



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Council Member Woodards through Rebecca Boydston, Council Assistant, City Manager's Office
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting the Creation of a New Behavioral Health Hospital through a \$1.5 Million Contribution from the 2017-2018 Biennial Budget – June 14, 2016
DATE: June 7, 2016

SUMMARY:

Resolution supporting the creation of a new behavioral health hospital on the Allenmore Hospital Campus in Tacoma with a \$1.5 million contribution contingent on the funds being available and subject to future City Council appropriation; and, the City's funding being contingent on securing other funds needed to complete the project before the City's contribution is released.

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Deputy Mayor Mello and Council Members Blocker and Woodards.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

This resolution best aligns with the strategic policy priorities to:

- Strengthen and support a safe city with healthy residents; and,
- Ensure all Tacoma residents are valued and have access to resources to meet their needs.

BACKGROUND:

The Alliance for South Sound Health (a joint venture of MultiCare Health System and CHI-Franciscan Health) had been granted approval to build and operate a new \$41 million behavioral health hospital. This hospital would provide year round treatment for up to 5,000 patients and include 120 beds for voluntary and involuntary admissions.

Currently the state of Washington ranks 48th out of the 50 states for prevalence of mental health services and access to care, particularly when it comes to inpatient capacity. The national average for beds is 26.1 per 100,000 population. Washington State averages 8.3 and Pierce County averages 2.8 beds per 100,000. Our community therefore is critically underserved and we must act to ensure the citizens of Tacoma have access to the mental health services they need. Building this facility would push our average beds to 16.6 beds per 100,000 people. This is still under the nationwide average, but significantly expands our current capacity.

The City of Tacoma has repeatedly shown our commitment to expanding mental health services, as evidenced by the implementation of the Mental Health Sales Tax. However, mental illness continues to be an issue in our community. Untreated mental illness or substance use disorders and their related problems have clear and negative impacts on businesses and urban residential living. Mental illness and substance use disorders often result in increased poverty, homelessness, and the breakdown of families.

We all share in the ultimate costs for dealing with the issues of substance use disorders and mental health. For example, an individual without substance abuse treatment can cost a community approximately \$22,000 in emergency room visits, criminal justice services, and child welfare every year. By ensuring adequate treatment, we can reduce that cost to an estimated \$2,430.



Council Member Woodards shared a Council Consideration Request at the June 7th Study Session to add this resolution to the June 14th City Council meeting agenda.

ISSUE:

Several local municipalities have pledged funds to ensure this critical project is built to serve the residents of our communities. The City's commitment to contribute \$1.5 million in the 2017-2018 biennium for a one-time expenditure to the Alliance for South Sound Health is needed to secure additional funding to build a new behavioral health hospital on the Allenmore Hospital Campus in Tacoma.

ALTERNATIVES:

The City Council could chose to adopt, reject, or modify this funding contribution commitment. If the resolution is rejected, it could limit the Coalition's ability to get additional funding commitments from other sources.

RECOMMENDATION:

The sponsors of this legislation recommend the resolution is adopted to show the City's commitment for mental health services and access to care through the building of this hospital to increase inpatient capacity.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact by the adoption of this resolution. If adopted the funding is still contingent on future City Council appropriation in addition to funding being contingent on securing other funds needed to complete the project before the City's contribution is released