



City of Tacoma

Human Services Commission

Wednesday, March 10, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Virtual and In-Person Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chair Naomi Wilson, Secretary Andee Walton, Kristi Coyne, Kimberly Ellefson, Connie Ladenburg, Carlos Lugo, and Nikki Singh.

Members Absent: Addison Atkatch, and Laura Badeaux, Noemi Cagatin-Porter (had to depart prior to quorum).

Staff Present: Vicky McLaurin and Hayley Saucedo, Erin Watlington (NCS)

1. Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization & DCRs at 6:12

- Presented by Richard VanCleave, Account Director of Carelon Behavioral Health
 - i. Crisis Services within Pierce County's crisis system.
 - ii. Carleon manages three regions/22% of WA State.
 - iii. Three main functions:
 1. Maintain and grow crisis system.
 2. Behavioral health safety net for those without insurance.
 3. Community coordination.
- Chair Wilson asks how many regions there are, in total, and if they correlate with Children's services? What is the average census of people in treatment/crisis? What is the total capacity in Pierce County?
 - i. Answer: 10 regions, and generally, yes.
 - ii. Answer: the census depends on the type of beds available.
 - iii. 108 beds of all capacity types.
- Commissioner Ladenburg asks how Carelon fits into the infrastructure (Medicaid, crisis response, NCO, etc.,) Are people released into some kind of case management?
 - i. Answer: Federal grant funding, state funds, Trueblood for crisis stability, and other groups and regions that have additional funding, such as for opioid treatment.
 1. Crisis lines through 911 Dispatchers to Designated Crisis Responders (DCRs), Crisis lines through Volunteers of America will also eventually dispatch.
 2. MultiCare is the contracted source for rapid response of DCRs. MDC Tacoma and out-of-county resources for acute withdrawal management, and other locations, such as in Parkland and Fife, for crisis stabilization.
 3. Inpatient treatment available at WellFound, Bary Bridge Adolescent Inpatient, and residential substance abuse treatments with 120-hour holds.
 4. Generally, not released into case management. Housing is the number one need.
 5. Involuntary treatment options include six-to-seven assisted outpatient treatment centers in Pierce County, Joel's Law for review of DCR review process for detentions, and family-initiated treatments.
- Commissioner Ellefson asks if E & T's are for people who are detained?
 - i. Answer: Not technically, but almost always.



City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

2. Call to Order/Opening Remarks at 6:50

- Meeting chaired by Chair Wilson.
- Roll call.

3. Amendment to April Agenda at 6:51

- Motioned to remove Item #4 by Commissioner Lugo, seconded by Commissioner Ellefson. Approved unanimously.

4. Review/Approval of the March Minutes at 6:52

- Motioned by Commissioner Coyne to approve minutes and Commissioner Ladenburg seconded. Approved unanimously.

5. Review and Discuss Nominations at 6:53

- Nominees:
 - i. Commissioner Coyne as Chair,
 - ii. Commissioner Badeaux and Vice Chair,
 - iii. Secretary Walton to continue as Secretary.

6. Voting on HSC Officers at 6:59

- Commissioner Lugo motions to approve “full slate” of above nominees.
- Commissioner Ladenburg seconds. All in favor.

7. Acknowledgment of Commissioners whose Terms are Expiring at 7:01

- Expires May 31: Laura Badeaux, Noemi Cagatin-Porter, Marvin Cooks, Andee Walton
- Expires June 30: Addison Atkatsh
- Confirmation that Vice Chair Cooks has left the HSC to relocate out-of-state.

8. Public Comment at 7:02

- No written public comments received.

9. Review/Excuse Absences at 6:50

- Secretary Walton motions to approve the absence of Commissioners Atkatsh, Badeaux, and Cagatin-Porter. Commissioner Lugo seconds. Approved unanimously.

10. Good of the Order at 6:51

- Erin Watlington brings up the competitive process timeline and asks for feedback from commissioners on the timeframe they would like to have. Traditionally, Commissioners have four weeks to review applications, however the NCS may recommend three weeks this year due to time constraints.
 - i. Chair Wilson prefers four weeks for buffer time. Concern for addition of new performance metrics to review.
 - ii. Commissioner Ladenburg asks how many applications would be reviewed this year.
 1. Answer: Between four and 40.
 - iii. Vicky McLaurin states that NCS can recommend three but re-evaluate if number of applicants becomes to burdensome on HSC.
 1. New metrics will not be part of grading criteria.



City of Tacoma Human Services Commission

- Erin Watlington suggests shorter application review but longer time to evaluate past performances.
 - i. Chair Wilson expresses concern for time gap to require HSC to rely too heavily on notes and not enough on recollections.
 - ii. Secretary Walton and Commissioner Coyne agree to three weeks as possibility.
- Vicky McClaurin announces that interviews for new HSC members will take place May 9th.
- Vicky McClaurin announces that NCS officially made recommendation to HVSC to extend current commissions set to expire in May to September to align more closely with competitive process.
- Chair Wilson expresses gratitude for her time as HSC Chair and possibly her last meeting in the position.

11. Closing Comments/Adjourn at 7:15

- Chair Wilson adjourns the meeting at 7:15.