

Clark County, WA Mental Health Sales Tax

**Work Session presented to the Clark County Council
Clark County, WA**

Presented by:

Jim Rumpeltes, Interim County Manager

Vanessa Gaston, Director of Community Services

Emily Zwetzig, Budget Office Analyst

January 31, 2018



Work Session goal

For the County Manager to receive permission from the Clark County Council to designate a Mental Health Sales Tax Advisory Board that will:

- Create a formal process for collecting and evaluating new funding requests
- Provide advisory input to the county manager as he develops his recommended budget to the Clark County Council



Agenda

- Background, legal statute, tax rate & permissible uses
- Overview of mental health sales tax revenues
 - ✓ History and forecast of revenues and expenditures
 - ✓ Expenditure overview
 - ✓ Fund balance reserve considerations
- Task Force recommendations
- Discussion & Clark County Council feedback



Background

- Legislature passed E2SSB-5763 into law in 2005
 - The purpose is to address increasing numbers of individuals with mental health disorders, substance use and co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders.
 - The 1/10th of 1% sales tax was subsequently enacted to provide support and services to this population.



Background cont.

- Clark County passed a countywide one tenth of one percent treatment sales tax in 2007 and created a community task force to help the County determine which programs to fund in 2008.
- Funds may only be spent after appropriation by the Clark County Council.



Criteria outlined in RCW 82.14.460

RCW 82.14.460: Sales and use tax for substance use and mental health treatment services or therapeutic courts

- Must serve County resident where sales tax collected
- Must be a connection to behavioral health (mental health and substance use)
- Eligible program areas are intervention, treatment, aftercare, outreach, support services such as housing, transportation, case management, and prevention (as of 2013)
- Support new or expanded programs
- Service and operation delivery for therapeutic courts
- Funding is meant to be flexible
- After 2016, no supplanting is allowed, only expansion or development of new programs and services



Factors to consider

- Ensure community continuum of care is functional by maximizing local resources with other funding sources to address service gaps within the behavioral health system.
- Address any potential changes coming from Federal and State Government.



Current Status

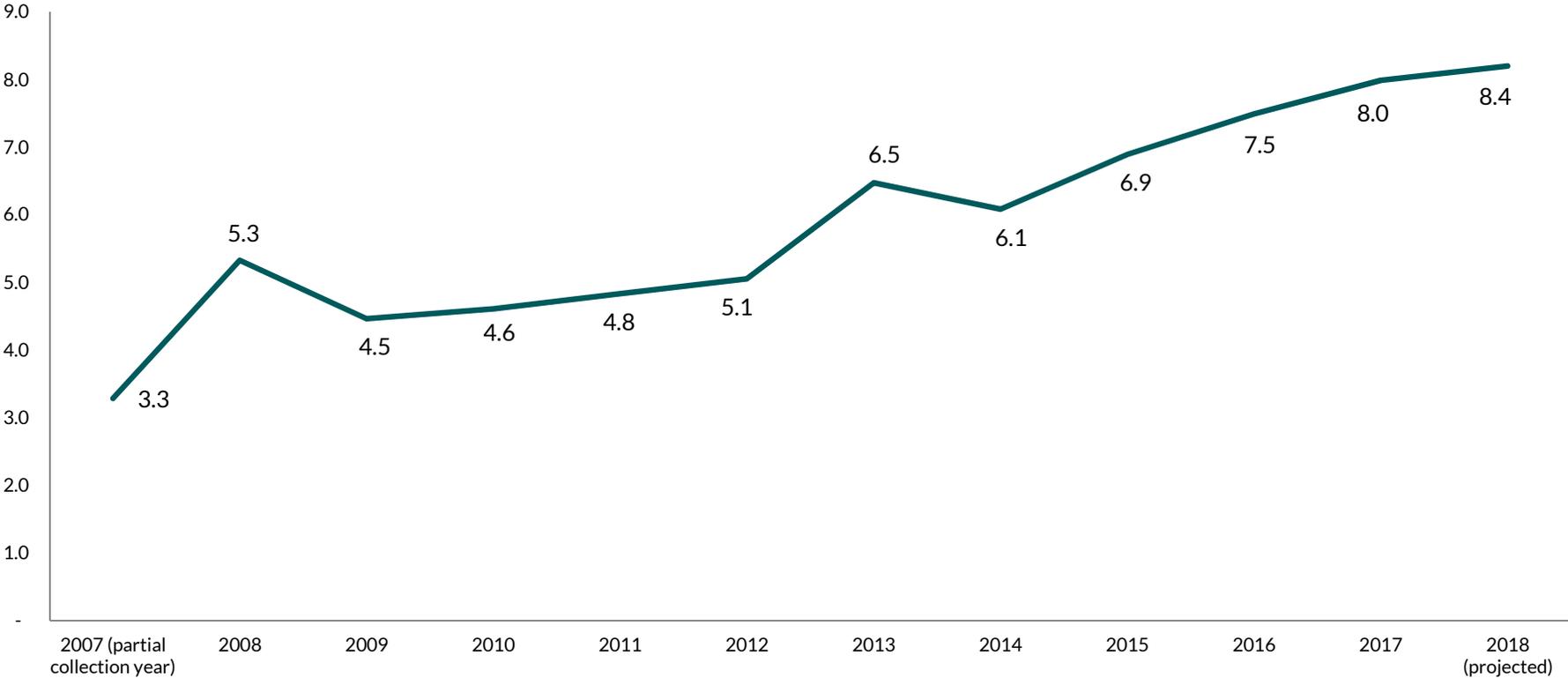
The following stakeholders receive mental health sales tax dollars on an on-going or one-time basis:

