

**.Minutes**  
**Joint Municipal Action Committee**  
**April 11, 2014**

**PRESENT** Clare Petrich, Chair (Port of Tacoma)  
Debbie Winskill, Vice-Chair (Tacoma School Board)  
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)  
Erik Hanberg (Metropolitan Park Board)  
Anders Ibsen (Tacoma City Council)  
Robert Thoms (Tacoma City Council)  
Connie Ladenburg (Pierce County Council)  
Alisa O'Hanlon (City of Tacoma)  
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)  
Teri Blair (Pierce County)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Clare Petrich called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance were: Ken Gibson, TACID; Terri Card, Greater Lakes Mental Health; Don Meyer, Port of Tacoma; Kim Zacher, Comprehensive Life Resources; Kathy Hagen, Comprehensive Life Resources; Jeannie Darneille, Washington Senate 27<sup>th</sup> District; Kristin Lynett, City of Tacoma; John Page, Tacoma Public Schools; Ghasem Nahvipour, CEO Comprehensive Life Resources; Mark Williams, Pierce County; and Allen Ratcliffe, Human Services Coalition.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Erik Hanberg moved for approval of the minutes of March 14, 2014 and Anders Ibsen seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Youth Mental Health Services** – Nancy Davis introduced Jeannie Darneille, State Senator, and Terri Card, President and CEO of Greater Lakes Mental Health. Ms. Card described their services. There is no competition as there is more need than there are providers available. Ms. Card described the three most common mental health issues they are seeing youth for: Clinical: they see lots of youth with stress, depression, anxiety, issues that are magnified these days for our youth. Family: disintegration of families, safe and nurturing environments, parents with substance abuse, poverty, and inter-generational trauma being passed down. Culture: changes with technology and advancements are creating additional problems for average adolescents, new autonomy, increased bullying and peer pressure, safety net is fraying. There is a spike in cutting behavior, but it is more of a self-destructive measure and not

necessarily suicidal, mostly a distraction from emotions, and to somewhat gain attention.

Tim Reid asked if cutting was a phase. Ms. Card replied that 95% stop as young adults. Vice-Chair Debbie Winskill noted that middle schools deal with cutting behavior. Connie Ladenburg noted that asphyxiation also occurs.

Jeannie Darneille, State Senator noted that big things are happening in the legislature around mental health services. Washington recently lost a court case involving a child at Western State abused in foster care while suffering from mental illness. The court informed the state more needs to be done to assist youth with multiple issues. This case will have a huge financial impact on the state.

General mental health service is receiving more funding. There is a bill now moving through the senate that would create an integrated service delivery model that will connect the chemical dependency treatment services and mental health services and then by 2020 connect those with medical care. There is a big reboot for chemical dependency providers away from the 12-step recovery model because it is not just only alcohol that people are often struggling with. People are dealing with multiple issues, not just mental illness.

Regarding the criminal justice system: Money needs to be spent on early meaningful interventions for kids and families. The U.S. Supreme Court has realized child brain development takes many years, even up through the early 20's. Ending sentences of juvenile life without parole in Washington is being pursued, but juvenile sentencing needs more work. The current generic sentencing grid has some issues.

Erik Hanberg asked about the increased minimum wage issue. Senator Darneille noted that there is not likely to be a state determination on that right now.

### **Mental Health Specialists**

John Page, Director of Comprehensive Guidance, made a brief presentation and discussed how Tacoma Public Schools is dealing with mental illness among students. Student needs data comes from a variety of sources such as the Healthy Youth Survey, school counselors and professional mental health providers. Kim Zacher, Comprehensive Life Resources, discussed partnerships for the treatment of youth with mental health issues and that they know how to deal with these new challenges. Kathy Hagen discussed the service-delivery model in schools. Students are not pulled out of core classes to meet with a counselor. They are working with school counselors for abbreviated meetings to not impact education. Currently they are serving over 300 youth. Therapists are assigned to schools and they are always keeping the school climate at the front. They do some group teaching as well as reinforcing positive behaviors such as walking halls during pass time, in addition to crisis management. Having mental health therapists available is very helpful for the kids as well as school staff learning to deal with issues and minimize building problems.

Funding is provided through Medicaid combined with \$1.7 million from the city through a 1/10 of 1% of sales tax.

Lessons learned include that overlap and communication is extremely important, as well that how services are deployed is best directed by school personnel to be most effective. Therapists are assigned to more than one school and they love to be a part of their school community. Two schools are staffed four days a week, with two days per week being typical; however, shifts are made as needed. Connie Ladenburg asked how much family work is being done. Ms. Zacher replied that it is challenge, but kids initiate the service and staff tries to get the parents engaged whenever possible.

Ghasem Nahvipour, CEO Comprehensive Life Resources, stated that he is pleased with the growth and the realization of the vision to be in the schools in Pierce County. Mr. Page noted that the school district is co-writing a grant application with Comprehensive Life Resources to seek \$1.2 million over three years through a United

States Department of Education grant program. The school counseling program started with just three therapists and has expanded to thirty-nine now in the schools since three years ago. More counselors are needed in order to reach all fifty-five schools. Support for the grant application is needed. Al Ratcliffe, Human Services Coalition, stated that this has been a really good investment. Vice-Chair Winskill suggested that the JMAC entities provide Tacoma Public Schools with letters of support for the grant application.

### **STAR Certification Presentation**

This item was postponed to the May 9, 2014 meeting.

## **DISCUSSION OF MUTUAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS/FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

No items were discussed.

## **SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

STAR Certification Presentation (City of Tacoma)  
Metro Parks Bond Update  
Enrollment Trends & Future Planning Update (Tacoma School District)

### **Future Agenda Items**

Mental Health Services in Tacoma/Pierce County  
Mental Health Care Report: Port of Tacoma (John Wolf)  
Enrollment Trends & Future Planning Update: Tacoma School District  
(Carla Santorno) – May 9<sup>th</sup> quarterly meeting  
Metro Parks Bond Update (May 9, 2014)  
Trades, Apprenticeships, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates  
Technical College and City of Tacoma)  
Smoke Reduction Zone/Nonattainment Update (June 13, 2014)  
Update on 2015 U.S. Open (November/December, 2014)  
Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, etc.  
Economic Development and Impacts  
Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)  
Transport of Coal through Tacoma  
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)  
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma)  
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Friday, May 9, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room 248. Quarterly meeting with the CEOs. Minutes for May to be taken by City of Tacoma.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.