

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2021

Date	Time	Location	Preparer of Minutes
3/19/2021	8:30-11:30am	ZOOM	Carrie Hennen

Attendance			
Committee Members		TST Staff	Others
<p>Present</p> <p>Robert Almada Bob Jones Marilyn Roberts Wendy Tanner Priscilla Terry Steven Thomson Gina Thompson Sfirah Madrone</p>	<p>Absent</p> <p>Chanita Jackson</p>	<p>Carrie Hennen Kelsey Paolini</p>	<p>Jason Bean-Mortinson Mark Freedman Joe Avalos Chief Todd Thoma Captain Jim Downing Lt. Stephanie Klein Ted Bryan Dana Hanson Chad McClellan Patrick O'Connor Christy Peters</p>

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>Welcome, Introductions & General Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kelsey Paolini has joined PHSS as the new TST Data Analyst. Welcome, Kelsey! - The committee approved meeting minutes from the February 19, 2021 meeting. - Staff noted that plans for spending the TST funds that will be used as match for the County's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion grant are in development. PHSS will release a Request for Proposals for program management and services soon. - The group briefly discussed State v. Blake, a recent Washington State Supreme Court decision that resulted in the state's drug possession statute being declared unconstitutional. The group agreed to have further discussion of this issue at the April 2021 meeting. - The 2021 TST Community Grant Request for Proposal process is open; proposals are due April 2, 2021. Staff asked for 2-3 committee members to assist in reviewing proposals and developing a funding recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners. Wendy Tanner, Gina Thompson and Sfirah Madrone agreed to participate. A total of \$250,000 is available.

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<p>Program Discussions: Thurston Mason Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization- (ASO)</p>	<p><i>See accompanying slides</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Update- ASO leadership provided an update on activities for which the ASO is responsible, including the crisis system. The ASO also offered updates on some key issues this legislative session. - Jail Behavioral Health Program- The ASO provided updates on the Jail Behavioral Health program, which provides clinical mental health services in the Thurston County Jail. They highlighted efforts over the past year to move beyond crisis services to add more therapeutic activities, peer supports, and psychoeducation classes. - Intensive Case Management- ASO staff noted that mechanisms are now in place to bill Medicaid for assessments provided through this program when possible. This should free up funds for transportation, recovery support, and other flexible funds to meet client needs.
<p>Program Discussions: Thurston County Sheriff's Office-- Corrections</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Update/ COVID trends- Corrections leadership indicated that the overall jail population decreased significantly based on booking restrictions and other policy changes at the onset of COVID. However, the population served through TST programs (those with behavioral health needs) has not decreased, as many of these individuals' charges did not allow them to remain in the community. - TST Corrections Coordinator- Corrections had shared several documents detailing the duties of this position prior to the meeting. It was clarified that TST funds 80% of this position. The committee did not have additional questions. - Chemical Dependency Program- Corrections leadership provided an overview of some of the reasons participants don't graduate, and clarified that some participants are able to complete the program even after they are released from the facility (depending on which phase they are in). There was discussion of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy model. It was noted that this treatment approach is evidenced-based for the population and is also used by Drug Court. Some committee members suggested there may be alternatives to this approach that are more trauma-informed, and/ or additional ways in which to ensure the program itself is delivered in as trauma-informed a way as possible. Corrections leadership also noted a closer relationship over the past year between this program and the mental health therapist, and expressed optimism that this will lead to improved outcomes for individuals with co-occurring disorders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Action Item: TST staff will convene a meeting including Corrections leadership and appropriate partners, Drug Court leadership, and subject matter experts to discuss the reasons MRT is used and discuss whether alternatives should be considered.</i> - Psych ARNP- Corrections leadership noted that in 2021, since the funding became available, TST funds have been used to cover the cost of psych meds for two individuals involved in competency restoration proceedings. The Advisory Committee encouraged Corrections to develop a proposal to

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	<p>cover psych meds for all inmates; Corrections leadership expressed openness to this idea but indicated that further discussion of some complexities would be required, and it would be necessary to bring subject matter experts into the discussion. ASO leadership provided additional information, noting that there may be additional funding opportunities if the legislature passes HB1348 (which would allow Medicaid to remain active for the first 30 days of incarceration) and/ or through new federal block grant funds coming to the state.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Action Item: TST staff will convene a meeting including Corrections leadership and appropriate partners (including medical contractor), the ASO, and subject matter experts to consider next steps.</i>
<p>Program Discussions: Juvenile Court</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Alternative- Juvenile Court leadership provided an overview of this program and noted that the program is on track to serve more youth this year. It was clarified that changes have been made to make entry into the program more flexible; for example, youth no longer need to be identified before disposition. There was discussion of whether more incentives to participation could be offered (e.g. case dismissal), and the group agreed that this would be an appropriate discussion for the JJBHA steering committee. Committee members asked whether funding limitations prevent Juvenile Court from serving more youth in this program, and Court staff indicated that the program is appropriately funded. - Equine Assisted Youth Peer Support- Juvenile Court leadership noted that this program has been invaluable in providing an opportunity to positively engage young people and serve as a bridge to more intensive services in some cases. Transportation has been identified as a barrier to completion of the program and will now be added to sure that youth can attend all sessions. The Court indicated that 29% of youth participating in this program identify as a race other than white, and 10% identified as Hispanic/ Latino. The group talked about how this could be a particularly meaningful intervention for marginalized youth. <p>Committee members noted that there is an overall question to consider regarding TST’s role in advancing racial equity. In addition, a committee member observed that it had been stated that youth involved in the Court system gain access to additional resources, and challenged the group to reexamine the fact that our services are set up in this way.</p>
<p>Wrap Up and Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on Mental Health & Veterans Court- Staff noted that the program manager for this program has departed, and the position has not yet been filled. The Court hopes to have a new manager in place by mid-May. - The group briefly debriefed the February BOCC discussion with the Committee. The group appreciated the discussion and perspectives. Some members noted that they had hoped for more guidance or plans from the



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	<p>Commissioners, but the meeting had clarified that the Committee should use its collective expertise to develop a vision and direction for use of TST.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Next meeting will include: Updates from Superior Court programs, discussion of implications of Blake decision, and discussion of next steps on racial equity in the TST context

Next Meeting: Friday, April 16, 2021, 8:30-11:30AM
VIA ZOOM