



Health & Community Services San Juan County

P.O. Box 607 ♦ 145 Rhone, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
Phone: (360) 378-4474 Fax: (360) 378-7036

Human Services Advisory Board held January 12th, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Members present: Beth Eden, Diana Porter, Tamela Bresler, Contessa Downey (4/6)

Staff present: Richard Uri, Jami Mitchell

Public: NA

Meeting called to order at 1:33pm and made the public service announcement.

Agenda: Board approved the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

Attendees talked about filling the secretary role. Board asked if an electronic option is available.

Staff/Uri agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

Mitchell added the following to her report:

- Shared information about the STEPS pilot program for special needs youth age 3-5. Likely funded by 1/10th Mental Health Tax

Uri added the following to his report:

- No additional comment

Guest:

Ellen Wilcox, H&CS Deputy Director & Healthy Communities Manager, attended to talk about the county budget. Ellen shared what challenges the county faces in the coming years, especially with respect to funding behavioral health and prevention work. Described shortfall and measures being taken including hiring freeze and not hiring for two vacant positions. Tamela asked about volunteers to do some needed work. Uri shared that most work requires specialized training.

RFP Updates: Board excluded Myndhack proposal for Peer Supports and continued deliberations about remaining proposals. Attendees discussed ways to advise with consensus and staff encouraged board self-efficacy to assure autonomy in the process.

Workplan Review: Staff shared information about board service and the need for a workplan and annual review. Templates were sent out to board members ahead of meeting. Board requested some examples from other boards to review. Uri agreed to send some out.

Public Comment:

- NA

Next meeting:

February 9th at 1:30pm.

Meeting adjourned at 2:34pm