- Community Services
- Public Health
- District Court
- Superior Court
- Sheriff's Office
- Clerk's Office
- Juvenile
- Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Indigent Defense
- City of Vancouver Prosecuting Attorney



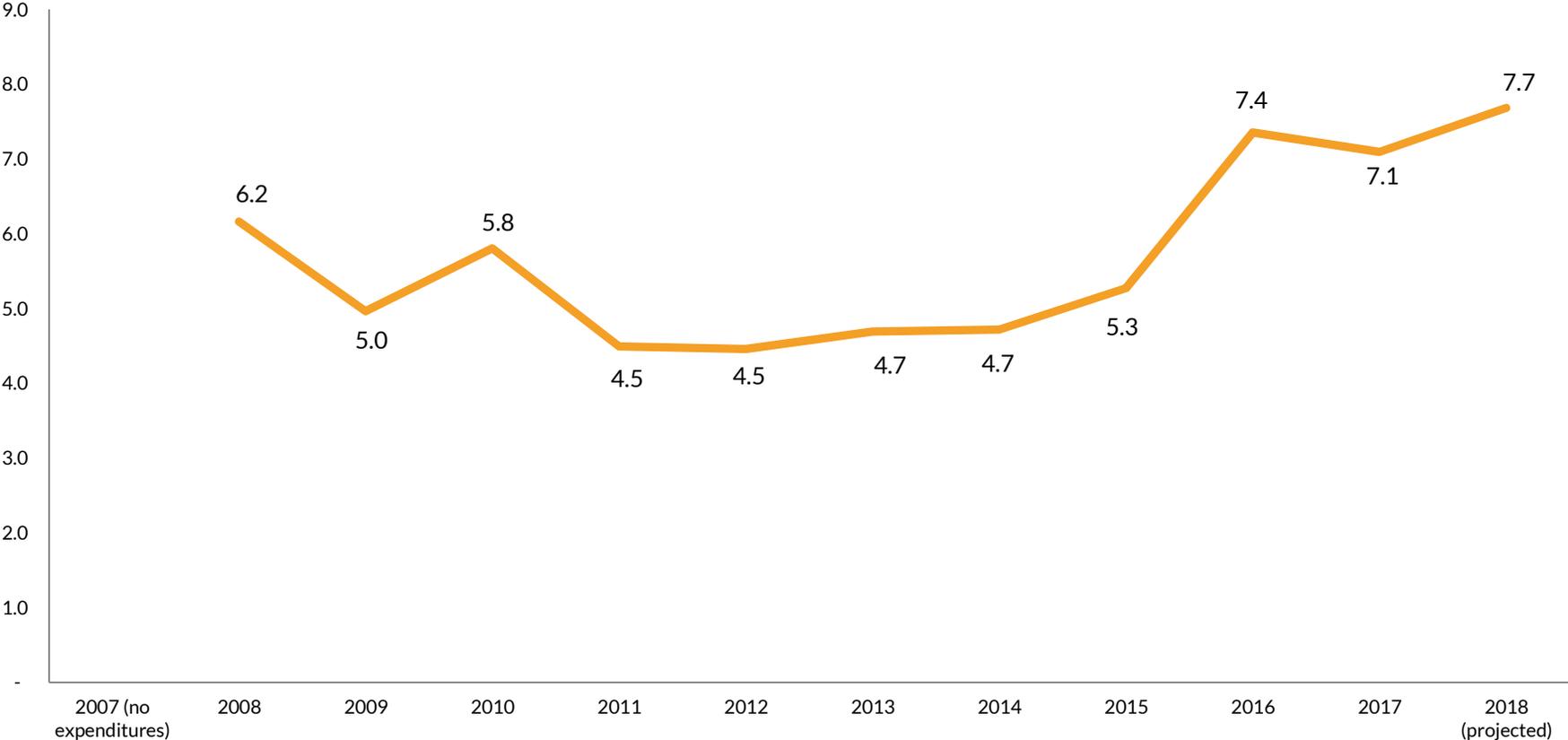
Annual mental health sales tax revenues (millions)

