Lovick to convene mental-health advisory panel

Snohomish County Executive John Lovick will convene a mental-health panel this summer tasked with finding ways to improve county services for mental-health needs.

Panel members will make recommendations to the county on steps it can take to improve its own programs as well as how it funds other programs throughout the county.

“We must find new ways to offer mental-health services to everybody,” Lovick said. “Right now, there are more people in need than we’re able to help as a community.”

The Snohomish County’s Executive Office is currently accepting letters of interest to serve on the panel. The goal is to include up to 14 members of the mental-health industry with a focus on licensed practitioners in the nonprofit and private sector.

Meetings are expected to begin in September. The panel is likely to meet once per month for up to three months at the Snohomish County Campus.

Panel members will likely discuss the following issues:

- Improving crisis services;
- Improving access to care;
- Reviewing mental health service financing;
- Balancing treatment by trained staff with non-licensed providers;
- Identifying gaps in services, and
- Coordination with health plans and the Regional Support Network.

“I want recommendations that we can use to move forward,” Lovick said. “This group has the chance to make a real change in how we provide mental-health services.”

Those interested should send a resume and letter of interest indicating why they would like to serve on the panel and what they hope the panel accomplishes. Letters should be sent to Snohomish County Human Services Department, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 305, Everett 98201-4046 or email to Wendy.Roullier@snoco.org by August 31, 2013.

For more information, contact Cammy Hart-Anderson at 425-388-7233 or Cammy.Hart-Anderson@snoco.org

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