

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2021

| Date | Time | Location | Preparer of Minutes |
|------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| 11/19/2021 | 8:30 am – 11:30 am | ZOOM | Carrie Hennen & Kelsey Paolini |

| Attendance | | | |
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| Committee Members | | TST Staff | Others |
| <p>Present</p> <p>Chanita Jackson Bob Jones Sfirah Madrone Marilyn Roberts Wendy Tanner Priscilla Terry Gina Thompson</p> | <p>Absent</p> <p>Robert Almada</p> | <p>Carrie Hennen Kelsey Paolini</p> | <p>Ali Abid Sabrina Craig Sunshine Cross Keith Meyer Nicole Miller Patrick O'Connor Frankie Peters Raul Salazar William Trondsen</p> |

| Agenda Item | Notes |
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| <p>Welcome & Introductions</p> | <p>Staff provided an overview of the meeting, noting that the group would hear from various offices and departments on the National Association of Drug Court Professionals conference, discuss Diversity, Equity and Inclusion with the Racial Equity Program Manager, debrief the budgeting process, and discuss 2022 work plan.</p> <p>The Committee approved the minutes from the September 24th, 2021 meeting.</p> |
| <p>2021 National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference</p> | <p>TST funds staff from numerous offices and departments to attend the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Conference. Several attendees were asked to share their experiences and learnings from this year's conference.</p> <p>Drug Court, Ali Abid (Prosecuting Attorney's Office) & Sabrina Craig (Superior Court)</p> <p>Ali Abid noted that his key learnings included how to be and continue to be a model drug court and deeper understanding of incentives and sanctions. Ali discussed learnings related to proximal and distal behaviors. Proximal behaviors are when a participant is expected to be able to comply because it's something within their control, like showing up for a meeting. Distal behavior is longer term goals, such as working with preventing relapse. Ali also discussed the concept of recovery capital and identifying participants' motivations and strengths related to recovery.</p> |