Sales tax is very sensitive to economic trends and therefore volatile. Revenues are forecasted at \$8.4 million in 2018.



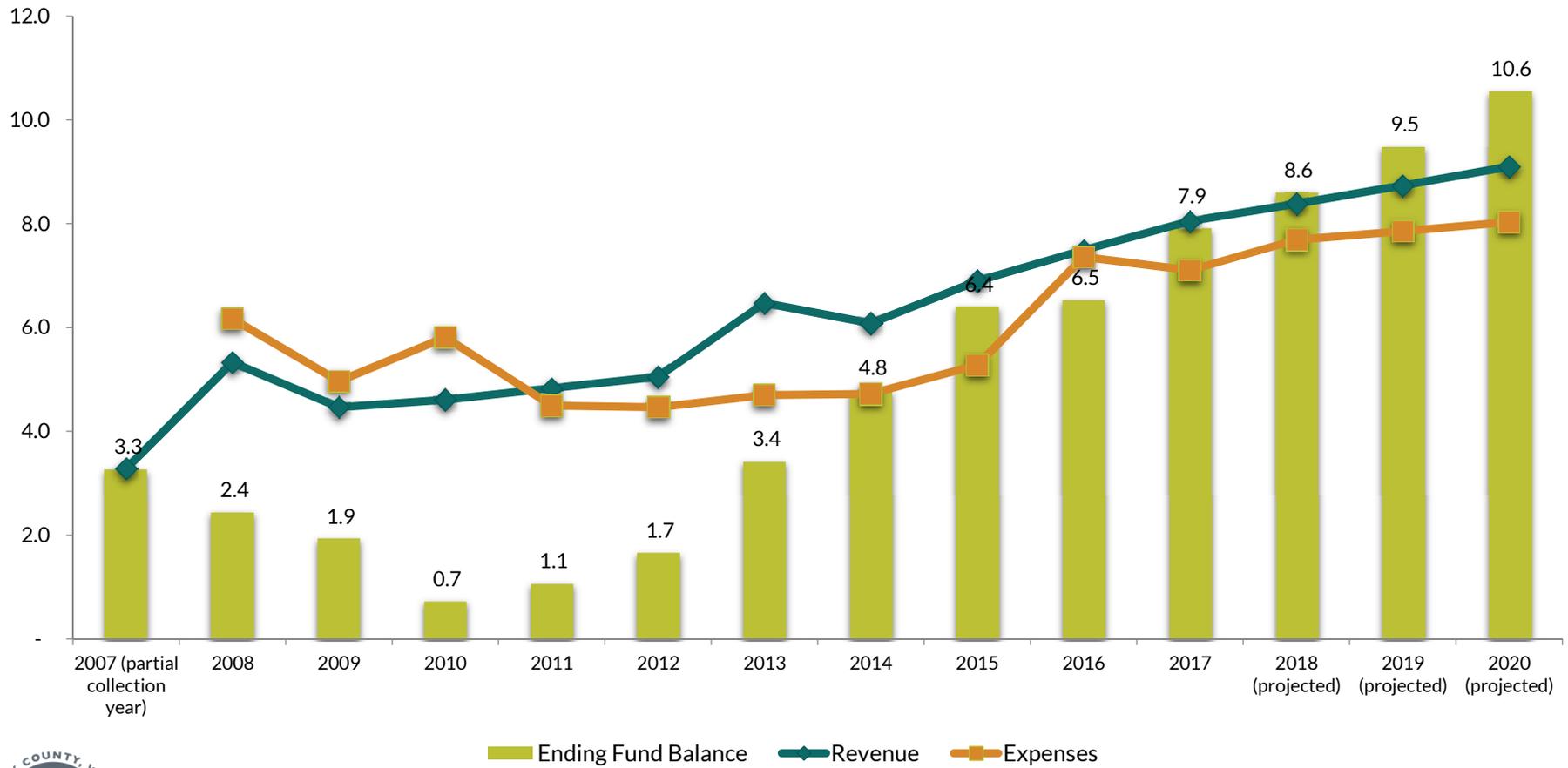
Annual mental health sales tax expenditures (millions)

