



We won big in legislative session. Let's keep on winning!

Union meeting and contract distributions!

Hoquiam

April 3
Noon to 1p

Elma

April 3
6p – 7p

Olympia Martin Way

April 4
Children's Yellow Room,
12 – 1p

Shelton

5 – 6p

We'll have pizza, hear more about our longer term plan to win, and get our new contracts.

We will discuss next steps in getting the money advanced through our BHOs to front line staff!



"Now we need to keep our eyes open for the new funding to make its way to the front line staff as the behavioral health organizations allocate the funds — especially since state funds will become available on July 1, 2018! We all know the high value of retaining experienced, competent, and professional front line staff, as well as the importance of recruiting new staff due to attrition (such as retiring staff members)."

Resa Hoiland, Intake Specialist, Child and Family, Martin Way



"Change seldom happens on its own, but our recent legislative wins are proof SEIU Healthcare 1199NW in collaboration natural allies will fight until change does happen!"

Monica Byrd, Child and Family Therapist, Elma



"These funding measures for resources, services, and housing will better enable us to provide quality, timely, and accessible services to those in need in our local community. This kind of legislative support will make a difference on both an individual level and for our community at large."

Molly Bauthues, Adult Therapist, Martin Way

Winning!

Legislative action achieves gains for recruitment and retention, clients, and housing.

Our collective work to bring our issues to the legislature had resulted in real gains that should improve our work lives and the care we deliver to clients. Working with other unions and progressive organizations we:

- Phone banked and door knocked for Manka Dhingra and changed the senate from Republican control to Democratic control.
- Made over 50 visits to legislators on Lobby Day and bringing our stories and our expertise to the legislative process.
- Followed up with emails.
- Attended Town Hall meetings

The Legislature responded to our message that behavioral health needed substantial new investment to recruit and retain staff, create more opportunities for housing, and address the Opioid epidemic.

What we won:

1. 70 million in new funding for the community (allocated by population). The BHO will determine the allocation of funds (Medicaid/non-medicaid).
2. 15 million more for IMD (Institution for Mental Disease) funding to support inpatient (over 16 beds).
3. 15 million to help with crisis services and the transition to integrated health systems.
4. 15 million for the opioid and substance abuse epidemic including medication assisted treatment.
5. Instructing an opening of the Medicaid plan on behavioral health to include services that are currently provided but are not reimbursed — including peer support specialists and drop in centers.

Housing:

1. Document recording fee to fund homelessness housing, equally \$300 million for new housing.
2. New bill to eliminate barriers for clients under safety net systems aging, blind, disabled so that they can access housing and essential needs programs if they are eligible, without losing previous eligibility in previous program.
3. With the leadership if the Washington Low Income Housing Authority landlords are banned from income discrimination so that tenants using vouchers are not denied housing.

De-escalation Initiative 940 and clarifying bill 3003 passed as a result of negotiations with law enforcement.

- Eliminates the de-facto immunity for when a police officer uses deadly force and puts in place a more clear and concise definition of good faith as an objective standard.
- Creates accountable processes with community stakeholders for de-escalation training of law enforcement officers.
- Provides clarification that first aid to those injured due to police action should have access to first aid at the earliest safe opportunity.

Our work now moves to making sure the behavioral health organizations that fund our agencies pass through the money from the legislature to front line staff. We will work with member leaders to develop strategies in these areas. State money becomes available July 1, 2018.



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