



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: Linda Stewart, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS)
COPY: Community Vitality and Safety Committee
PRESENTER: Linda Stewart, NCS Director, and Heather Moss, Pierce County, Human Services Director
SUBJECT: Alliance to Strengthen Family Violence Prevention Services Update
DATE: April 22, 2021

PRESENTATION TYPE:

Informational Briefing

SUMMARY:

In December 2018, the City and Pierce County reinforced their commitment to family violence prevention and domestic violence services by launching the 2019 Strategic Alliance to Strengthen Family Violence Prevention Services (Strategic Alliance). This presentation will review recommendations of the final report of the Strategic Alliance.

BACKGROUND:

The Strategic Alliance exploratory process included: a facilitated conversation in 2019 with an external contractor and a 2020 survey administered by Pierce County for stakeholders, including service providers, community advocates, justice professionals and clients who use, or may need to use, the system of family violence prevention and domestic violence services currently in place. The information may be used to inform future funding opportunities, identify gaps in services, and reduce barriers for survivor of domestic violence.

ISSUE:

The exploratory process is a joint project between the City of Tacoma and Pierce County intended to identify and evaluate opportunities to improve data collection, information sharing, strategic alignment of funding priorities, and innovative strategies to serve diverse clients experiencing domestic violence throughout Pierce County. Findings and recommendations were shared with Crystal Judson Family Justice Center Board of Directors, YWCA Board of Directors, and Pierce County Coalition to End Domestic Violence in February 2021 for review. The Pierce County Human Services Committee received a project update on April 6, 2021.

The report made the following recommendations:

Recommendations for providers:

- DV Resource Guide - Create a regional resource guide to help victims understand the cycle of violence and refer them to specific services and organizations;
- Safety Planning - Provide victims safety planning information when they contact service providers;
- Legal Services - Expand legal services to help survivors navigate the court system;

Standing Committee Memorandum – Strategic Alliance

- Collaboration - Work with Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), mental health, suicide prevention, substance abuse and healthcare providers to provide more coordinated and comprehensive services; and
- Language Access – Ensure comprehensive counseling services and support groups are available in different languages, in both online and in-person formats.

Recommendations for City of Tacoma and Pierce County as funding agencies:

- Measurable Outcomes - Incorporate measurable outcomes in all contracts for domestic violence services;
- Funding Alignment - Work across jurisdictions to align funding cycles, strategies, and final grant awards; and
- Stable Housing - Fund safe, stable housing and other accessible, culturally responsive and trauma-informed services responsive to a survivor's specific personal circumstances.

Staff will provide information on the progress of each of these recommendations during the committee presentation.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an information briefing only. There are no alternatives presented.

FISCAL IMPACT:

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

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information briefing only.