

**Thurston County Treatment Sales Tax  
Community Review Committee**

**May 28, 2009**

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Area Agency on Aging Board Room, 3603 Mud Bay Road, Suite A

**Attendance:**

Community Review Committee Members:

Scott Ahlf	Mary Barrett	Sue Beall
Greg Hammond	Mary Heitzman	Judi Hoefling
Ed Holm	Aurora Lopez	Rev. Javier Lopez
Joan Machlis	Bob Macleod	Dennis Mahar
John Masterson	Neil McClanahan	Jared Miller
Steve Perry	Graeme Sackrison	Mary Segawa
Charles Shelan	Theresa Slusher	Sue Smith
Tammie Smith	Pam Toal	Karen Valenzuela

Work Group Staff:

Gail Gosney-Wrede	Lois Kim	Sherri McDonald
Mary Ann O'Garro	Jon Tunheim	

**Welcome/Introductions – Dennis Mahar**

Chairman Dennis Mahar welcomed the group and explained that the purpose of today's meeting is to present the Evaluation Plans that will be a part of the TST Implementation Plan and to discuss strategic planning efforts for 2011-2016. Two smaller committees will be created in place of the large Community Review Committee. One committee will be involved in reviewing the ongoing evaluation reports and the other in developing the Treatment Sales Tax Strategic Plan for 2011-2016

**County Staff Work Group Strategic Planning – Next Steps – Sherri McDonald**

Sherri McDonald gave a presentation regarding the progress of the Treatment Sales Tax implementation so far and Strategic Planning efforts that will begin in the fall of 2009. Since the beginning of 2009, the county general fund has been shrinking due to decreases in sales tax and property tax revenue. The decline in General Fund revenues precipitated the need for the Board of County Commissioners and county staff to shift from addressing gaps in the system (long-term) to preserving basic services and capacity (short term). The preservation of infrastructure programs will continue to be the focus for the 2010 funds, but there will be a shift to long-term strategic goals for 2011-2016.

**Presentation of Evaluation Plan – Gail Gosney / Mary Ann O'Garro**

To ensure that taxpayer money is being spent appropriately according to the State RCW and County Ordinance, an Evaluation Plan has been developed that will track the progress of programs receiving Treatment Sales Tax funds. Mary Ann O'Garro, Epidemiologist for Thurston County, has been working with each program to establish measurable outcomes that can be tracked to see if a program is producing positive results that show the resources were used appropriately.

A standardized reporting system will be established and reports will be submitted quarterly to the Treatment Sales Tax Coordinator. A semi-annual Evaluation Report will be available to the Board of County Commissioners and interested community members. The semi-annual report will give a summary of how well the programs are doing in reaching their short-term outcomes and will help measure our return on investment.

Some suggestions on improving the Evaluation Plan were made by committee members:

- The goals and outcome measures need to be assessed to make sure that we are measuring relevant indicators. For the long-term plan, we need to ensure that the outcomes are appropriate (i.e. are they ambitious enough, while still reasonable?)
- The goals and outcome measures should be presented in a way so that people unfamiliar with the specifics of each program can still understand why these are valuable and how they address the intent of the RCW and County Ordinance. Gail responded that the semi-annual reports will address this issue.
- Reverend Lopez requested that Law Enforcement be trained to respond appropriately to minorities. It was noted that cultural competency is often addressed in Evidence Based programs and needs to be addressed in all the efforts funded by Treatment Sales Tax funds.
- A goal statement should be added. This is beneficial for the community to understand the goal(s) of each program and how they relate to the RCW and County Ordinance. This may also serve to help other TST programs in clarifying their own goals.

### **Implementation Plan to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners – Sherri/Gail**

The Implementation Plan, which includes the Evaluation Plan, will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The Community Review Committee is invited to attend. This is a Board Briefing, which means that time for public comments is not allotted. The Plan will be available on the TST website once completed; a notification email will be sent to committee members.

Adoption of the Implementation Plan by the BoCC will be between June 10<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> during a televised Board Meeting.

### **Next Steps for Community Review Committee – Dennis/Gail**

This is the final meeting for the large Community Review Committee. The county TST team would like to thank each committee member for their donation of time and expertise. Materials regarding the TST will continue to be posted to the TST website at <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/treatment-tax>.

Community members were invited to sign-up for the following committees:

- Evaluation Review Committee: Will review the Evaluation Plans and suggest improvements (i.e. are the evaluation plans measuring the correct outcomes?)
- Strategic Planning Committee: Will help create a long-term Strategic Plan, addressing gaps for 2011-2016. This committee will start in the fall of 2009. During the Strategic Planning process, a Financial Plan will be developed. It is not the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the Treatment Sales Tax to be the sole source of funding for programs. We will need to look at other sources of funding for these programs.

**Parking Lot Issue:**

- How will the projected outcomes of TST-funded programs affect non-county programs (i.e. Providence St. Peter Hospital ER)? A set of community measures and data indicators would be cumbersome to establish, but would show how these funds are having a positive/negative impact on the community at-large. There is also a need to collect community indicators to show new and continuing gaps in services and the impacts of those gaps on community safety and individual/family health.