



# TREATMENT SALES TAX

Community Review Committee

May 28, 2009

# Today



- Remind us of our charge: staff and community
- Present Framework for Evaluation Plan
- Discuss Evaluation Plan
- Recommendations to Board of County Commissioners
- Next Steps

# RCW 82.14.460 Language & Intent

- Reduce negative impacts of mental health and substance abuse on children and families
- Avoid building more jails and prisons and prevent crime victims
- Reduce public assistance expenditures and unemployment
- Reduce homelessness
- Reduce physical-health care and emergency room costs
- Improve recovery and quality of life for those with chemical dependency and/or mental health disorders

# Thurston County Ordinance #14138

- Improve the quality of life for Thurston County residents with mental illness and/or chemical dependency by reducing their involvement with the criminal justice system.
- Reduce the number of people who have a high recidivism rate and/or have lengthy jail stays as a result of their mental illness, chemical dependency and/or homelessness.
- Increase the ability to divert mentally ill and/or chemically dependent adults and youth from jail services using evidence based practices, either through pre-booking or post-booking diversion, to appropriate levels of care and housing.
- Increase levels of interagency collaboration cross system coordination and planning between corrections courts mental health chemical dependency and housing services.

Continued on next slide

# Thurston County Ordinance #14138



- Create a system of prevention services and strategies for youth and adults based on evidence based practices.
- Increase public safety by using risk and needs assessments for all adult and youth offenders to determine appropriate service designation for mental health, chemical dependency and/or jail services.
- Increase therapeutic services and resources for youth and adults who have co-occurring disorders of mental illness and chemical dependency.
- Increase community law enforcement corrections, courts education and training for prevention, diversion and intervention.

# Planning Framework



- County authority
- Staff expertise
- Evidence based
- Evaluation driven
- Community review
- Board of County Commissioners authority

# Timing is everything...



- November 2008: 1/10 of 1% sales tax enacted
- December 2008: County passed 2009 budget
- January 2009: sales tax revenues decline dramatically
- March 2009: \$5.7million County general fund budget deficit
- April 2009: focus shifted from addressing gaps to preserving basic services

# Strategic *Thinking* and Planning

- Process started out in strategic planning mode - became reactive due to budget reductions
- Planning process led to inter-disciplinary conversations and solutions – a good thing!
- Staff work group recommends:
  - ▣ Preserve basic capacity and services for 2009-10
  - ▣ Restart strategic planning process during Fall 2009
    - Focus on systems and individual/family needs for 2010-2016

# County Staff Responsibility



- Describe current activities
- Research best practices
- Identify gaps
- Prioritize programs
- Develop implementation plan
- Implement programs
- Evaluate results
- Present outcomes

# Community Review Responsibility



- Present the standpoint of you or your agency in discussions, balancing those views with a community-wide perspective.
- Present views and plan elements to the Board of County Commissioners and the general community.
- Ask questions
- Challenge assumptions
- Make recommendations

# Next Steps



- Standardized accounting reports for Treatment Sales Tax (TST) supported programs to ensure accountability
- Standardized evaluation reports for TST-supported programs to document key performance measures and assure progress toward outcomes – both short-term and long-term
- Re-start strategic planning in fall 2009 for 2011-2016
  - Address gaps
  - Assure community connections
  - Develop financial plan for Treatment Sales Tax

# Underpinning

- **Evidenced-Based:** Strategies, activities, or approaches which have been shown through scientific research and evaluation to be effective at preventing and/or delaying an untoward outcome.
- **Promising Practices:** Programs and strategies that have some scientific research or data showing positive outcomes in delaying an untoward outcome, but do not have enough evidence to support generalizable conclusions.

For this effort, evidence refers to:

- The body of factors or information (scientific basis) that shows a program, strategy, activity or approach has a reasonable chance of being effective at preventing and/or delaying an untoward outcome.

# Successful if...



- Programs and services need to be designed and implemented using the best information available (using evidence).
- Verify that, as a result of its activities, specific individuals or groups are better off than before (effective).
- Document that the money funding the program or service was spent to achieve the goals that were stated (accountability).
- Provide objective proof to people outside the program or service that it was a worthwhile use of resources.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses to allow for quality improvement.

# Goals of Evaluation



- **Systematic effort to collect and use program or service information for multiple purposes.**
  - Document what was achieved and whether expectations were met.
  - Identify areas where modifications could improve outcomes.
  - Show someone outside the program whether it has a future – meets goals, should be re-funded.

# The Evaluation Plan



A written document that:

- Identifies the purpose of the evaluation.
- States the type of changes anticipated as a result of funding.
- Describes the methods and tools to be used to measure change.
- Lists the way in which evaluation findings will be shared.
- Is time-bound and/or updated.

# Framework



- Overview of approach (July-December)
- Assumptions and conditions considered in development
- Emphasis areas for measurement (at this point in time)
- Standardized approach to reporting
  - Quarterly Progress Report to funder
  - Bi-annual Evaluation Report for interested parties
- Evaluation Summary for each TST funded program or service

# Timeline



- 5/22 - Content submitted for use in Evaluation Plan and Statement of Work
- 5/26 to 5/29 - Draft Evaluation Summaries out for comment
- 6/3 - Plan complete with overview and summaries
- 6/10 - Review by Board of County Commissioners

# Measuring change:



- Most program or service outcomes are ‘short-term’ because you need to be able to measure them to see if change occurred over the course of the program. At times also need to course correct.
- Evidence is used to create the link between short-term and long-term outcomes.
- The evidence provides correlation; a program does not need to do this research, but needs to “replicate with fidelity” (e.g. adhere to the model).

# Short term:



Emphasis for this phase of evaluation process:

- Change expected to occur within 6 months to 1 year
- Individual-level outcome measures (participant)
  - ▣ Precursors to behavior change, such as attitude or skills
  - ▣ Signs of intent to change, such as active participation
  - ▣ Adherence to model
- System/organizational output measures
  - ▣ Appropriate use of resources (e.g. referrals)
  - ▣ Signs of collaboration
- May also have deliverables for infrastructure enhancement

# Bi-Annual Report



- Available online
- Results available to:
  - ▣ Board of County Commissioners
  - ▣ Community Review Committee
  - ▣ Key partners agencies