

**Minutes
Joint Municipal Action Committee
July 11, 2014**

PRESENT Clare Petrich, Chair (Port of Tacoma)
Catherine Ushka (Tacoma School Board)
Tim Reid (Metropolitan Park Board)
Erik Hanberg (Metropolitan Park Board)
Kurt Miller (Tacoma School Board)
Evette Mason (Port of Tacoma)
Alisa O’Hanlon (City of Tacoma)
Nancy Davis (Metropolitan Park District)
Marty Campbell (Alt. City of Tacoma)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clare Petrich called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

The attendees introduced themselves. Also in attendance were: Randy Lewis, City of Tacoma; Pam Basea, Community Member; Teri Blair, Pierce County; Allen Ratchiffe, Human Services Coalition; and Kim Dodds, City of Tacoma.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion was moved by Erik Hanberg and seconded by Kurt Miller for approval of the agenda. The chair declared the motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Erik Hanberg moved for approval of the minutes of June 13, 2014 and Tim Reid seconded. The chair declared the motion passed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Mental Health/Chemical Dependency Presentation (Kim Dodds, City of Tacoma)

As background, Kim Dodds reported that in 2012 the City of Tacoma adopted a .1% mental health sales tax to assist treating community mental health issues and chemical dependencies. She emphasized the funding’s importance, noting Washington State’s cuts to mental health funding and the lack of a mental health sales tax in Pierce County. Ms. Dodds stated that one of the City Council’s overarching goals was to encourage collaboration among all systems, breaking down existing silos. The City’s resulting “coordinated system of care” aligns program services with initiatives directly funded by the City under the tax and includes:

1. SCORE (Mental health professional embedded in Burien’s SCORE facility providing court ordered evaluations, treatment and community reentry services) – When researching areas heavily impacted by the funding decline, jail and hospital diversion rose to the top, reported Ms. Dodds. She explained that with mental health facility

closures, individuals are now being institutionalized in jails. She continued by explaining that due to the high cost of jails in Pierce County, the Tacoma Police Department (TPD) has started utilizing the King County jail in Fife. This resulted in the City providing funding for a mental health professional at Burien's SCORE facility to offer community reentry services to discharged individuals. She reported these services have been funded for one year with astounding positive results.

2. TFD CARES (Fire Department Case Management for high utilizers of 911 emergency medical services) – Ms. Dodds stated that a high percentage of fire department requests revolve around simple behavior and mental health issues. In 2013 the City began this program to provide contracted support staff to assist with a crisis that requires drop-off bed service. Any person with mental health needs can be dropped off for brief stays, anywhere from four to six months. She reported that during its first year, 46 individuals found safe housing through this program.
3. TPD Co-Responder (Mental health professionals embed with TPD to divert misdemeanor offenders with mental illness from jail) – Ms. Dodds reported they are ready to launch this service that provides two mental health professionals to work in tandem with the TPD. If any behavioral health issues arise, the police can engage the help of a mental health professional to identify needs and divert from jail. Ms. Dodds reported similar programs have reported a reduction in mental health incarcerations.
4. Youth Shelter (Planned for 2015) – Ms. Dodds stated that no crisis shelter exists for local youth with mental health issues and chemical dependencies. She added that the City is working with Pierce County on this issue, trying to find a location and funding partners. Kurt Miller emphasized the need for a local youth crisis center and is excited that organizations are coming together to find a solution to this problem.
5. PATH Business Expansion (Homeless intervention services for businesses in Tacoma) – Ms. Dodds reported a high incidence of mental health and chemical dependency problems with the local homeless population. The City created a program (PATH) of highly trained mental health professionals who will meet with the chronically homeless who are impacting local businesses on a regular basis. They will strive to build individual rapport, ultimately encouraging individuals to become housed leading to treatment.

Ms. Dodds reported that the City conducts quarterly audits for contracts funded under the .1% to hold services accountable, and has also built their own health care data base. She reported that every person seen is entered into the system, currently totaling 1,700 entries. The local police and mental health professionals will utilize this information through the TPD Co-Responder program to quickly assess an individual's history (substance abuse and/or mental health issues).

Tim Reid asked what percentage of those incarcerated have mental health or substance abuse issues. Ms. Dodds reported a majority, or approximately 60%. She commented that most crimes committed by individuals with behavioral health issues are not violent and individuals that would qualify for diversion typically involve incidences resembling an outburst or nuisance offense. Being able to offer treatment instead of incarceration saves money and is respectful to the individual, she added.