Expenses are forecasted at \$7.7 million in 2018.



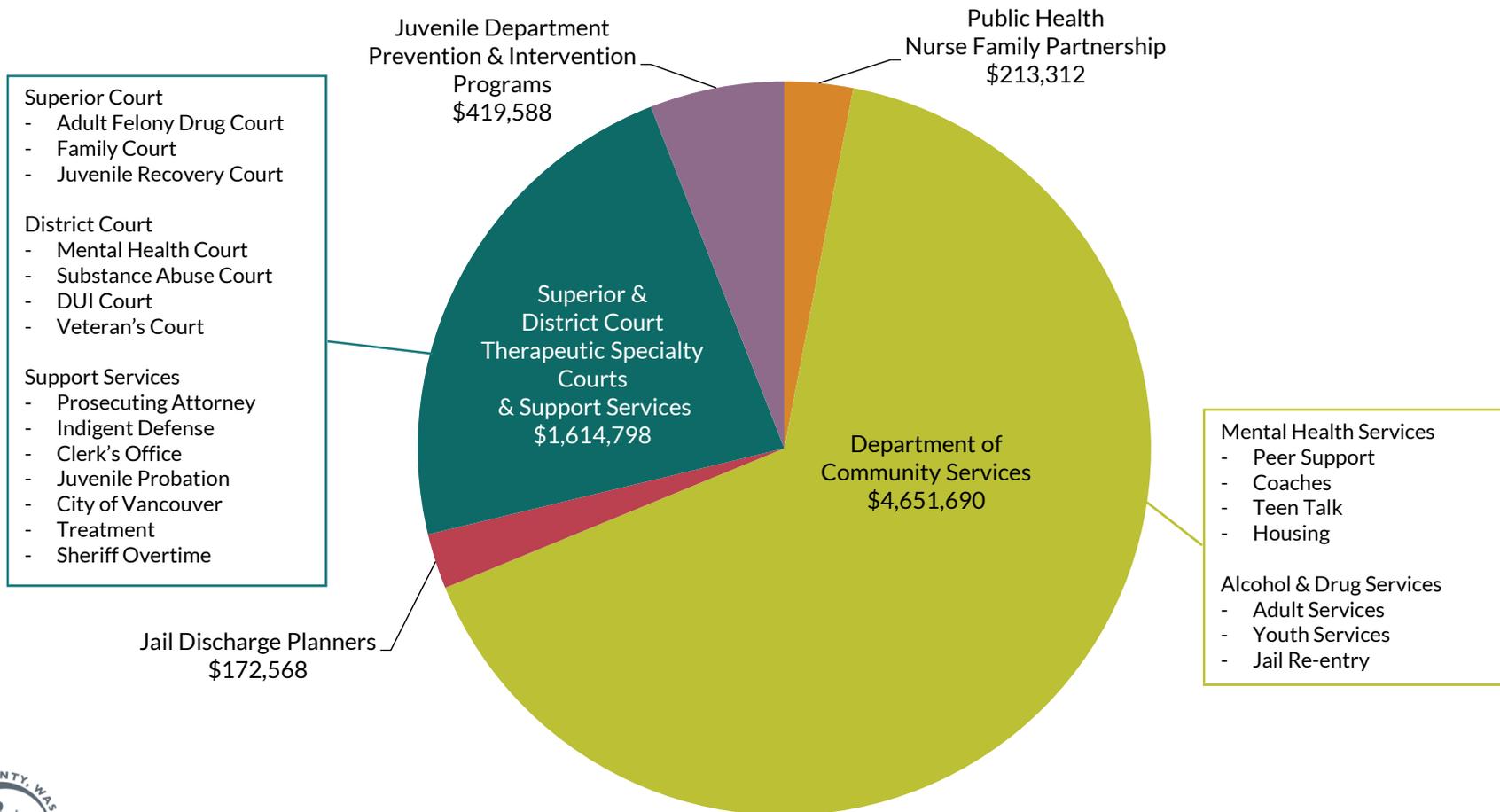
Fund balance history & forecast (in millions)

