



City Council

Briefing from Thurston County Public Health Department Staff Regarding Opioid Issues and Programs within Thurston County

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Title

Briefing from Thurston County Public Health Department Staff Regarding Opioid Issues and Programs within Thurston County

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a City Council Committee

City Manager Recommendation:

Receive the briefing and ask questions

Report

Issue:

Whether to receive a briefing from Thurston County Public Health staff about opioid issues, concerns, and programs in Thurston County.

Staff Contact:

Steve Hall, City Manager 360.753.8447

Presenter(s):

Schelli Slaughter, Executive Director, Thurston County Public Health

Background and Analysis:

Opioid use and addiction has become a major public health concern throughout the nation. Addiction among some users has led to increased crime, financial ruin, homelessness, and other negative impacts that greatly affect the health and wellbeing of citizens. Many of these related crimes and behaviors are central to a large number of police, fire, and emergency medical calls for service.

Councilmember Jones reached out to Thurston County Public Health and requested that they brief the City Council on these issues. Accordingly, a study session was scheduled.

Thurston County staff will show a Power Point presentation, which covers basic opioid crisis information, the County task force, and the syringe service program. Staff will also answer any

questions.

On a related matter, the City of Olympia has joined a class action lawsuit against the manufacturers and promoters of opioid products seeking damages for the widespread abuse and addiction resulting from these drugs. Thurston County is also party to that legal action.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Opioid use and addiction and resulting criminal behaviors, has far reaching impacts on Olympia residents.

Options:

- Receive the briefing
- Do not receive the briefing

Financial Impact:

No cost for the briefing. Over many years, the City's costs related to calls for service related to opioids addiction are very significant.

Attachments:

None