

CLARK COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SALES TAX FUNDING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2018

The Clark County Mental Health Sales Tax Funding Advisory Board convened in Conference Room 698, Public Service Center 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington. Chair Boldt, Councilor Jeanne Stewart, Bradley Alberts (District Court Deputy Administrator), Vanessa Gaston (Director, Community Services), Alan Melnick (Health Officer/Administrator, Public Health), Adriana Prata (Director, Budget Office), Shauna McCloskey (Superior Court), Judge Veljacic (Superior Court), DeDe Sieler (Community Services), Christine Simonsmeier (Administrator, Juvenile Court), Emily Zwetzig (Budget Office), Josh Urban (Budget Office).

8:00am.

Minute Approval for May 22nd Meeting

Chairman Boldt began with asking the Advisory Board for approval of the meeting minutes from the May 22nd meeting. The Advisory Board approved.

Group Review of Internal Funding Submissions

Before review began, Judge Veljacic distributed a memo outlining his recusal from voting on several of the requests due to legal and ethical reasons (attached below). Chair Boldt used this opportunity to bring to the group discussion on whether or not those voting members who recused themselves from voting on their department's packages should be able to stay in the room when reviewing their requests. The Board decided that this was fine for them to stay and would allow for them to answer questions members may have about their requests. Vice Chair Stewart agreed. Doctor Melnick and Judge Veljacic brought up the point that allowing questions risked orally supplementing the funding requests, and that they needed to be scored on its written merit alone in order to insure equity for external applicants. The Board had received all requests prior to the meeting and scored them before the meeting using only what was provided in the funding applications. Questions asked of recused members on their relevant requests would be for clarification only, similar to the questions allowed to be asked by external applicants once the external RFP was published.

The Board began its review of packages. As this Board is in its first year of this process reviewing funding requests, there was further discussion insuring that the Board performed its evaluations equitably to all requests. This included discussion on methodology for determining scoring criteria and specifically, the budget amounts for salaries and benefits provided in each request. Once questions were settled, the Board moved through the list of packages reviewing each on their merit.

After discussion, the Board then began its evaluation of the requests. The evaluation system was developed based on Clark County Purchasing's RFP scoring template and each voting member listed their scores for each package. These were recorded and tallied, using a mixture of total points and the average score to determine approval.

After evaluating the requests, the Board voted to proceed with all proposed packages as a recommendation to the County Manager that these requests should be incorporated into the 2019 budget. The County Manager's recommended budget is what is brought before the Clark County Council, who decides its adoption.

Planning for External RFP

The Board decided to use its July 20th meeting in order to determine its process for external applications as there was not ample time left in the meeting to decide.

The Advisory Board adjourned at 10:00am

Bernard F. Veljacic
Judge of Superior Court
Department No. 5

Superior Court of the State of Washington
For and In Clark County

1200 Franklin Street
PO Box 5000
Vancouver, WA 98666-5000
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June 21, 2018

Clark County Mental Health
Sales Tax Advisory Board
1300 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Vancouver, WA 98661

Re: Judicial Ethical Limitations to Full Participation

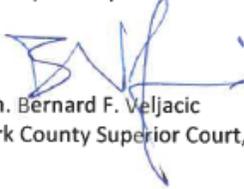
Dear Advisory Board Members:

I write to memorialize and notify you of Judicial Ethics that somewhat limit my participation in voting and deliberating on certain of the requests we may receive in our work in advising the County Council. As I have mentioned in a previous meeting, Judges in Washington State are bound by the Canons of Judicial Ethics. Generally, the Canons allow a judge to be involved in governmental funding decisions (or in the case of this committee, recommendations on funding) only to the extent those decision involve the law, the legal system, or the administration of justice.

Admittedly, the definition of the phrase "the law, legal system, or the administration of justice" became broader with the advent of treatment courts. As one can determine from review of the internal requests we've received, several of them directly relate to treatment courts while others involve the types of services utilized by our treatment court participants.

As we begin to review requests, both internal, and external, I will withdraw participation and take an inactive observer role, perhaps recusing myself from deliberation and voting, should I feel my participation would not comport with judicial ethics. I inform the Board of this so that you do not feel that I am needlessly abandoning my duties at the laboring oar.

Thank you for your time and consideration,


Hon. Bernard F. Veljacic
Clark County Superior Court, Dept. 5