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www.vashonhealthcare.org

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: April 19, 2023

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Penny Farcy, Training Center – VIFR, 10019 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, WA, via ZOOM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81243148081>

Present: Tom Langland, President, Position 5

Eric Pryne, Position 2

Alan Aman, Position 3

Wendy Noble, Position 4

Tim Johnson, Superintendent

Call to order - Commissioner Langland called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

1. **Approve/Amend April 19, 2023 Agenda** - Commissioner Pryne moved to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Noble, and unanimously approved.
2. **Introduction of Commissioners and Topic** - Superintendent Johnson welcomed attendees and introduced the goals for the roundtable and turned the floor over to representatives of social service organizations in attendance to share their perceptions of needs and gaps.
3. **Brief Introductory Needs Statement by Selected Organizations**
 - a. **Dove Project** - Heidi Jackson, Executive Director, expressed needs for full basic care for primary care, such as stitches, x-rays, and not having to travel off island, as well as after hours care and affordable psychology. She emphasized the importance of having a good relationship with Sea Mar to partner in addressing gaps and needs. Case managers (similar to social workers) would be helpful to people who need extra supports to access available services, especially off-island. Similarly, a support mechanism is needed for single parents.
 - b. **Food Bank** - serves 230 households per week; a large percentage of those using their services also have gaps in access to healthcare; connections to other services is the primary need and the food bank is a natural hub for connecting users to other organizations and services and sharing information.
 - c. **IFCH** - they spend most of their resources and money on utilities and housing; she believes that there is no need for the healthcare district if primary care is available, which it is now available through Sea Mar. The homeless they work with are in need of support in the form of housing. There are many needs that can be addressed with the money available to VHCD, as well as the real property owned by VHCD.
 - d. **Senior Center** - Maria Glanz: on island primary care is still a need and after hours care; the people they serve need a case manager to help connect clients with services and ways to address their needs; their clients often need more assistance than most people, particularly when they suffer from things like dementia. Navigating the systems and going off island are particularly difficult. Support for accessing off island care and navigating different systems is

needed. Adult children are looking for help for their parents, who also want to preserve independence as much as possible; social workers would address a lot of the gaps they see.

- e. **Vashon Household** - Jason Johnson: biggest need on this island is housing - affordable, safe, permanent housing; their resources and available housing do not meet the need; their wait list is extensive; they do not provide emergency housing, but rather focus on permanent housing; they have no social workers, etc., offering that form of service.
- f. **VYFS** - Jeni Johnson, Executive Director: core program is behavioral health (counseling for youth, families, couples, substance use disorders, and a prescriber). They primarily serve medicaid clients and there are many in between medicaid and regular insurance who fall through the cracks - they need care at reduced costs, but VYFS has only a limited amount of reduced cost care so have to turn away many who do not qualify for medicaid. Need more support groups in the area of behavioral health, such as grief groups, LGBT parents, etc. Need spanish speaking counselors; crisis support - what they offer is minimal; tech support for clients who are not mobile who would wish to use telehealth from home; community resource navigation needs to connect underinsured or uninsured with services; social worker needed who specializes in geriatrics and adults living with disabilities (including home visits); medical transportation vouchers, currently a need for many leaving for chemotherapy. VYFS also offers Vashon Kids childcare as well as Family Place, which needs a child mental health counselor. Childcare is a gap on island.
- g. **Vashon Social Services Network** - Reiterated need for dental services; providers do offer them discounts, but need more free and reduced cost dental services, including the free clinics that they offer.
- h. **Vashon Care Closet and Caregivers Network**- Liz Illg and Carol Spangler: they are primarily a volunteer group offering durable medical equipment and supplies to caregivers on island, primarily those giving care in their homes. They also support caregivers and independent providers and family caregivers, including support groups for family caregivers and it is highly in demand. There is a need for more resources to expand this service. This situation is common to all income levels: the people who are staying at home caring for their family members are struggling; it is a 24 hour job; they are desperate to be connected to resources, whether it be accessing equipment, navigating the systems, and getting answers to their health related to questions; and many don't feel qualified or equipped to provide the care they need to provide. Paying for independent caregivers is extremely difficult for many. There is also a need for Spanish speaking providers in the community because the Spanish speaking and undocumented community cannot access a lot of the services and programs. They suggest VHCD to bring a health fair to the island like they do at Seattle Center as well as convening educational events. They reiterated that many in need require providers to go to them, "knocking on their door", and going to them with mobile services.

2. **Commissioner Q&A** - Following comments from representatives, Superintendent Johnson opened the floor to VHCD Commissioners for questions and answers:

- **Commissioner Aman:** everything shared has been really compelling; it would help the District to have more data, specific numbers, to understand the extent of unmet needs. VYFS responded and said they will provide their data and another attendee supported a shared dashboard for standardizing metrics and having a shared understanding of gaps.
- **Commissioner Noble:** navigators are clearly important for her personally, and a dashboard that has been suggested would be helpful. Promoting options for existing hotlines and other options, is also a potential role for the District.
- **Commissioner Langland:** Nearly everyone expressed needs for case managers/navigators/etc.; possibly there is a way to share some of these resources/people in this role. Attendees

responded in agreement with the need for shared resources while another stated that shared resources can help to a point in many cases, but in depth involvement and specialization is needed.

- **Commissioner Pryne:** most of the needs expressed today are also priorities as expressed by the island during the VHCD outreach efforts; the Commissioners have heard many of these needs for improved mental health services/behavioral health, support for people living with family members with dementia, navigating needs, after hour care and urgent care. He asked attendees their views on what Sea Mar does well and what the gaps still are in primary care services. One respondent expressed they do not have home visiting services, which led to a discussion about that need. Fire Chief Vinci said that they hear a lot that Sea Mar tells people to come to the Fire Department for services for different reasons. Another attendee said they were missing a hotline for a nurse or navigator, which would also alleviate demands on 9-1-1.
- **Fire Chief Vinci:** elaborated that when there is a gap in services or they don't have options for regular services, they often end up coming to them or calling 9-1-1. He mentioned their efforts related to mobile integrated health (MIH).
- **Superintendent Johnson** thanked everyone for participating and said that these meetings are good for all of us to know each other as the District shifts its focus and strategy and these relationships become more important.

3. **Adjournment** - Superintendent Johnson thanked all attendees and also stated that the the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Minutes are posted on the VHCD website after Board approval.
