

July 25, 2016

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION ITEM

SUBJECT

Update on King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Sales Tax-Funded Programs and Proposed Renewal

STAFF CONTACTS

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POLICY ISSUES

The Washington State Legislature passed the Omnibus Mental Health and Substance Abuse Act in 2005 authorizing counties to levy (by councilmanic action), a one-tenth of one percent sales and use tax to fund new mental health, chemical dependency, or therapeutic court services through the Revised Code of WA (RCW) 82.14.460. In 2007, the King County Council enacted the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) sales tax based on this RCW which generates approximately \$53 million annually to fund these services with a sunset date of January 1, 2017. The King County Executive and County Council are considering renewing the MIDD sales tax, referred to as MIDD II.

King County staff will attend tonight's meeting and provide an overview of the outcomes from the first seven years of the MIDD on a countywide basis as well as services provided in Bellevue and East King County. King County staff will also provide a timeline and outline the process to renew the MIDD by the King County Council. Action by the County Council is likely in September.

No Council action is required tonight. This update is intended to provide an opportunity for Council to ask questions and provide feedback and/or direction to staff regarding renewal of the MIDD sales tax.

DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL

<input type="checkbox"/>	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Information

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

Research strongly supports the premise that prevention services and providing recovery programs for people living with mental illness and/or chemical dependency help to reduce unnecessary involvement with the criminal justice and emergency medical systems and has the potential to

ensure that homelessness for these individuals is rare, brief and one-time. These positive outcomes are improved through extensive collaboration between health and human services and criminal justice systems. This collaboration has resulted in significant progress toward addressing the high human toll and financial impacts of mental illness and drug dependency.

Policy goals in the MIDD include:

- A reduction in the number of mentally ill and chemically dependent people using costly interventions, such as jail, emergency rooms and hospitals.
- A reduction of the number of people who recycle through the jail, returning repeatedly as a result of their mental illness or chemical dependency.
- A reduction of the incidence and severity of chemical dependency and mental and emotional disorders in youth and adults.
- Diversion of mentally ill and chemically dependent youth and adults from initial or further justice system involvement.
- Explicit linkage with and furthering the work of other County Council-directed efforts including the Adult and Juvenile Justice Operational Master plans, the Plan to End Homelessness, the Veterans and Human Services Levy Service Improvement Plan, and the King County Mental Health Recovery Plan.

Positive outcomes in a number of service areas have been reported, including a 72% reduction in jail bookings among MIDD clients receiving substance use disorder services between 2011 and 2015. Additionally, significant reductions were seen in Harborview Emergency Department visits.

Governance and Oversight of the MIDD Sales Tax

The MIDD Oversight Committee was established by King County ordinance and is responsible for the ongoing oversight of the MIDD services and programs. It also serves as an advisory body to the King County Executive. The committee is composed of 30 members representing provider agencies, law enforcement, prosecuting attorney, courts, elected officials from jurisdictions in King County, public health and many others. The City of Bellevue has a seat on this committee and is represented by Councilmember Lynne Robinson. Emily Leslie, Human Services Manager, and Alex O'Reilly, Associate Planner, in the City's Parks and Community Services Department, serve as alternates on this committee. The County's Department of Community and Human Services is accountable for financial oversight and reporting for the MIDD.

Services funded by the MIDD that benefit Bellevue/East King County Residents

The MIDD sales tax has funded over 30 programs/strategies to address the required policy goals that provide services throughout King County. Some of these strategies are countywide, such as the Geriatric Regional Assessment Team, sited on the Eastside at Evergreen Health in Kirkland, and Crisis Intervention Training for First Responders, which has been utilized by Bellevue Police Department staff. Other strategies have provided funding for agencies providing services to Bellevue/East King County residents specifically, such as a mental health counselor at LifeWire, an agency that serves survivors of domestic violence, and HERO House, a "club house" model day and employment center for people with chronic mental illnesses, both of which are located in Bellevue. King County staff will provide more specific examples in their presentation at tonight's

meeting highlighting services that benefit Bellevue/East King County residents.

Alignment with the Best Start for Kids (BSK) Levy

A key area of focus by the King County Department of Community and Human Services in the proposed renewal of the MIDD levy (referred to as MIDD II) is to align strategies with the BSK levy. These efforts included stakeholder meetings and joint community conversations designed to increase collaboration, avoid duplication and ensure that the projects funded by each initiative are working together. Additional mechanisms are being put in place to provide greater efficiency and transparency in evaluations of programs, contracting and reporting.

Proposed Reauthorization of the MIDD (MIDD II)—Service Improvement Plan (SIP) Recommendations

One of the key MIDD II SIP recommendations would organize the service areas into four strategy areas corresponding to a continuum of health care that integrates physical health, mental health and substance abuse services. Sixteen new initiatives have been recommended for MIDD II bringing the total up to 47 initiatives. Several of note that would provide additional services for City of Bellevue and other Eastside residents include: funds for walk-in services for urgent care for mental health issues; the County's Opioid Task Force (Battalion Chief Andy Adolfsen represents Bellevue on this task force); and mental health and substance abuse services for youth and young adults who are experiencing homelessness.

Successful MIDD I programs that have shown good outcomes are also included in the MIDD II SIP, some that are located in East King County, including: mental health counselors co-located at domestic violence programs and Mobile Mental Health Crisis Teams that operate from a van and assist first responders when they encounter possible misdemeanor offenders who appear to be mentally ill.

In addition four new seats will be added to the Oversight Committee, including representatives from the areas of education, managed care, recovery, and philanthropy, bringing added perspectives to the table. Two new members will represent a soon-to-be-created consumers and communities subcommittee. The County's Department of Community and Human Services will continue to be accountable for financial oversight and reporting for the MIDD.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

RECOMMENDATION

N/A

REFERENCES

Mental Illness and Drug Dependency II Service Improvement Plan

http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/community-human-services/MIDD/documents/160617_DRAFT_MIDD_II_Service_Improvement_Plan.ashx?la=en

Mental Illness and Drug Dependency II Funding and Programmatic Recommendations

[http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/mental-health-substance-abuse/midd-plan/~media/depts/community-human-services/MIDD/documents/5,-d-,20 Revised Draft MIDD II Funding and Programmatic Recommendations Distribution.ashx?la=en](http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/mental-health-substance-abuse/midd-plan/~media/depts/community-human-services/MIDD/documents/5,-d-,20_20_Revised_Draft_MIDD_II_Funding_and_Programmatic_Recommendations_Distribution.ashx?la=en)

Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Comprehensive Retrospective Report

[http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/community-human-services/MIDD/documents/160707 MIDD I Comprehensive Retrospective Report.ashx?la=en](http://www.kingcounty.gov/~media/depts/community-human-services/MIDD/documents/160707_MIDD_I_Comprehensive_Retrospective_Report.ashx?la=en)