

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2023

Date	Time	Location	Preparer of Minutes
02/17/23	8:30 am – 11:30 am	PHSS Conference Room 107B & ZOOM	Chelyn Sowers

Attendance			
Committee Members		PHSS Staff	Others
Present Sarah DeStasio Bob Jones Tonia McClanahan Wendy Tanner Priscilla Terry Gina Thompson	Absent Robert Almada	Carrie Hennen Chelyn Sowers	Mary Ann O'Garro Andre Clark Joe Avalos Layla Cardenas Timothy Lewis Jackie Velasco

Agenda Item	Notes
Welcome & Introductions	<p>TST Advisory Committee members and guests introduced themselves.</p> <p>The January minutes were approved.</p>
TST Advisory Committee Agreements	The committee reviewed the TST Advisory Committee Agreements.
Thurston County Resolution 15995	The committee reviewed Section 1 and Section 2 of Thurston County Resolution 15995, a 2021 resolution declaring racism a crisis in Thurston County
Program Presentations	<p>Representatives of community-based TST-funded programs serving adults discussed their programs (<i>see accompanying slides</i>).</p> <p>Staff presented information related to the Houseless Population Crisis Support (<i>Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, TMBH-ASO</i>). Questions & discussion included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The program partners with Providence to provide services. The primary goal of the program is to help their clients build skills to prepare them for housing, not just to connect them to housing. Clients who have found a shelter bed usually transition to a long-term stay. In addition, they provide short substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health (MH) assessments in the field if individuals need inpatient treatment. - It often takes multiple outreach attempts to get clients to engage in services. They continue to reach out to clients to provide them with survival supplies and connect them to as many services as they are

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	<p>willing to engage in. Some individuals are hesitant to provide personal information, so it is challenging to track every person contacted. When a client does engage, their service ends when they are connected to permanent or transitional housing through a warm handoff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regarding client demographics, their current clients are predominately Caucasian. They are exploring strategies for reaching the Black, Indigenous, and Person of Color (BIPOC) community. <p>Staff presented information related to the Administrative Services Organization Thurston County Sheriff's Office Co-Responder – SCOUT (<i>Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization, TMBH-ASO</i>). Questions & discussion included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As an organization, TMBH-ASO is committed to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). They are partnering with Parfait Bassale for DEI training, changing their hiring practice to include peers, and incorporating peer input into decision making. Out of Olympic Health and Recovery's (OHRs) 120 employees, 40-50 are peers. They recognize lived experience is a crucial aspect of how they engage the community, especially in this work that is outreach based. - In the first two months, the program received 50-60 referrals a month, not including follow ups. It takes multiple outreach attempts to follow up. Less than 5% of these referrals result in Involuntary Treatment Act assessments. This is due in part to engaging clients to provide early intervention. Very few clients that are taken into custody. - Out of all Olympic Health and Recovery Services programs, SCOUT interacts with the most veterans. They have a connection with the Lacey Veterans Services Hub. The SCOUT Team also includes veterans who are very familiar with the services that are available in the community and can connect veteran clients to those services. <p>In the interest of time, the committee decided to skip over the Intensive Case Management and Housing Case Management programs. These presentations will be revisited at a later meeting.</p> <p>Staff presented information related to the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion – LEAD (<i>Thurston County Public Health & Social Services</i>). Questions & discussion included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Yelm, Tumwater, Olympia, and Lacey police departments in addition to the Thurston County Sheriff's Office are currently participating in the program. Any police department that is

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	<p>interested in joining may participate. Some departments have expressed interest in diversion at the point of arrest, which is something that has become available as part of the LEAD program. The benefits of LEAD are to keep clients out of all courts and resolving issues before they escalate. There is accountability where needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LEAD has not used any TST funding yet because they have been receiving state funding as part of a pilot program. They will know in about a month if they are refunded, and this funding would go into 2025. - LEAD is an option for law enforcement that is intensive case management. It is not crisis; it is for the long haul, so mental health crisis staff and referrals to other behavioral health services are still needed. Referrals can happen without law enforcement involvement at all. The program has received many referrals from families, providers, emergency rooms, firefighters, and emergency services. <p>Staff presented information related to the Resource Hub (<i>Thurston County Pretrial Services</i>). Questions & discussion included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently all the food provided to clients on site is from the Thurston County Food Bank. All the other resources provided have been donated. The program would like funding to help pay for IDs; clean underwear; and vouchers for laundry services, hotels, other support services. - Case navigation is challenging as a single-staff model. The program is exploring the possibility of a volunteer or internship program. Having additional staff, especially to assist with case coordination, would be beneficial. - Hub staff would very much like for the Resource Hub to have a larger space. The biggest barrier is what and when that space would be available given the County's broader renovation project on the Courthouse campus.
Advisory Committee Applications	<p>The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the BOCC appoint Ali Abid.</p> <p>The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the BOCC appoint Rachel Dreon.</p> <p>The committee voted to recommend that the BOCC reappoint Priscilla Terry through December 2025. Priscilla Terry recused from the vote.</p>
Updating Advisory Committee Policies	<p>Carrie Hennen provided background that the committee's policies and procedures were last updated in 2019. She proposed several updates:</p>

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and Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adding Co-Chair role and responsibilities - Adding a reference to Thurston County Resident Advisory Boards and Committees Handbook <p>The committee discussed changing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “The one-year term shall last until the first meeting of the New Year when the annual election will occur” to “The one-year term shall last until the first meeting of the New Year when the transition will occur.” - Changing “mental illness” and “substance abuse” language to “mental health” and “substance use”. <p>The committee was in concurrence with the changes. The committee voted unanimously to approve the policies and procedures document pending the changes discussed. Per the Thurston County Code, the Committee’s policies and procedures must be approved by the BOCC. Staff will facilitate this before the next meeting.</p>
Opportunity for the Public to Address the Committee	There was no public comment.
Wrap Up & Adjourn	<p>The group discussed the following items for the next meeting in April:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Invite Intensive Case Management and Housing Case Management to present. - A broad overview the behavioral health programming in Thurston County, including how TST fills gaps and major areas of TST spending - An overview of the TST-funded community grants, including performance data highlights and review progress of TST goals. - Review progress of TST-funded programs’ 2022 DEI goals. <p>The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 am.</p>

Next Meeting:

April 21, 2023

8:30 am – 11:30 am

Public Health & Social Services Building (Lilly Road) in Conference Room 107B and/or by ZOOM