



Treatment Services Feasibility Study

Date: 04/25/2024

Situation:

The Opioid/Fentanyl Crisis has everyone asking what else can we do? How can we make a greater impact? The idea of the Treatment Services Division separating from SRHD has been discussed at various times throughout the history of Treatment Services. The most recent was a communication to the Board of Health on February 25, 2021. Today in April 2024 there are new developments that indicate it is time to conduct a feasibility study and look into the possibility that now might be the right time.

Background:

The Treatment Service Division is licensed to provide the following services:

Behavioral Health Agency Opioid Treatment Program – BHA.FS.61408797-OPIOID

- Opioid Treatment Program Services - Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP)

Behavioral Health Agency Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Service – BHA.FS.61408797-SUDOUT

- Substance Use Disorder Outpatient Services 1 - Level 1 Outpatient

Behavioral Health Agency Mental Health Outpatient Service – BHA.FS.61408797-MHOUT

- Outpatient Mental Health Services 1 - Brief Intervention Treatment
- Outpatient Mental Health Services 2 - Family Therapy
- Outpatient Mental Health Services 3 - Group Therapy
- Outpatient Mental Health Services 4 - Individual Treatment
- Outpatient Mental Health Services 5 - Rehabilitative Case Management

In 1990, when the “methadone clinic” was started by the Health District it was because there was no one else in the Spokane Community offering services to individuals addicted to heroin. Today, we continue to be the singular largest Opioid Treatment program in our state, but there are other clinics offering the same OTP services in our community and the nation as well. We are also living in a different political and fiscal environment. In Washington, Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) are core services which the governmental public health system is responsible for providing in a consistent and uniform way in every community in Washington. (RCW 43.70.512). Opioid treatment is not a core service. And in fact, there is only one other Health Department in Washington that continues to operate an opioid treatment program. In addition, there are now funding opportunities that SRHD’s Treatment Services Division is not eligible for because it is not a separate entity with its own EIN and NPI number.

Assessment:

There is the possibility of other established Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) being interested in helping the Treatment Services Division to separate from SRHD.

It would benefit the Treatment Services Division to operate like a traditional community or non-governmental based outpatient treatment provider, and by having the ability to respond to funding opportunities quickly. It has grown to where it is no longer a program within the Health District it is a direct service provider in its own right and must have the ability to be nimble and responsive to the needs of the community.

The need for services in Spokane County is great but our ability to expand and grow is limited by the constraints of being organized as a public health special purpose district.

Recommendation:

It is recommended the Administrative Officer be given approval to: 1) conduct a feasibility study which will include a.) identification of impacts on the organization, employees, and community and b.) measure interest of other OTPs to help Treatment Services Division to separate from the SRHD; 2) begin to work through all of the details IF it looks like this idea has merit, and; 3) develop and initiate the Request for Qualification process.