

Yakima County Human Services
BHSUD Coalition
MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The **September 23, 2024** BHSUD Coalition meeting came to order at **3:00pm**.

INTRODUCTIONS

Members present: Rod Myers (Lived Experience), Rick Glenn (City of Yakima), Kyle (Lived Experience), Melissa Denner (MR), Hope Baker (ESD105), Trevor Downey (WSP), Cassidy Leslie (TTS), Megan Tweedy (Comm. Member), Lorraine Bethay (Comm. Member), David Elofson (Comm. Member),

Zoom: Michael Clement (YVFWC), Daniele Fleming (YVC), Annette Rodriguez (YNHS), David Hacker (St. Michael's Mission), Dawn Mason (CH), Angela Bazan (Nami Yakima), Heather Chisenhall (YHD), Renee Kollman (TTS), Commissioner LaDon Linde (YC)

Human Services staff present:

Melissa Holm, Esther Magasis, Deann Bergquist

*If you don't see your name or your organization name here, please email Deann at Deann.Bergquist@co.yakima.wa.us

OLD BUSINESS

Approval of minutes

Approval of Minutes: August 26, 2024 BH SUD Coalition Meeting.

Rod Myers moved to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2024, BHSUD Coalition Meeting. Megan Tweedy seconded. No one abstained/denied. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery: Opioid Settlement Request for Proposal

Melissa Holm reviewed the Opiate Settlement Document. Rick Glenn spoke about the City of Yakima process to help people get off of the street and how we need to get them services which in turn will hopefully keep them off of the street altogether. He also mentioned that the City Council is looking at legislation to end needle exchange programs in Yakima. Lorraine Bethay expressed her strong disagreement with ending the safe needle exchange program and explained her reasons.

Megan Tweedy asked about how much of the \$10 million the county has received. Melissa suggested we have Lance Larsen or another accountant present at the next meeting to respond to any of these line-by-line questions about where the funding dollars are coming into. The discussion continued with Commissioner Linde explaining how we need to spread it out over 17 years. Megan said the number was large enough to spread it out sufficiently for all these years, to which Commissioner Linde explained that some of the funding may not be distributed to the County even though it is there. Esther Magasis confirmed this and explained why there is confusion on this funding and the distribution of it from the State and the County. For transparency, Commissioner Linde offered to bring in details on the exact funds that have been received. Melissa explained that the County spends conservatively and so the \$350k is a conservative number, and it is important to sustain the use of

those funds for over more than one year. Some communities have declined the funding due to the complex issues with administration.

Megan Tweedy clarified her question and wants the message to go out that the funding coming into Yakima County is \$10 million. She wants these dollars to address the individuals in need of help right now, and we shouldn't be so conservative. Melissa clarified that we do need to consider being more conservative in the distribution of funding as each day brings new issues and ways the funding will need to be disbursed.

Melissa and Esther went over the RFP, the submission date deadlines, the breakdown of the anticipated budget, the Jotform and mentioned that a scoring committee for this is still under discussion with the Commissioners. Esther clarified that if submissions are higher in dollar needs than available, they will still be accepted and taken under consideration. Discussion around prevention ensued and why more funds have been allotted to this category. Commissioner Linde explained that in his experience with the opioid epidemic, it starts in many places including with kids and those under treatment with pain and in need of pain management. The current embedded prevention with engaged, ongoing communications and needed services in our schools is the best way to make the youth and community members more aware of the issues with drug use and to provide prevention information that is more useful to everyone.

If there will be a scoring committee, Melissa will be sending that out if the board approves it. The scoring process was explained by Esther and Melissa and made it clear that anyone interested in being a part of the scoring committee cannot have a conflicting submission for their own agency. Additionally, the process for providing the outcome of the scoring committee to participants and the public was explained to the group.

Clean needles were brought up, and the purpose is harm reduction and prevention of disease. That the intention of the needle exchange program is not to help keep people using drugs but keeps down the spread of communicable diseases and blood borne pathogens. Part of the exchange process keeps those dirty needles in a safe space.

Action Item: They introduced the quarterly meeting timeline. There was a motion from Rod Myers to approve making the meeting dates quarterly. Rick Glenn seconded it. No one abstained/denied. The motion carried.

Next Meeting

DATE: October 28, 2024

Adjourn

Location: Hybrid Zoom and In Person at Yakima County Resource Center
With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at **3:06pm**.