



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood & Community Services (NCS)
COPY: Community, Vitality, & Safety Committee (CVS)
PRESENTER: Vicky McLaurin, Interim Assistant Director, NCS, Dawn Couch, BERK Consulting
SUBJECT: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Assessment Strategy Update
DATE: September 14, 2023

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

NCS and BERK Consulting staff will present its plan to update the 2012 Community Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Assessment to identify the needs, services, and gaps in the provision of services, to individuals affected by mental health and substance use disorder in Tacoma.

BACKGROUND:

In March 2012, the Tacoma City Council passed Ordinance 28057, authorizing a 0.1% sales tax (“one-tenth of one percent”) to support mental health treatment, chemical dependency treatment, therapeutic court(s), and housing for those in treatment services. The purpose of the tax is to provide services to the community to address barriers to mental health and substance use disorder. All programs must have a component of mental health and/or substance use disorder to be eligible for this funding. The original intent of this funding source was to reduce the high utilization of emergency services. The City funds programs that provide treatment, case management, bed nights and supports programs like the Co-Responders, who have designated mental health professionals to assist Tacoma residents who are experiencing behavioral health crisis and help them access treatment and resources that have a positive impact on their life. The assessment will update the 2012 Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Assessment and will be used for future funding recommendations.

ISSUE:

BERK Consulting will perform two primary tasks:

- Task 1 focuses on the Funding Data Aggregation and Analysis
BERK Consulting will focus on aggregating and analyzing grants and other funds awarded to community partners through Tacoma’s local sales/use tax for Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Treatment. BERK Consulting will develop a technical memo detailing the analysis and findings.
- Task 2 focuses on the Development of Strategic Options.
BERK Consulting support the development of strategic options. BERK Consulting will design a program of primary data collection and community engagement to support the identified information and process needs. BERK Consulting will also develop some preliminary tools for implementing the identified strategic direction, such as



implementation timeline, performance measures, and reporting rubrics. Comparison and analysis of Pierce County Behavioral Health tax: How the City's investment in mental health and substance use disorder aligns with Pierce County's investment.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only; no alternatives are being presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an information briefing only. There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only. There is no recommendation.