



Whatcom County Behavioral Health Funds

Annual Report 2021

Overview Summary:

2021 continued to present challenges for the mental health and welfare of many Whatcom County residents. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic resulted in limitations for providing in-person behavioral health services in addition to impacting the workforce available to provide programming and outreach efforts. The Behavioral Health program fund was instrumental in supporting services oriented toward the Prevention, Intervention, Treatment, and Aftercare (PITA) continuum.

Prevention: The demand for Behavioral Health-funded prevention services, those provided primarily through school-based contracts, increased dramatically. One in five youth served received more than 20 contacts with school or community professionals, an increase of more than three times the supportive contact from the previous school year.

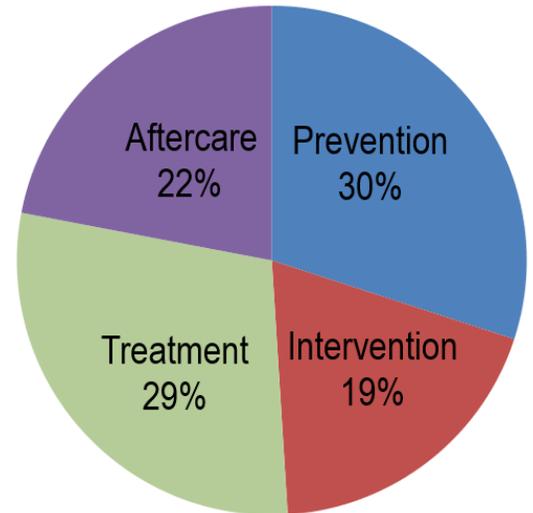
Intervention: The Behavioral Health fund supported intervention services including: Mental Health Court, Drug Court, and Family Court, which are national best practice programs. Mental Health Court increased the number of individuals served in 2021 despite the challenges with COVID-19. The Ground-level Response And Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program successfully served 137 unique individuals in 2021, continuing the work of reducing encounters with the criminal justice system and emergency services in the community. Data reflects an 82% reduction of Emergency Medical Service contacts and a 61% decrease in jail booking for individuals involved in the GRACE program during 2021.

Treatment: The Behavioral Health fund supports programs that assist those who have struggled with mental illness or substance abuse, or have been incarcerated and need to build the skills to rejoin the community on a new trajectory. The jail behavioral health program served 814 individuals during 2021 with over 100 individuals per month receiving psychotropic medication. The number of individuals served through jail behavioral health and community treatment services remained relatively consistent, dropping only slightly from the previous year.

Aftercare: The Behavioral Health fund primarily supports housing for increased stability in continued recovery, and in 2021 the funds provided 262 unique individuals with a place to reside either temporarily or permanently. For many who are exiting institutions, emergency shelter provided a quick-entry into housing services and decreased the likelihood of repeating the cycle that led to their institutionalization, even as providers seek longer term housing solutions.

Service Expenditures for 2021

Percentage by PITA Service Type



Total \$3,428,491

(see back for budget details)

Vision and Goals

Develop a comprehensive infrastructure of behavioral health care that will:

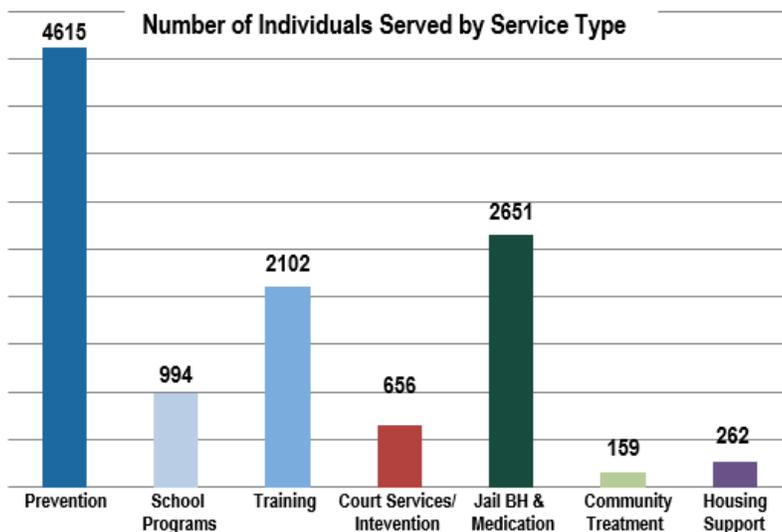
Provide effective recovery-oriented services that mitigate the need for individuals to default to utilization of the emergency room, hospital beds and the county jail.

Provide access and availability for intervention and treatment services to individuals who have limited access.

Promote the provision of services in natural environments in order to reduce the incidence and severity of substance use and mental health disorders.

Provide interventions that divert individuals with mental health and substance use disorders from the criminal justice system to more appropriate options of care.

Support young children and families with early interventions and behavioral health promotion.



2021 Accomplishments

- Opened new Crisis Stabilization Center - Anne Deacon Center for Hope
- Maintained Prevention, Intervention, Treatment & Aftercare Services during COVID-19

Whatcom County Behavioral Health Program

Financial Statement

Year Ending December 31, 2021	Revenue Collected	Expenditures
<u>Revenue</u>		
Sales Tax Collected	\$5,862,461	
Interest Earned	(\$14,464)	
Other	\$558,192	
Total Revenue	\$6,406,189	
<u>Expenditures</u>		
Prevention		\$211,463
Behavioral Health School Programs		\$815,922
GRACE Program		\$334,169
Court & Other Intervention Services		\$322,079
Jail Behavioral Health & Re-Entry Services		\$446,396
Community Treatment		\$550,892
Housing Support Services		\$747,570
Program Services Total (85% of expenses)		\$3,428,491
Direct Program Support		\$302,307
Administrative Costs (9% of expenses)		\$317,180
Total Expenditures		\$4,047,978

PITA Continuum

The PITA model continues to serve as the framework for creating a comprehensive foundation for service delivery.