Ending fund balance is forecasted at \$8.6 million in 2018.



Annual mental health sales tax cost of programs and services

The 2017 annual expense budget totaled \$7.1 million and supported many key programs and services within the county.



Mental health sales tax fund reserve policy

Important considerations for adequate mental health sales tax fund reserves include:

- sufficient cash for quarterly transfers to Community Services
- the volatility of the revenue
- existing funding obligations to continue multi-year program services for clients currently in treatment, should revenue decline



Task Force created

In early 2017, a task force was established by the former County Manager, with support of the County Chair, to recommend guiding principles and criteria to the Clark County Council to help in the decision-making process to prioritize awards for new funding requests.

Task Force participants:

- Chair Marc Boldt-Clark County Council
- Honorable James Rulli-Superior Court Judge
- Vanessa Gaston- Community Services
- DeDe Sieler-Community Services
- Dr. Alan Melnick-Public Health
- Brad Alberts-District Court
- Christine Simonsmeier-Juvenile Justice



Task Force recommendations

- Create an on-going Advisory Board consisting of subject matter experts to assess new mental health sales tax funding requests and provide qualitative feedback to the county manager on highest and best uses for new funding appropriation
- The Advisory Board should be made up of representatives from original Task Force consortium
- The Advisory Board would collect and evaluate new funding requests and present recommendations to the county manager as he develops his recommended budget to the Clark County Council



Suggested criteria for approval of new funding requests

- Align with Clark County Council priorities for use of funding
- Payer of last resort no other funding available
- No supplanting of expenses per State law
- Data available to support need
- Best Practice/Research based preferred
- No duplication of services
- Performance outcomes identified
- Serve low income at-risk populations
- Should align with the County's values identified in the Strategic Plan
- Ability to leverage other funding
- Program/Service should be accessible to all County residents



Clark County Council discussion

- Questions / Clarifications
- Advisory Board feedback





Clark County Mental Health Sales Tax Program Descriptions

Public Health

Nurse Family Partnership

The Nurse Family Partnership is an evidence-based, intensive home visiting program for high risk, first time pregnant women, beginning during pregnancy and continuing until the child is aged 2. More than half of the clients are teenagers, all are low income, and most have mental health or substance use disorders. The nurses assess their clients for depression, stress, anxiety and substance use, provide education and referrals for life skills development, substance use disorder treatment and mental health services, and they provide crisis intervention related to housing, domestic violence and mental health issues. Results include a 67% reduction in childhood behavioral and intellectual problems by age 6, and a 59% reduction in juvenile arrests by age 15.

Department of Community Services

Behavioral Health Community Based Treatment

Funds accessible behavioral health treatment by contracted providers for individuals with income at or below 220% of the Federal Poverty Level who do not meet criteria for any other insurance coverage. Contracted services include the Coaches program which is specialized training and support to children in meth affected families based on the results obtained through neuropsychological testing. Other contracted services include detox, substance use inpatient and outpatient treatment and treatment-related services for low-income and indigent Clark County residents not eligible for Medicaid or other insurance and may be involved in a therapeutic specialty court.

Behavioral Health Recovery Support Services

Provides support services for individuals seeking treatment for substance use problems, including short-term rental assistance for clean and sober housing, jail re-entry services, peer-to-peer services, parenting classes and life skills training. Behavioral Health peer to peer services include the WarmLine operating every evening offering someone to talk to when dealing with a crisis, REACH Center offers a safe and sober place to receive self-help classes, recovery groups, trainings, volunteer opportunities, social activities, computer classes, etc., and the Val Ogdan Center which provides assistance for education, employment and referrals to community resources.

