

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

BREMERTON/SILVERDALE MEETING

3/19/2022

Attending in Person: Amanda Rodgers, Robin Muir, Connie Merchant, RaeJean Bridges-Avalos, Carol Larsen, Kathleen Cahall, Debi Barner

Attending on Zoom: Janice McLemore, Mr. McLemore, Gail Sackman, Kathleen Gallagher, Bill Budd, Susan Griggs, Denise Frey, Rochelle Karlsen, Joanna Blackford

Maureen Cervinsky was absent so Amanda Rodgers led the meeting. Candy Rankin was absent so Debi Barner took notes.

Monica Bernhard, Chief Operating Officer for Kitsap Mental Health gave a presentation over Zoom. Here are some of the highlights. If you wish to see the comprehensive presentation, please go to "lwv-kitsap.org".

Kitsap Mental Health (KMHS) is a non-profit offering hope and opportunities to people of all ages recovery oriented behavioral health care. ^[1]1 in 5 people experience some mental health issues. 1 in 25 have serious mental health illness. Almost 1/2 of the population experiences a mental health issue at some point in life.

People with mental health issues only commit 3-5% violent crimes. They are more likely to be the victim.

People do recover from mental health issues.

During the pandemic the demand for services has risen. About 1/2 of clinics closed due to lack of care givers.

KMHS offers a wide range of services:

Outpatient, 5 24/7 facilities, 2 classrooms with 24 K-12 students, Crisis Responder, Partner with law enforcement, High intensity wraparound program, Housing and Employment programs

Recovery Model:^{[[L]]}_{SEP} The recovery model takes into account the client's need for health, home, purpose in life, and community

Trauma Informed Care:^{[[L]]}_{SEP} To find a path to recovery, the recovery model takes into account the client's past trauma in life, and centers empowers the client by giving him/her choices and helping him/her feel safe.

Peer Program:^{[[L]]}_{SEP} There are parent partners, peer counselors, outpatient peer support.

Locations:^{[[L]]}_{SEP} The main campus is on Almira in Bremerton behind Lowe's. There are 7 sites in all as well as the new Pendleton Place.

At this point in the PowerPoint, Monica presented "Jay's Story" to give a feel for the flow of recovery and individual client might experience during recovery from substance abuse/mental illness. Jay's recovery included stays at the Triage Center for 3-5 days, Pacific Hope Recovery Residential Addiction Unit 3-5 weeks, Keller House Transitional Residential Unit with 16 beds and a 30 day stay where he received substance abuse counseling.

On the main campus, there is also the Acute Inpatient Unit for Youth with severe psychosis or suicidality. It also has 16 beds (if more than 16 beds, then considered a hospital).^{[[L]]}_{SEP} There is also a court on-site if needing to detain a patient.

The 10 bed Youth Unit has been close for the past 1 1/2 years

due to lack of clinicians. It will reopen in May 2022.

Designated Crisis Responders (DCR) are contacted by Volunteers of America when a referral comes from law enforcement or help is requested otherwise. The Comprehensive Outpatient Services assign a team to assist the client: a counselor, medical management, health

Pendleton Place will open soon. Housing is Healthcare. This residence has 72 apartments, 24/7 services on site, and Peninsula Health Care Services affiliation. 69 of residents have been chronically homeless, 5 beds for veterans. Connie asked about gender breakdown. It is about 55 men, 1-2 trans, 20 women

Janice asked about money from the county. Monica said KMHS contracts with agencies that get Medicaid, which just had 7% increase, so KMHS has been able to get better funding to pay clinicians.

Denise asked about the greatest needs: Clinicians - 4 resignations yesterday. There are many opportunities to do online work now.

There are no plans for another Pendleton Place now, but maybe a residence for elder care later.

KNOW YOUR COUNTY^[L]_[SEP] Rae Jean Bridges-Avalos led the discussion about revising the Know Your

County pamphlet was last revised in 2005. The pamphlet is a non-partisan civics resource to be shared with students and newcomers to Kitsap County.^[L]_[SEP] Volunteers are gathering information now - more volunteers are needed. Robin Muir

mentioned putting an ad in The Voter for volunteers. Please see the outline on the website “lwv-kitsap.org”.

The approximate timeline is: information by June 1, 2022, then Edit the copy and get to a professional to work on layout and printing. The goal is to complete the project by the end of the year. Then be able to edit the online pamphlet every two years.

Hard copies of the Know your County could be given to the Chamber of Commerce, high school civics classes, Family Service Center on Base. Carol Larsen pointed out that often when printing the price reduces significantly at higher numbers. Kathleen Cahall mentioned there is about \$10,000 in the education fund.

There was discussion about copying organization outlines from agencies to put in the pamphlet. Maureen is checking to see if OK. Carol L. said many agencies have Public Information Officers (PIO), so we can get updated information.

There was mention of the inappropriate totem on the previous pamphlet. Robin looked up some information and found the Suquamish Tribe and Port Gamble S’Klallam to use totemic figures.

Maps will be included, but pictures will not due to appearing outdated.

Please volunteer for this project.