



December-January 2018

Administrative Updates

Join me in welcoming our new division staff!

Audrey O'Connor RN-BSN joined our team as a Public Health Nurse on November 16, 2017. Audrey specialized in oncology, clinical trials, and on an ethics review board in her nursing career. Originally from California, Audrey has been in Mason County for the past 16 years, and loves the Pacific Northwest. Audrey enjoys tennis, sailing, kayaking, hiking, and wine tasting. She is excited about her new position with Mason County Public Health.



We hired Alison Smallwood into our Community Health Education Specialist position, and she began employment on December 1, 2017. Alison is a recent Master's of Public Health graduate. She is from Cincinnati, OH originally, and moved to Washington in May with her husband Austin who is in the Air Force and stationed at JBLM. During the past month she has been working with Todd Parker in Housing to develop a profile report on the housing and homelessness conditions in Mason County. In addition, Alison has been working with Abe and Christina in the Opioid Response program to create potential infographics to be disseminated throughout the county. Lastly, she has been researching and beginning to collect data to update our Mason County Community Health Assessment.

Christina Muller-Shinn accepted the part-time Community Health Program Assistant position, joining our Opiate Drug Overdose Prevention Program team on January 2, 2018. Christina comes to us with over 5 years working in overdose prevention and response and substance use counseling and developed a volunteer and community outreach program at a needle exchange program in California. She holds BS & BA degrees in Ecology studies. She resides in North Mason County and enjoys being active in the Pacific Northwest.



We said good-bye on December 29, 2017 to our Public Health Nurse, Shannon Severeid who took a position in Thurston County to serve Lewis County NFP clients as part of the move of Mason County's NFP program to the new regional HUB located in Thurston County.

Our County and department has been truly blessed to have Elizabeth Custis, our veteran Public Health Nurse of 13 ½ years, Maternal-Health Child Program lead, NFP home visitor and Supervisor, remain in Mason County and not move on Thurston County with the NFP program. She will be working on developing some new community programs in Maternal-Child Health with community partners.

Communicable Disease & Notifiable Conditions (3 programs)

September-October, our **communicable disease (CD) program** nurse received 125 reports requiring data entry into the State database, and/or investigation and follow-up. The categories were as follows: TB- Latent TB Infection (LBTI)-5; Hepatitis B- 1; Hepatitis C -50; Campylobacteriosis- 9; Pertusis- 1; Salmonella -2; Giardia- 1; Lyme Disease (suspect) 1; Mumps (suspect) - 1; Bacterial Meningitis (suspect) -2; Norovirus 1; Influenza A-related death -1; for a **total of 75**. Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD): Chlamydia 41; Gonorrhea 8; Herpes 1; for a **total of 50** and a combined **total of CD/STD = 125**.

Housing

Community lifeline opened their cold weather shelter November 1. This year, for the safety of adults experiencing homelessness, funding allows them to stay open continuously rather than being temperature dependent as in the past. Hypothermia can occur at temperatures at or below 50 degrees when people are wet. They've averaged 28 people per night and have reached the capacity of 35 twice so far. Females have accounted for about 25% of the nightly residence. It has been reported in the newspapers that the Shelton Police have experienced a 50% reduction in nightly calls since the shelter opened.

The Veterans House has a service provider and began tenant occupancy in October. Of the three bedrooms, two have been occupied consistently.

The Veteran Stand Down occurred on November 18. 80 total people received supplies, food and were connected to services. 17 were counted as homeless this year compared with 21 last year.

Transportation for veterans to American Lake and other places for medical treatment is an identified need. We are working with Mason Transit Authority and have created a community van program funded by the Lions Club for veterans. The next step is for the veteran organizations to obtain a volunteer driver pool and identify the weekly usage to start this service.

The annual Point in Time Homeless Census Count is January 25. This year we are adding a separate youth event and the veterans organization will also be open for services this day.

