

**BOARD OF ISLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES OF MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2007 – SPECIAL SESSION**

The Board of Island County Commissioners met in Special Session on October 23, 2007 beginning at 12:00 p.m. for the purpose of attending a Mental Health Forum sponsored by the United Way of Island County at the Oak Harbor Methodist Church, 1050 SE Ireland, Oak Harbor, Washington. Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman, John Dean, Member, and Phillip Bakke, Member were present.

United Way of Island County hosted a Mental Health Forum to maintain what keynote speaker Stanley Baxter referred to as the “momentum” created by Island County’s recently-adopted Mental Health Initiative, which includes passage of a one-tenth of one percent sales tax increase for new and expanded mental health services.

There were the following panel presentations:

- Dr. Stan Baxter of Compass Health shared 10 “visions” of a successful future for the Island County mental health system;
- Island County Human Services Director Jackie Henderson outlined County plans for what is expected to be about \$900,000 from the new mental health tax in 2008;
- Bess Windecker-Nelson provided a perspective of growing mental health needs of young children;
- Northwest Regional Council Case Management Director Julie Johnson talked about the booming mental health needs of senior citizens;
- Island County Sheriff Mark Brown provided the perspective of frontline law enforcement that deals with untreated mentally ill on a regular basis, leading to a larger jail population with mental illnesses; and
- Barbara Eaton represented the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

Following the presentations and audience discussion, three newly-convened action groups brainstormed the Forum’s agreed-upon priorities: housing, public education, and the needs of young children.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ISLAND COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Wm. L. McDowell, Chairman

John Dean, Member

Phillip Bakke, Member

ATTEST:

Elaine Marlow
Clerk of the Board