Youth Behavioral Health Prevention

Improves health of youth by planning and administering behavioral health programs that address the prevention of substance abuse and violence and the promotion of mental health and healthy relationships. Programs operate under a strength-based, youth-driven system of care. Programs include Teen Talk, Safe Communities Task Force, Strong Teens Against Substance Hazards and Abuse (STASHA) and Mentoring 4 Results.

Behavioral Health Housing Support

Provides housing support services for individuals with behavioral health disorders who are experiencing chronic homelessness to aid their move into permanent housing. Includes short-term rental assistance, case management, outreach, creation of housing units, etc.

Superior Court Therapeutic Specialty Courts & Support Services

Clark County Adult Drug Court

The mission of the Clark County Adult Drug Court is to provide effective substance abuse and/or co-occurring treatment services to eligible non-violent felony offenders whom are determined to be at high risk to reoffend if underlying disorders are not treated, thereby reducing crime and improving the quality of life and safety in our community. By providing behavioral health treatment, skill-building classes, recovery support services and court supervision, the participants take accountability for their actions and allow precious resources to be reallocated to provide an effective alternative to traditional prosecution and incarceration of non-violent/non-sex felony level offenders and reduce costs within the County's criminal justice system. Drug Court currently receives federal grant funding through 2020 with an evaluation component.

Family Treatment Court

The Family Treatment Court program focuses on child dependency cases and is designed to improve the safety and well-being of children in the dependency system. Through a collaborative approach, several community agencies partner with the child welfare and court system to provide comprehensive and individualized services for parents and their families. Family Treatment Court complies with the RCW 82.14.460 mandate to operate a therapeutic court for dependency proceedings designed to be effective for the court's size, location, and resources. The goals are to increase reunification of children with their parents; decrease length of time children spend as dependents; increase recovery and stability of parents and decrease re-entry of family into child protective services. Family Treatment Court currently is receiving federal funds through 2022 with an evaluation component.

Juvenile Recovery Court

Clark County Juvenile Recovery Court is a program focused on reducing substance abuse and criminal behavior in youth while increasing personal responsibility through intense court intervention and treatment. Juveniles struggling with substance abuse and/or co-occurring mental health disorders facing legal charges are offered the opportunity to enter behavioral health treatment as well as a variety of additional services, like education programs, family counseling, job training, mental health services, and recreational/ prosocial activities. Throughout the program, building skills and putting together a network of support is emphasized.

Juvenile Recovery Court Probation Counselors

1.5 FTE provide intense supervision services to moderate/high risk youth experiencing significant chemical dependency issues. Regular duties include: weekly contact with youth, family and team; support and engagement with youth and family focused on treatment and recovery, academic and prosocial life skills; perform home, school and community contacts and referrals, weekly team staffing and court recommendations.

Juvenile Department Prevention & Intervention Programs

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program

This is a 12 month psychology fellowship program that provides two doctoral candidates the opportunity to complete required hours for licensure. Fellows work under the supervision of our Clinical Psychologist and provide services to youth by performing psychological assessments/evaluations, as well as individual and group counseling/therapy, that support treatment plans, school interventions and court recommendations. Fellows support detention staff with behavioral management plans for in-custody high risk youth with significant behavioral/mental health disorders. This program is a partnership with Evergreen School District where fellows spend half of their hours at various schools within the district providing similar community based services with the idea of targeting at risk youth before they reach the juvenile justice system.

Detention Alternative Programs

4 Probation Associate positions staff community based detention alternatives designed for youth who are a low risk to community safety. Youth experience meaningful accountability through pro-social community service, skill building and evidenced based intervention programming. Clark County offers three forms of

alternatives: 1) Community Support, an enhanced house arrest program that support pre-sentenced youth and their families 7 days a week with extended evening hours; 2) Weekend Reporting, a community based program providing skill building classes and community service for 8 hours a day every weekend, and 3) Extended Weekend Reporting, an expanded Weekend Reporting Program scheduled from Friday through Monday with similar programming to Weekend Reporting. 60% of youth referred to detention alternatives have been diagnosed with mental health and/or substance abuse issues.

District Court Therapeutic Specialty Courts & Support Services

Mental Health Court

Mental Health Court diverts defendants with significant mental illness out of jail and reduces cycling through the criminal justice system by connecting the participants with services for their mental health needs. The program is a minimum of 16 months in length and is offered to offenders with a primary diagnosis of a serious mental illness. Participants appear in court frequently based on compliance and progress through the four-phase system. While participating in the MHC, they will receive case management assistance that can help refer them to other community services such as housing assistance, inpatient and/or outpatient treatment services, medication management, help applying for benefits, or job training assistance.

