



Vashon Health Care District Strategic Implementation Update

Commissioner Briefing Memorandum

To: Board of Commissioners

From: Vashon Health Care District

Date: March 26, 2026

Subject: Mid-Year Strategic Plan Implementation Update (2026–2028)

1. Purpose

This memorandum provides a concise mid-year update on implementation of the District's 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, with emphasis on:

- Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) expansion
 - Urgent care transition planning
 - Behavioral health and social health program integration
 - System coordination through the forthcoming Vashon Health Care Alliance
 - Financial oversight and audit status
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2. Key Takeaways

- **MIH contracting to be completed (March–April 2026)**, establishing the operational foundation for further program expansion
- **MIH readiness evaluation scheduled for Q3 2026** will determine feasibility of transitioning urgent care responsibilities
- **Consulting Nurse capability (within MIH)** is in development for potential Q3 launch with **King County Public Health support**
- **Dove Project behavioral health expansion launched Q1 2026**
- **Social health infrastructure strengthened** through Medical Voucher Program, VYFS intensive case management, Senior Center social work, and community-based circles
- **Vashon Health Care Alliance (VHCA)** launching Q3 2026 to formalize system coordination
- **WA State Auditor review nearing satisfactory completion** with no material issues currently identified

3. System Overview

The District’s strategy is centered on building a coordinated, locally responsive healthcare system that integrates:

- Primary care (Sea Mar, independent providers)
- Urgent Care (DispatchHealth)
- Field-based community care (MIH)
- Behavioral health (Dove Project and partners)
- Social services (VYFS, Senior Center programs)
- Medication access (Vashon Pharmacy)
- Regional partnerships (King County, hospitals, specialists)

MIH is positioned to serve as a **core integrator**, supported by care navigation, social services, and provider coordination.

4. Field Based Community Care

Status

The MIH program continues to expand as the District’s primary partner for:

- Community-based medical care
- Chronic disease management
- Post-discharge follow-up
- Care coordination with primary care providers

Milestone:

MIH contracting with Vashon Island Fire & Rescue to be completed by end of March / early April 2026.

Current Focus

- Staffing and protocol development
- Integration with dispatch and field response
- Coordination with clinical and social service partners

Q3 2026 Decision Point

A formal MIH readiness evaluation will assess:

- Clinical staffing capacity

- Operational readiness for urgent care response
- Clinical oversight and protocols
- Performance metrics (response time, safety, utilization)
- Financial sustainability

This evaluation will inform whether MIH can assume urgent care responsibilities currently provided externally.

5. Consulting Nurse Capability (MIH)

A Consulting Nurse function is being considered for potential launch 2026, supported in part by King County Public Health and/or other partners.

Role

- Clinical triage and patient guidance
- Care navigation across providers
- Follow-up after urgent care or emergency services

System Impact

This capability is expected to:

- Improve access to appropriate care
 - Reduce unnecessary urgent care utilization
 - Strengthen coordination between clinical and social services
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6. Urgent Care Strategy

Current State

Urgent care access continues through **DispatchHealth**, with stable if diminished utilization and no significant service disruptions.

Transition Framework

- Transition to MIH is not predetermined but likely at some point
- Dependent on Q3 2026 readiness evaluation

If Ready (Fall 2026)

- Begin phased transition planning
- Gradual assumption of appropriate urgent care functions by MIH

If Not Ready

- Maintain DispatchHealth services
 - Continue MIH capacity development
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7. Primary Care and System Capacity

Primary care continues to be provided by Sea Mar Community Health Centers, with:

- Stable operations
- New clinic operations expected mid to late 3rd Quarter of 2026
- Ongoing communication with District leadership

The broader system includes:

- Vashon Natural Medicine (independent provider)
- Vashon Pharmacy (medication access and coordination partner)

The District maintains contingency reserves and planning in the event of primary care disruption.

