



CITY OF POULSBO

HOUSING, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Housing, Health and Human Services Department considers matters related to the health and well-being of Poulsbo residents, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations.

The Department was added to the City in 2020 as a way to strengthen the City's social safety net and improve services to residents. The Department supports programs and partnerships that address four community needs:

1

Affordable, emergency, and supportive housing

2

Low barrier behavioral health services

3

Public health and equitable access to health services

4

Services for individuals with low and limited income across age groups, with a focus on vulnerable seniors





2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nordic Cottage Project

- Continued partnership with Housing Kitsap to build two four-unit homes for older adults with low/fixed incomes
 - Plans submitted and unanimously approved by Planning Commission and City Council
 - Agreement reached with Gateway Fellowship to provide 10 units of parking for Cottage residents
 - General contractor will be selected early in 2024 with work to begin late Spring
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Senior CARES Program

- H3 worked with AMFM Healthcare to employ the City's first Senior Specialist
- Senior Specialist assisted individuals 65 and over using 911 to address health and social needs (referrals from Fire CARES); worked with caregivers and families
- Office hours held for community members seeking information on senior resources
- H3 developed a volunteer program connecting volunteers to elderly Poulsbo residents who are struggling with isolation; currently 5 volunteers participating.



Poulsbo & Central Kitsap Fire CARES program

- H3 provided project management for two fire department programs partnering social workers with firefighters/EMTs
- Fire CARES helps individuals using 911 to address behavioral health issues and chronic health conditions
- Programs connect individuals to community services and reduce the impact of non-emergency calls on first responders
- Programs assisted over 700 unique individuals and reduced emergency room usage



Mobile Home Park Cleanup

- In May the City was notified by Poulsbo Mobile Home Park residents that evictions might occur if exteriors were not cleaned up; many residents have limited English skills and limited income.
- H3 worked with Park owner/managers and Fishline, Peninsula Support Organization Bluebills, Kitsap Community Resources and dozens of volunteers to clean up and renovate
- City of Poulsbo allocated \$15,000 from affordable housing fund towards clean up efforts
- North Kitsap Fishline provided 45 households with \$500 in rent relief and case management services

Recovery Resource Center

- Poulsbo Recovery Resource center opened October 2023 to provide a friendly, low barrier place for people to access recovery services; works closely with courts and police to encourage diversion from criminal justice system
- Partnership with Poulsbo Police Department, Poulsbo Municipal Court, and multiple community agencies/providers
- Open house days Mondays and Thursdays with walk in services including peer support, nursing, substance use disorder evaluations, mental health appointment assistance and counseling. Connection to a prescriber for medications for opioid use and alcohol disorders also available.



2023 Grants

- Department of Commerce grant for Fire CARES operations 2023-2023 (\$194,000)
- Kitsap County Treatment Tax grant for Fire CARES operations (\$63,150)
- Olympic Community of Health grant for Recovery Resource Center 2023-2024 (\$200,000)
- Bainbridge Community Foundation for Mobile Home Park Community Building (\$1500)

Severe Weather Shelter at Gateway Fellowship

H3 worked with the County and Gateway Fellowship to ensure opening of local cold weather shelter in 2023-2024. Scheduling coordinator hired, training for volunteers held, ongoing support for operations.

Working groups

Recovery Housing Working Group—members from Bainbridge Island City Council, Kitsap County Health and Human Services, city staff, and social service providers. Goal of group: explore concept of recovery residence and feasibility in North Kitsap. Met three times in 2023.

Responders and Providers—representatives from North Kitsap police and fire agencies and behavioral health service providers. Goal of group: strengthen connections between first responders, co-responders, and providers. Met three times in 2023.



OTHER PARTNERSHIPS

- Agreement with Kitsap Homes of Compassion to support 3 homes in Poulsbo for people at risk of homelessness
- Agreement with Coffee Oasis to operate Nelson House for young women at risk of homelessness
- Agreement with Fishline to provide emergency rental assistance
- Support of AMFM Healthcare in their effort to create a residential treatment home

2024 WORK PLAN

H3 will work with Council, in 2024 to identify programs and goals. Work already underway includes:

Senior CARES Program expansion

Work with Parks and Rec to launch adaptable tricycle program with County grant funds; two electric side by side seat bikes for people with mobility issues to ride in downtown Poulsbo
Increase phone buddy program from 5 participants to 20

Recovery Residences

Continue to explore recovery residences concept and its usefulness in Poulsbo; enhance efforts of Recovery Resource Center and provide opportunities for meaningful work and vocational training

Recovery Resource Center

Staffing increase to allow 4 days of walk-in services (currently open for 2)