Beginning 01/01/2018, MHC transitioned to a pre-plea program. Up to 15 Superior Court clients may be brought into the court. Those who successfully complete the program will have the benefit of not having a conviction on their records.

Substance Abuse Court

For those who admit to having a drug and/or alcohol problem and want to make changes in their lives, the Substance Abuse Court (SAC) may be the answer. Through a coordinated strategy of court personnel, probation staff, and treatment providers, participants will receive drug and alcohol evaluation, treatment, and supervision to help make healthier choices.

The year long, post-conviction program is designed into four phases. Through the use of incentives and sanctions, the SAC team will monitor and help guide participants to keep on track with court and probation conditions, as well as head in the right direction of program completion. The court setting is designed to promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and reduce cycle of addiction.

DUI Court

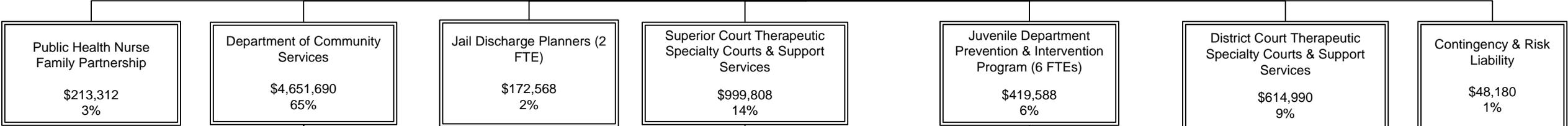
DUI Court is an accountability court dedicated to changing the behavior of hardcore DUI offenders. The goal is to protect public safety by using the highly successful Drug Court model that uses accountability and long-term treatment. Clark County's DUI Court began in October 2017 as an offshoot of Substance Abuse Court. Clients with two or more DUI convictions are now channeled into DUI Court rather than SAC. While the two programs have much in common with their phase structure, DUI Court also offers support accessing the enhanced driver's license restoration program, alternative transportation goal setting and planning, and free Decision Points-DUI cognitive behavioral therapy.

Veterans Court

Clark County's Veterans Therapeutic Court provides a means to successfully rehabilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to lead productive and law-abiding lives through treatment, rehabilitative programming, reinforcement and judicial monitoring.

The post-conviction program is an alternative treatment and sentencing option for defendants suffering from an underlying substance abuse and/or co-occurring mental illness and facing misdemeanor criminal charges. Veterans are identified early through specialized screening tools. They must voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan developed by a team of court staff, probation and law enforcement officers, veteran resource professionals, and treatment professionals. The program is divided into four phases and is a minimum of one year in length.

Fund 1033 (Mental Health)
2017 Expense Budget
\$7,120,137



Behavioral Health Community Based Treatment
\$2,382,868

Behavioral Health Recovery Support Services
\$931,000

Behavioral Health Youth Prevention
\$662,822

Behavioral Health Housing Support
\$675,000

ADULT FELONY DRUG COURT
FAMILY COURT
JUVENILE RECOVERY COURT
\$999,808

Superior Court Staff
(3 FTEs - 0.75 judge,
1 coordinator,
1 admin assistant,
0.75 judicial assistant, plus
CASA advocate)
\$405,997

Support Services
\$593,811

County Prosecuting Attorney
\$188,110

Indigent Defense
\$145,505

Sheriff Overtime
\$8,600

Clerk's Office (1 FTE)
\$65,536

Juvenile Recovery Court (1.5 Probation Officers)
\$186,060

Mental Health Post-Doctoral Program (2 Psychologists)

Detention Alternative Program (4 Juvenile Associates)

SUBSTANCE ABUSE COURT
VETERAN'S COURT
MENTAL HEALTH COURT
DUI COURT
\$614,990

District Court Staff (3.5 FTEs -
.5 commissioner,
1 coordinator,
.5 judicial assistant, .5
probation officer,
1 program associate)
\$424,578

Support Services
\$190,412

County Prosecuting Attorney
\$62,704

Indigent Defense
\$55,129

City of Vancouver Prosecuting Attorney (1.5 FTE)
\$72,579