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| | <p>Sabrina Craig noted that one of the primary conference themes was not using incarceration as the primary tool in therapeutic courts. The team is going to work on rebuilding its approach to sanctions, incentives, and therapeutic adjustments. Another key takeaway was the advantages of technology. Recently, Drug Court started using Connexis, a cloud based Electronic Health Record system that is a protected case management system. The system allows them to contact clients and extend services, such as initiating check-ins and providing virtual services. Sabrina also noted that the team plans to send a staff member to a training on H.E.A.T. (Healing Empowerment Accountability Therapy), a holistic, strength-based, trauma-informed model designed for use with African American males in the criminal justice system</p> <p>Intensive Probation, Sunshine Cross (District Court) Sunshine noted that the conference helped her gain new insights into motivational interviewing and how to be culturally safe to individuals within the justice system. She also discussed conference discussions related to racial equity, and provided an example of research she has done related to improving services to clients that identify as Native American. Treatment providers also help connect to community resources that can include culturally relevant sober activities such as sober support sweat lodges, sober support meetings within their own churches, and sober support basketball teams.</p> <p>Juvenile Justice & Behavioral Health Alternative, William Trondsen (Public Defense) Will noted that a central topic of discussion was incentivizing participation in the program and developing a currency or reward system. Participants are rewarded for certain behaviors, like attending treatment, or negative urinalysis, by earning a “court buck”. It doesn’t have to be a monetary incentive, there could be other incentives such as being excused from a Court review hearing. This has been found to be a best practice.</p> <p>Will noted that although Thurston County moved from the Juvenile Drug Court model to the more flexible JJBHA model, many jurisdictions do still have Juvenile Drug Courts.</p> <p>Keith Meyer & Frankie Peters, Mental Health & Veterans Court (District Court) Although Mental Health Court was unable to send a representative to the conference this year, leadership expressed appreciation that the conference was available to so many different partners involved in the process. This approach can help facilitate communication between stakeholders.</p> <p>Discussion with committee members included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee members asked questions about diversity, equity and inclusion information presented at the conference. The group noted that there were numerous presentations on this topic. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee members asked about PTSD and veterans. It was noted that there is good communication between Veterans Court and Drug Court to ensure veterans are referred to the most appropriate program. In addition, Drug Court does provide services specifically designed to address trauma, including Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing and Seeking Safety. These services are relevant beyond just veterans, as much participants have a history of trauma. - Committee members were interested in knowing about recidivism rates of County treatment court programs relative to the broader state level and across different demographics. Sabrina noted that the state does an analysis of Drug Courts that includes this type of information; it can be found here. In addition, Keith noted that when a court serves more high risk/ high needs participants, recidivism rates are likely to increase. - Committee member asked about trends from across the country related to decriminalization in states like Oregon and the recent changes in Washington as a result of the Blake decision. Patrick O'Connor noted that during the pandemic ~ 40% of adult felonies were non-violent offenses. This means, there are still a lot of individuals that are statutorily eligible for treatment courts, which is something that programs are really starting to look at internally to make sure there are appropriate referrals and program numbers. |
| <p>Diversity, Equity & Inclusion</p> | <p>TST staff reminded the group that the Advisory Committee had prioritized DEI in its budget recommendation, calling for \$270,000 per year to support training, consultation and development of culturally appropriate/ specialized services. The plan for the BOCC budget is less than this amount, providing \$100k in 2022 and \$200 in \$2023. In addition, the BOCC budget is expected to include a proviso indicating that these funds can't be used until the County's Racial Equity Plan is adopted.</p> <p>Nicole Miller, who joined Thurston County in August as Racial Equity Program Manager, introduced herself to the group and provided background on her work and experiences. Nicole noted that the most recent statistics show 1 in 4 people (25%) of Thurston County identifies as a person of color.</p> <p>Nicole indicated that her primary tasks in her role as Racial Equity Program Manager will include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stand up a community based racial equity advisory group (Thurston County Council on Racial Equity & Inclusion): An ordinance outlining the roles and approach for this council will be proposed on November 23, 2021 to the Board of County Commissioners and hopefully adopted by the BOCC in December 2021. 2. Racial Equity Action Plan – The racial equity plan will include multiple aspects such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Internal county staff assessment |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broad and intensive community based survey - recommended to conduct every couple of years and take actionable steps. - Equal Employment Opportunity Plan – this will increase opportunities to apply for additional grants; look at hiring/promoting/mentorship etc. - Training and consultation plan that includes formal training as well as less formal activities around the county such as book clubs, coffee conversations, sponsored speakers, etc <p>3. Create an internal county wide operational team. This team will include representatives from Law and Justice, general government, and Public Health and Social Services. The team will be used to help operationalize and guide implementation of recommendations from the external committee related to the County’s racial equity plan and efforts.</p> <p>Nicole aims to have the Action Plan completed by the end of December and hopes to present the plan to the Board of County Commissioners soon thereafter.</p> |
| <p>Budget Process & Next Steps</p> | <p>Staff reviewed upcoming dates relation to the adoption of the County budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nov 22nd – Preliminary budget - Dec 6th – 9th – Public hearings and final deliberations - Dec 17th – Adoption of budgets <p>Staff noted that the BOCC appeared poised to adopt most of the Advisory Committee’s budget recommendations, with a few exceptions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With respect to DEI support, the committee recommended \$270k/year and the BOCC plan is \$100k in 2022 and \$200k in 2023 that will be tied to a completion that will be established DEI plan. - The BOCC approved the \$500k for housing in 2022 but did not approve funds for 2023. - These decisions left an extra \$400k that will be issued as an RFP for additional community grants. <p>For the upcoming “community grant” Request for Proposals (RFP), the committee discussed several issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was clarified PHSS will not be accepting proposals from county offices and departments with the community grant funds - The goal is to have the RFP on the agenda for the first Board meeting in January 2022. - Staff intends to have the RFP note that funding could be requested for capital support for housing or behavioral health facilities - The group discussed the need to reach out to organizations in advance of the RFP and to cast as wide a net as possible in order to receive a strong pool of proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Staff will follow up with committee members on their advice regarding organizations to notify about the upcoming RFP. - The group discussed challenges for smaller organizations seeking these funds (ex., not having staff familiar with the proposal process, lack of |

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| | <p>experience managing public funds, difficulty meeting county contracting requirements such as insurance levels).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff will look into what type of options might be available to help small organizations understand the process and what they need to do to be successful. <p>A committee member brought up the importance of supportive housing to get help keep people out of jail. It was clarified that TST funds are allowable for capital or services in housing.</p> <p>Committee members discussed the training processes for peers. It was stated that there's a state certification process that then allows peers to apply for positions.</p> <p>Staff asked for feedback on the Committee's Budget Process during summer/ fall 2021 .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pros: The committee felt there was ample time for in-depth budget discussions and felt the recommendation was presented clearly to commissioners. - Challenges: The information can get overwhelming, especially for new committee members. <p>Staff explained that the commissioners had an interesting process that may be integrated into future budget discussions. Commissioners rank projects as high, medium, and low support rather than getting into the details of dollar amounts, which may facilitate a less tedious process in the future.</p> |
| <p>Looking Ahead</p> | <p>There still needs to be more internal discussion within the County regarding offering stipends or compensation to Advisory Committee members. Many government agencies do this, and some other County committees are also interested in moving this direction.</p> <p>Work Plan items for 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The committee supported having TST-funded program provide presentations to the Advisory Committee in 2022, which would be broken up across multiple meetings. - Relationship building to get shared language within this group - Further discussion of DEI; suggestion to include Nicole Miller in future meetings - Review of impact of Blake decision on specific programs |

Next Meeting:
January 21, 2022
8:30 am – 11:30 am
VIA ZOOM