Chair Petrich asked what would happen to the City's tax if Pierce County passes a similar tax. Ms. Dodds reported there would be no impact since the City tax is protected.

Pierce County's OPTUM Health Care (community reentry program for the mentally ill) was discussed. Allen Ratcliffe reported this is an outstanding program and has resulted in a 75% reduction in re-arrest. Members agreed to invite Cheri Dolezal, CEO/Executive Director of Optum Health Care to the September JMAC meeting to discuss their program.

Chair Petrich reported that Pierce County has the second highest mental health numbers next to King County. She explained that this high concentration could be attributed to the close proximity to JBLM and Western State Hospital.

Allen Ratcliffe encouraged JMAC members to help Pierce County pass a mental health sales tax to reduce the hospital to street trend for the mentally ill. He explained that State Medicaid does not fund nursing home stays for the mentally ill or chemically dependent. To add this level of care it would require a request for legislative action, he added. Nancy Davis recommended JMAC members contact County representatives in support of mental health services. Randy Lewis added that Pierce County is the only county in the state that does not have a mental health sales tax.

Chair Petrich discussed information regarding Tacoma-Pierce County League of Women Voters' recently adopted new local study on mental health issues in Pierce County.

Review of JMAC Guidelines

Chair Petrich led a review of the JMAC guidelines. Erik Hanberg asked if a defined quorum needed to be added. Chair Petrich clarified that this committee is advisory and informative in nature, and does not require voting action. She will add this clarification to the purpose statement and present at the next JMAC meeting. Members suggested sending committee invitations to other municipalities, listing set terms. Erik Hanberg will draft this invite language and share at the next JMAC meeting. It was suggested that Chair Petrich verbally invite newly-elected members of the Puyallup Tribal Council.

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

The scheduled City of Tacoma Budget Presentation (Tadd Wille, City of Tacoma) was deferred to next month's meeting with agency CEOs who will report briefly on their individual budgets.

Catherine Ushka replaces Debbie Winskill as the Tacoma School Board's JMAC representative. The resulting vacant Vice-Chair position needs to be discussed.

Air quality standards/attainment will be discussed at September's JMAC meeting with Representative Jake Fey being invited as a guest speaker.

Future mental health presentations will be scheduled for the October JMAC meeting.

There was a discussion around a Joint Study Session with all JMAC members. Tim Reid offered hosting it at Metro Park's STAR Center. Members agreed to set a date for this meeting at next month's JMAC meeting.

Alisa O'Hanlon asked members to support the City's upcoming Strategic Planning session on July 30th to discuss local mental health issues and education. A reception starts at 5:00 p.m., followed by an open house at 6:00 p.m. at the Greater Tacoma Convention & Trade Center.

Randy Lewis informed members of the July 14th Town Hall Meeting to discuss DOT's closure in eight weeks of the Pacific Avenue Bridge over I-5, and also the closure of the East 11th Street Bridge.

SETTING OF NEXT MEETING AGENDA

Agency Budget Presentations with CEOs
Date for Joint Study Session in September with all JMAC members
Approval of Updated Language to JMAC Guidelines
Nominations for Vacant Vice Chair Position

Future Agenda Items

Air Quality Standards/Attainment (September/October - Representative Jake Fey)
Statewide Earned Sick Leave Policy (September 12 - Representative Laurie Jenkins)
Discuss and List Combined Legislative Goals (September)
Optum Health Care Presentation (October 10 - Cheri Dolezal, CEO/Executive Director)
Mental Health Issues Discussion – Where do we go from here? (October)
Youth Mental Health Issues: Trafficking, Housing/Shelters, Gangs, etc.
Trades, Apprenticeship, Regional Partnerships (Tacoma School District, Bates Technical College and City of Tacoma)
Presentation on Charter Review (City of Tacoma)
Update on 2015 U.S. Open (November/December 2014)
Economic Development and Impacts
Earth Week Citizen's Academy Update (Anders Ibsen)
Affordable Housing Policies (Anders Ibsen / Lauren Walker)
Foss/Hylebos Recontamination (Port of Tacoma)
Economic Development and Impacts
Earth Economics (Metro Parks Tacoma)

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday, August 8, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in Conference Room 248. This is a Quarterly meeting with the CEOs. Minutes for August to be taken by Metro Parks Tacoma.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 9:13 a.m.