For all of Mason County, the table summarizes households that have experienced a housing crisis and contacted one of two entry points for Coordinated Entry (Shelton – Crossroads Housing and Belfair – North Mason Resources):

How many people experienced a housing crisis?				
Coordinated Entry	July - August	Sept - October	Nov - Dec	6 month total
People	174	156	74	404
Households	72	69	39	180
Children	76	64	22	162
Male	70	56	35	161
Female	103	98	39	240
Veteran	10	10	6	26
Chronically Homeless	18	11	7	36
Literally Homeless	75	56	35	166
Top Reasons for Homelessness				
Can't find affordable housing				
Fleeing DV / Family Crisis				
Job Loss				

Mental Health

BHR and Community Youth services continue to serve youth. Northwest Resources SOS program continues to serve adults with Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) challenges. Performance reports are due January 10, 2018 and more data on the numbers served for the last quarter of 2017 will be available at the next BOH meeting.

Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention

The **Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition**, supported by our substance abuse prevention grant, holds regular meetings the second Wednesday of each month from 4:00-5:30 pm at the Shelton Library. The coalition is currently working on topics such as ensuring that we are able to continue our Rx Drug Take Back Boxes and policy development that reduces sales of alcohol and marijuana to minors.

Ben attended the Annual Substance Abuse Prevention Conference in Yakima in mid-November. He has provided information to the WA State Prevention Certification Board for re-certification of his Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist certification, a requirement of the Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery Grant.

The Prevention Education Partners (PEP) Coalition and Mason County Public Health are currently partnering with The Shelton SADD Club to provide a Promising Practice Media Awareness Education program in the Shelton School District. A partnership with The Family Education Support Services that provides an Evidence Based Prevention Parenting education program in Shelton has been contracted for this grant cycle.

The Drug Take Back Boxes are another project of the Shelton Prevention Education Partners Coalition. In 2016, 1,556 pounds of medications were collected. In 2017, over 1,600 pounds were collected.

The **Opioid Overdose Program** activities over the past two months include:

- Held community workshop on November 30th to educate the community about overdose response protocol as well as Naloxone. Attendees included; social workers, active using community and concerned citizens
- Held on-site Opioid workshop hosted by Skokomish HOPE/Health Clinic 11/29. Attendees included; tribal police officers/chief, health clinic employees, teachers and tribal members.
- Dispersed 600 revised Mason County Substance Abuse Resource Guides
- Received two calls on CHPA work cell phone from community members seeking Mason County recovery resources
- Dispersed 64 Naloxone kits into community
- Fliers for opioid workshop and new support group ran in Squaxin Island Kla'che'min Newsletter
- Held Opioid Forum in North Mason 11/15 80+ppl attended
- Connected with Consejo Counseling and Referral Service/Northwest Resources to have representative at community workshops to connect people to treatment options
- Coordinated with Timberland Regional Library to have Opioid workshop in January
- Connected with Squaxin Island Behavioral health office about resources and the possibility of them hosting an Opioid workshop in 2018
- Coordinated with Mason Transit to have a table at the downtown depot to provide recovery resources as well as Naloxone kits, starting on January 10th, 2018
- Connected with North Mason Regional Fire Authority to begin receiving overdose reports of those that refuse to be transported to hospital
- Connected with Sheriff's office to receive reports of suspected overdose as well as Naloxone saves

Maternal-Child Health (MCH)

The **Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)** program provides case management and resource support for families with children who have serious physical, behavioral or emotional conditions that require health and related services beyond those required by children generally. In 2017, we provided services for 55 families. Many of these families required assistance with the Medicaid transportation system for medical appointments. By providing linkage and referrals, families can more easily access the care children need.

Emergency Preparedness

Lydia Buchheit attended the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference the last week of November in San Diego, California with the Region 3 Health Care Coalition Executive Committee. Some of the topics of the courses attended included, Response to Botulism Outbreak, Lessons learned in the 2017 Hurricanes, Local Coalition Efforts to Maintain readiness for High Consequence Infections Diseases, Developing Innovative Local Health Emergency Preparedness Infrastructures, and Medical Countermeasures Planning.