



# Whatcom County Behavioral Health Funds

## Annual Report 2017

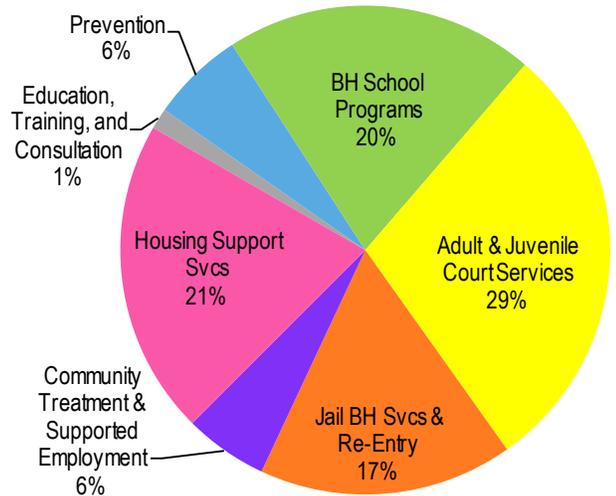
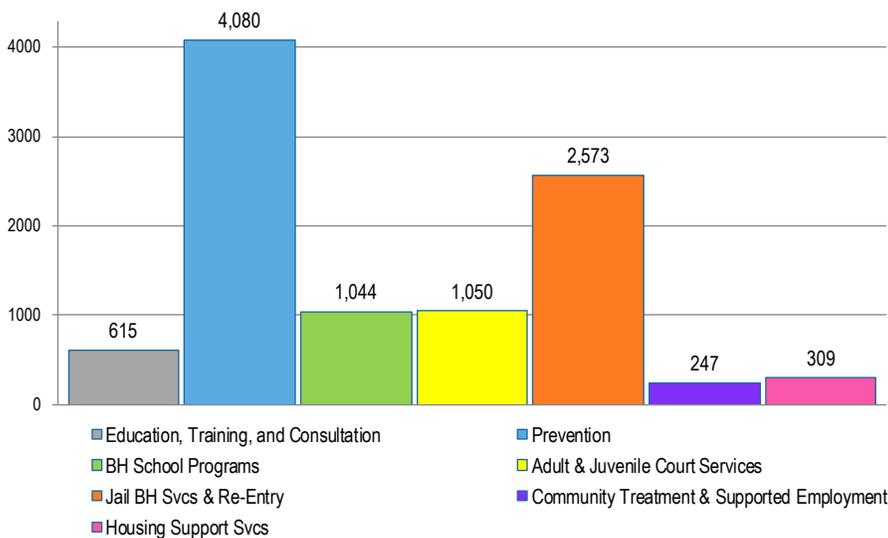
### Manager's Comments:

Whatcom County struggles with the same challenges that are experienced nationwide: an increase in homelessness and addiction, as well as insufficient behavioral health treatment options. We are fortunate to have the behavioral health program fund, supported by a modest local sales tax, to address these issues. Although our local dollars often feel insignificant to impact positive change, we have created forward progress. Working with our community partners in these endeavors has been key to the success we've witnessed. The importance of community partner relationships is also reflected in two of 2017's continuing projects whose foundations were built in consultation with broad groups of stakeholders:

The Whatcom GRACE program is developing to provide coordinated intensive support to individuals unable to improve their health without this level of service. Thus, our GRACE acronym stands for: "Ground-level Response And Coordinated Engagement". The community will launch program operations in 2018 to reduce incarceration for these individuals and improve their health and well-being.

Opiate addiction has taken the promising lives of many loved ones. The majority of Heroin users began their difficult journey with abuse of prescription medication. In 2017 we launched an Opiate awareness and education campaign to prevent illegal access to Opiate prescriptions and curtail initiation into the cycle of abuse and addiction. Visit the community's new website, [www.whatcomhope.org](http://www.whatcomhope.org) to learn more.

Finally, availability of outside funding sources and changes in expenditures left unspent funds from our 2017 budget. This provides an opportunity to invest those dollars into future programs. We look forward to increasing support to Whatcom residents in need of these critical services.



