



CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

6 STRATEGIC GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Improve the health status and well-being of Kitsap County residents.

- Support shared plan through ongoing collaboration and increased care coordination among mental health, substance abuse, health and justice stakeholders through joint projects, blended funding, information sharing, and cross-training.
- Increase mental health and substance abuse treatment funding for youth and adults who are not eligible for Medicaid, including individuals on Medicare, Veterans and do not have private insurance.
- Expand Community Mental Health Center services to include individuals who are not eligible for Medicaid.
- Explore geriatric population needs.
- Increase dual-certification among mental health and substance abuse treatment providers for addressing all of the individuals behavioral health needs.

2. Reduce the incidence and severity of chemical dependency and/or mental health disorders in adults and youth.

- Train all systems on community resources and behavioral health treatment options including inpatient, outpatient, medication assisted, detoxification services and crisis triage.
- Educate the community on Healthy Option Services and Medicaid Expansion.
- Educate local behavioral health treatment providers on Veteran's issues and available resources.
- Provide behavioral health education, training and consultation to providers working with the aging population.
- Embed strategies for working with individuals with behavioral health disorders within the existing local CNA/ LPN/ nursing curriculum.
- Expand mental health and substance abuse prevention coalitions county wide.
- Expand evidence based mental health and substance abuse early prevention and intervention parent programs (Example: Nurse-Family Partnership Program and Strengthening Families).
- Provide school-based mental health and substance use prevention education for students to include intervention, assessment, referral and treatment support.

- Conduct professional development for educators, youth development and community agencies on youth mental health and substance abuse issues, concerns and supportive intervention strategies.
- Establish Suicide Prevention, Screening and Referral options in schools and the community.
- Expand parent and family education, involvement and support activities for youth and adults in behavioral health treatment.
- Increase wrap-around services for serious emotionally disturbed youth.
- Recruit existing organizations/individuals to develop a mental health support group similar to AA/NA for youth, young adults and adults.
- Assess the mental health service needs of an aging population.

3. Divert chemically dependent and mentally ill youth and adults from initial or further criminal justice system involvement.

- Develop county wide protocols for first responders responding to a call where mental illness or substance use may be a factor.
- Conduct crisis intervention training for all first responders countywide to respond to calls where mental illness or substance use may be a factor.
- Establish a Mobile Crisis Team and infrastructure to handle diversion attempts by law enforcement or mental health outreach teams to divert from jail, preempt entry into legal system; or the hospital.
- Educate first responders, mental health and housing program providers, and criminal justice staff on available Emergency Housing, Detoxification and Crisis Triage beds at Kitsap Recovery Center.
- Explore diversion alternatives through Crisis Respite/Triage Center/Drop-Off Center with diversion beds.
- Build an adult diversion program for low level offenders with mental illness or substance abuse disorders.
- Expand capacity for 24 hour crisis response for youth through law enforcement training, mobile crisis team, emergency housing and crisis triage.
- Establish a dedicated behavioral health specialist to serve the juvenile detention facility and be available for consultation to Probation Counselors dealing with the general probation population.
- Expand youth Involuntary Treatment Act/Crisis Response services.
- Provide funding for recovery supportive services for individuals in treatment including housing, child care, transportation and employment.
- Address barriers to accessing treatment by increasing treatment options and locations in Bainbridge Island, North and South Kitsap.
- Identify transportation barriers to getting to treatment and increase transportation options
- Explore local reimbursement options implemented in Pierce and Clallam Counties.
- Explore local cursory competency evaluation for out of custody, low risk offenders.

4. Reduce the number of people in Kitsap County who cycle through the criminal justice systems, including jails and prisons.

- Provide on-site behavioral health screening and referral to Superior, Municipal and District Courts.
- Expand behavioral health outreach, assessment, intervention, referral and treatment in the jail.
- Expand behavioral health outreach, assessment, intervention, referral and treatment in existing adult therapeutic courts.
- Expand behavioral health prevention, outreach, assessment, intervention, referral and treatment within the juvenile justice system.
- Increase supportive services, case monitors, UA collection, incentives and pro-social activities in all Juvenile Therapeutic Courts.
- Expand the use of evidence and research based programs found to decrease depression, suicidal behavior and substance abuse among juvenile justice involved youth.

5. Reduce the number of people in Kitsap County who use costly interventions including hospitals, emergency rooms, and crisis services.

- Establish specialized geriatric outreach team to assist providers working with the aging population.
- Provide behavioral health screening, brief intervention, and referral for treatment for youth, adults and older adults in primary care.
- Dedicate funds for out of county medical detoxification services for youth and adults, including those in the criminal justice system.
- Explore local options for a local medical detoxification provider.
- Increase access and options for medication assisted treatment.
- Increase efforts to attract more providers within Kitsap County to provide pain and addiction consultations.
- Increase number of local residential substance abuse treatment beds for youth and adults.
- Increase number of local mental health inpatient beds for adults, including geropsychiatric beds.
- Increase capacity for Program for Assertive Community Treatment (targeting 18-40 years olds with Axis 2 diagnosis).
- Increase number of local co-occurring disorder residential substance abuse treatment beds.
- Enhance linkages at intake and discharge to comprehensive services including care coordination, access to medication, prompt access to benefits, health care, and mental health & substance abuse treatment.

6. Increase the number of affordable and stable housing options for chemically dependent and mentally ill residents of Kitsap County.

- Establish specialized homeless outreach services, including specialized outreach to Veterans.
- Develop shelter-based behavioral health prevention, outreach, assessment, intervention, referral and treatment.
- Increase project based subsidized housing vouchers for individuals in Behavioral Health treatment.
- Provide appropriate tailored subsidized housing and support services for homeless individuals or persons at risk of homelessness with Behavioral Health issues.
- Establish stabilization transition housing for individuals with Behavioral Health issues moving from jail to treatment.
- Establish flexible rental assistance funds for individuals with Behavioral Health needs.

Note:

1. **6 Strategic Goals set by Kitsap County Board of Commissioners in Ordinance 507-2013, signed September 23, 2013**
2. **Recommendations are from input received from the Strategic Planning Team**