8. Behavioral Health

Key Development

- Dove Project partnership launched Q1 2026

Current Focus

- Expanding access to behavioral health services
 - Integration with MIH and care coordination systems
 - Strengthening school and community-based supports
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9. Social Health Services (Vulnerable Populations Emphasis)

The District continues to strengthen community-based supports addressing social determinants of health.

Core Programs:

Medical Voucher Program (VYFS)

- Financial assistance for healthcare access
- Supports urgent, primary, and specialty care access

VYFS Intensive Case Manager Program

- High-touch care coordination for complex cases
- Integration across medical, behavioral, and social services

VYFS Compassionate Care Program

- DH access for uninsured
- Expected to be phased out with MIH expansion

Senior Center Social Work

- Navigation support for older adults
- Assistance with benefits, housing, and care access

Journeyman / Women Hold the Key Circles

- Peer-based support networks
- Reduce isolation and strengthen community resilience

System Role

These programs:

- Provide early intervention
 - Reduce barriers to care
 - Connect residents to appropriate services
 - Integrate increasingly with MIH care coordination
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10. Vashon Health Care Alliance (VHCA)

Launch Timeline

- Q3/Q4 2026

Purpose

The VHCA will provide a semi-formal coordination and collaboration structure for the island healthcare system.

Structure

- Quarterly roundtables
- Open to island providers and regional partners
- Steered by core system partners

Participants (anticipated)

- Sea Mar
- VIFR
- MIH
- Vashon Natural Medicine
- NeighborCare School Clinic
- Vashon Pharmacy
- Dove Project
- VYFS
- Senior Center
- SIHB
- Other island health care providers (including but not limited to physical therapy, midwifery, acupuncture, etc.)
- Vashon Social Service Network
- King County (including Public Health)
- Regional healthcare systems

Functions

- Performance monitoring
- Needs assessment
- Service gap identification
- Coordination across providers

11. Governance and Work Group Status

All work groups remain active and aligned with strategic priorities:

- **Medical Health Services:** MIH expansion and urgent care planning

- **Behavioral Health:** Dove Project integration and expansion
 - **Social Health:** MVP, VYFS, Senior Center, community programs
 - **Finance:** Budget oversight, reserve allocation, and audit coordination
 - **Outreach:** Community/partner engagement and VHCA preparation
 - **Strategic Planning of the whole:** Oversight of implementation milestones
 - **Governance of the whole:** Policy and educational support
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12. Financial Status & Audit Update

The District's financial position remains stable, supporting:

- MIH expansion
- Consulting Nurse capability
- Behavioral health programs
- Social health services
- Urgent care access

The strategic plan implementation remains on budget and fully sustainable through the full three years, and beyond.

Audit Status

The Washington State Auditor review is nearing satisfactory completion, with:

- No material issues currently identified
 - Final close-out expected in late March or early April
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13. Risk & Contingency Planning

The District continues to maintain readiness for potential disruption to primary care services.

Response Framework

- Expand MIH services
- Deploy Consulting Nurse triage
- Coordinate with independent providers
- Utilize Vashon Pharmacy for medication continuity
- Activate social service supports (VYFS, Senior Center)
- Coordinate regionally as needed

The VHCA will provide additional coordination infrastructure if activated.

14. Upcoming Decision Points

Q3 2026

- MIH readiness evaluation
- Consulting Nurse launch
- VHCA launch
- Decision on urgent care transition plan (conditional)
- Expanded social work/case management (housing insecure)

Q4 2026

- 2027 budget alignment with program capacity
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15. Conclusion

The District is making measurable progress toward a more coordinated, collaborative, locally responsive healthcare environment. Key milestones—particularly completion of MIH contracting, the upcoming MIH readiness evaluation, and the launch of care navigation and system coordination infrastructure—position the District to make informed decisions about future service delivery. The combination of clinical services, behavioral health, and social support programs continues to strengthen overall system resilience and improve access to care for island residents.