**Total \$3,325,258**  
(see back for budget details)

### VISION AND GOALS

*Develop a comprehensive infrastructure of behavioral health care that will:*

- Provide effective recovery-oriented services that mitigate the need for individuals to default to utilization of the emergency room, hospital beds and the county jail.
- Provide access and availability for intervention and treatment services to individuals who have limited access.
- Promote the provision of services in natural environments in order to reduce the incidence and severity of substance use and mental health disorders.
- Provide interventions that divert individuals with mental health and substance use disorders from the criminal justice system to more appropriate options of care.
- Support young children and families with early interventions and behavioral health promotion.

### 2017 Accomplishments

- Launched a community-wide addiction prevention campaign
- Supported increased access to Medication Assisted Treatment for individuals who are addicted to Opiates
- Added behavioral health support to public defendants
- Expanded behavioral health services in East County
- Increased efforts to reduce emergency responses and incarceration of individuals who are at high risk for frequent and ineffective use of these services
- Supported specialized shelters for homeless individuals who are struggling with behavioral health concerns

# Behavioral Health Sales Tax Fund Annual Report

Year Ending December 31, 2017

Revenue Collected

Expenditures

## Revenue

Sales Tax Collected	\$4,360,409
Interest Earned	\$79,654
Other	\$85,555

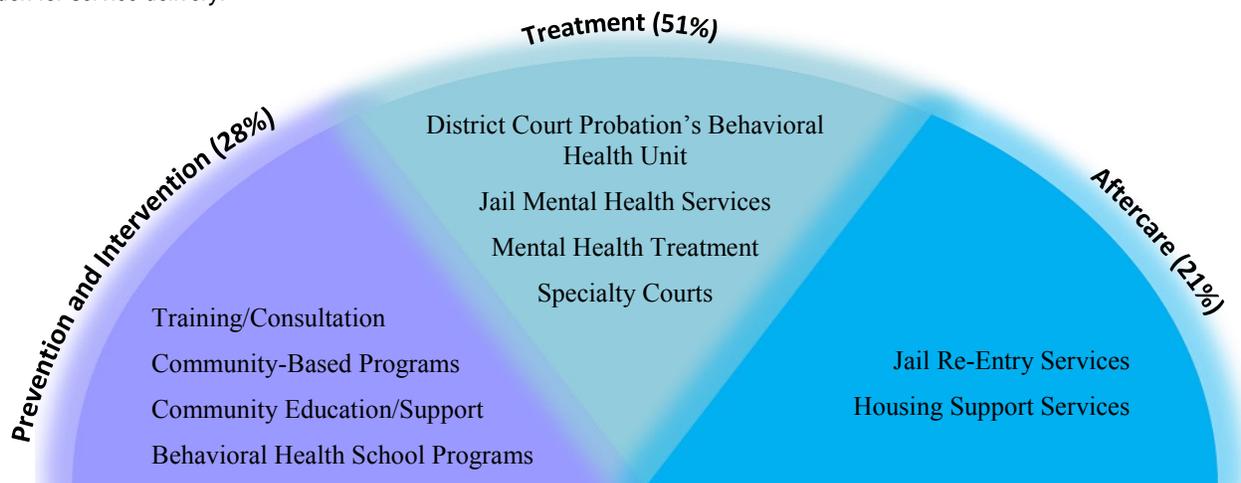
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,525,618</b>
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## Expenditures

Prevention	\$206,675
Behavioral Health School Programs	\$687,509
Education, Training and Consultation	\$46,590
Court Services	\$959,815
Jail Behavioral Health Services and Re-Entry Services	\$546,002
Community Treatment and Supported Employment	\$185,506
Housing Support Services	\$693,161
<b>Program Services Total</b>	<b>\$3,325,258</b>
Direct Program Support	\$41,601
Administrative Costs	\$284,445
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,651,304</b>

## PITA Continuum

The PITA model continues to serve as the framework for creating a comprehensive foundation for service delivery.



**Behavioral Health is Essential to Health!**

**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND HEALTHIER WHATCOM COUNTY