

The purpose of the Treatment Sales Tax (TST) Advisory Committee is to make non-binding recommendations to the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) on the use of treatment sales tax funds each year during the budget process. Recommendations are based on the county-wide strategic plans and performance reviews of existing programs. The advisory committee shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, chapter 42.30 RCW.

Terms of Office

Appointments are for two or three-year terms; members may be reappointed.

Members

A maximum of nine advisory committee members.

Meetings

The Treatment Sales Tax Advisory Committee meets monthly; for a complete list of meeting dates please see our website at www.thurstoncountywa.gov/phss/Pages/tst. Meetings are held at the Public Health & Social Services building at 412 Lilly Road NE, Olympia, WA 98506 or virtually via Zoom.

Staff Contact

Chelyn Sowers, Behavioral Health Fund Program Manager, Public Health & Social Services
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Qualifications of Board Members

The committee is comprised of residents of Thurston County with an interest in services and programs for Thurston County residents with mental health or substance abuse issues. Members will have no commitment, investment, obligation, or involvement (financial or otherwise), in any agency contracting with, submitting any proposals to, or is expected to submit any proposals to the Treatment Sales Tax Fund. A former committee member may submit proposals to the Treatment Sales Tax fund only following a minimum of one full calendar year after the date of their official departure from the committee.

Who Appoints

Board of County Commissioners.

Vacancies filled by

Upon a vacancy on the advisory committee, a successor shall be selected and appointed by the BoCC to fill the unexpired term.

Removal is by

Advisory committee members serve at the pleasure of the BoCC and may be removed by majority vote of the BoCC. If a member of the advisory committee misses two consecutive advisory committee meetings without adequate excuse, the advisory committee may request removal of that member by the BoCC.

Authority

Thurston County Code Chapter 5.49 Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Therapeutic Courts Sales and Use Tax.

Compensation

None.

Current Members

- 1. Priscilla Terry**
Date Appointed: March 2020, reappointed March 2023
Date Term Expires: December 2025
- 2. Bob Jones**
Date Appointed: April 2019, reappointed May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2024
- 3. Tonia McClanahan**
Date Appointed: May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2024
- 4. Sarah DeStasio**
Date Appointed: May 2022
Date Term Expires: December 2024
- 5. Ali Abid**
Date Appointed: March 2023
Date Term Expires: December 2025
- 6. Rachel Dreon**
Date Appointed: March 2023
Date Term Expires: December 2025

Member Biographies

Ali Abid

Ali Abid is an Assistant Attorney General. Ali joined Attorney General's Office in January 2023 and is assigned to represent Department of Children, Youth, and Families through Tacoma office. Before becoming an attorney, Ali owned and operated a 7-11 franchise in Olympia from 1996 to 2010. While in law school, Ali worked as an extra hire at Pierce County Assigned Counsel where he helped individuals dealing with dependency petitions regarding their children through Child Protective Services.

Ali joined the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (TCPAO) and was appointed as a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in September 2013. He served the TCPAO in that capacity for almost ten years. During his career as a prosecutor, Ali's focus was on cases involving individuals with substance use addiction and mental health issues. As such, he observed the Thurston County Treatment Courts via various assignments in Drug and Mental Health Courts. In addition to General Felony caseload, Ali enjoyed participating in Juvenile Court with the goal-oriented prosecution to transform the lives of youth entangled in criminal justice system. Ali is currently a member of 2023 class Leadership Thurston County.

Sarah DeStasio

Sarah is a person with disabilities who co-founded Capital Homecare Cooperative, a worker-owned caregiving agency, after serving her community as a caregiver for many years. She is currently completing a Masters in Counseling.

Sarah also has a Masters in Public Administration from the Evergreen State College where she focused on human services policy. Sarah completed a placement with Frontiers of Innovation, a multi-agency project focused on how the State of Washington can improve outcomes for children and families.

Sarah is a Democratic Socialist involved in a variety of political/community orgs including the Thurston County Democrats and the South Salish Progressive Alliance. She encourages everyone to educate, agitate and organize around access to behavioral health and substance abuse treatment.

Rachel Dreon

Rachel Dreon is a lifetime resident of Thurston and has dedicated her career to improving the behavioral health system through leadership in public administration. Currently she is working for the King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division leading COVID-19 funding and strategic behavioral health workforce initiatives. She served the last 10 years in various leadership roles including Finance Chief and Statewide Forensics Operations Administrator in state service at the Health Care Authority and the Department and Social and Health services Behavioral Health divisions. She holds a master's degree in Public Administration and business degree both obtained at The Evergreen State College.

Rachel is also a proud 2004 graduate of Thurston County Drug Court and has stayed active in the recovery community. As a person of lived experience she has personally navigated the behavioral health and community resource system in our community, utilizing subsidies, housing programs, and educational opportunities which ultimately provided the path to emerge as a leader in behavioral health administration. Rachel participates on several boards and workgroups, including the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), the Recovery Fellowship Services Association, the Clean and Sober Softball Association, and was recently appointed by the Governor to the State Advisory Board for Homelessness.

Bob Jones

Bob Jones is Founding President of Thurston County Veterans Services (TCVS), a nonprofit organization supporting Veterans. Bob retired as a Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army, after 22 years of service. He also owns a Defense Contracting new business development consulting firm, responsible for securing several multi-million-dollar Defense Contracts for small manufacturers nation-wide.

Bob has served as President, Chair, Vice President, Vice Chair or Board Member of 12 Nonprofit Business, Social Services, University Alumni or Veterans Organizations over many years. He holds Master of Science and Bachelor of Science degrees from Indiana University.

Tonia McClanahan

Tonia McClanahan is a contracted Social Service Worker with the Washington State Office of Public Defense Parent Representation Programs and formerly the Parent4Parent Program Director for Thurston, Mason and Lewis Counties. She has been working collaboratively with attorneys, parents, and stakeholders to help parents navigate the Children's Justice Systems and come to a resolution in the Dependency Court process.

Tonia also sits on various committees and boards at local and state levels. She has been mentoring parents in the Dependency process since 2005 and has testified to help support Legislative work to improve child welfare systems since 2006. In 2013 she became the first Birth Parent to sit on the Washington State Supreme Court Commission on Children in Foster Care. Tonia also is a member of Family Recovery Drug Court teams in two counties, State SafeBabies Design Team, a local Executive Dependency Advisory Group, Strophy Foundation, State Background Check Workgroup, and Statewide Reunification Steering Committee. She champions the Protein for All program and Hangry Carts as well as the local Mockingbird Society Chapter.

Tonia believes in helping parents regain hope in rebuilding their families.

Priscilla Terry

Priscilla Terry has recently retired from a 40+ year career in the commercial real estate business. During this time, she has worked with local jurisdictions on matters involving land use, zoning and other issues.

Since 1997 she has been involved in hospital and community health care as a Providence St Peter Hospital board trustee and chair of Quality and Safety. Priscilla was a founding director of South Sound Bank, a community resource for small business. She served on the editorial board and writes a column for The Olympian newspaper.

In retirement, Priscilla sees a way to bring different perspectives to issues confronting the legal system as it tries new approaches to help vulnerable and mentally ill populations increase their quality of life and begin a more rewarding and fulfilling existence. She sees this as one of the few subjects that unites people and policy makers. She wants to be part of the search for solutions that make a difference.