

Treatment Sales Tax Mission, Intent and Guiding Principles

RCW 82.14.460 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 CD and MH disorders

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Sustain basic levels of service/infrastructure
- EBP and/or best practices services only
- Strategies must achieve a cost/benefit
- Strategies address a substantiated need
- Strategies meet intent criteria of RCW 82.14.460 and County Ordinance 14138
- Therapeutic courts have access to EBP treatment (CD, MH and COD)
- Decrease county corrections and court costs and jail bed utilization
- Strategies leverage other efforts in the county

THURSTON COUNTY TREATMENT SALES TAX ORDINANCE 14138

- Improve the quality of life for Thurston County residents with mental illness and/or CD by reducing their involvement with the criminal justice system
- Reduce the number of people who have a high recidivism rate and/or who have lengthy jail stays as a result of their mental illness, CD and/or homelessness
- Increase the ability to divert mentally ill and/or CD adults and youth, using EBP, from jail services 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, MH, CD and housing services
- Create a system of prevention services and strategies for youth and adults based on EBP
- Increase education and training of law enforcement, corrections and courts personnel related to prevention, diversion and intervention services
- Increase public safety by using risk and needs assessments for all adult and youth offenders to determine appropriate services designation for MH, CD and/or jail services

MH=Mental Health
CD=Chemical Dependency
COD=Co-Occurring Disorder
EBP=Evidence-Based Practices