next year. The loss of medical insurance due to spikes in insurance rates causing people to cancel is expected to increase use of CWP.
- Uri is busy with the Requests for Proposals. He is happy to oversee the programs.

Board Membership: Contessa Downey of Lopez Island is expected to attend the next meeting. The Board's recommendation is that her application for membership be approved by the County Council.

RFP Updates: Due date is November 17. Then Uri will share the proposals with the board.

Next guest presentation: Ellen Wilcox to talk about WIC and Prevention at the December meeting if able.

Budget Challenges:

- County staff have been asked to reduce upcoming budget by 10 percent. Last time a cut was necessary full-time staff hours were reduced to 32 hours per week. Now there are some savings by not rehiring a manager who recently left. A hiring freeze is in effect. However, Senior Services is asking for an exception to hiring freeze. A fiscal position is also unfilled.
- RFP funding buckets to 3 areas help continue good work: OARS, peer support, and co-response.
- Opioid budget can help with prevention on Lopez.
- Economic indicators may be negative and affect sales tax, including the 1/10th of 1% budget, which has averaged about \$800K/year recently.

Next meeting:

December 8 at 1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15pm