

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Behavioral Health Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary, January 07, 2016

Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement

800 East Chestnut, LL, Bellingham WA 4 – 6 pm

Attendance

Present	Representing
Bernstein, Jill	Citizen representative
Deacon, Anne	Whatcom County Human Services
Foster, Vince (proxy for Chris Phillips)	PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center
Gribbin, Susan	Consumer
Manering, Byron	Brigid Collins
Morgan, Irene	Restorative Community Coalition
Parks, Jeff (proxy for Sheriff Elfo)	Whatcom County Sheriffs' Office
Walker, Kathy (proxy for Dave McEachran)	Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office
Winter, Greg	Opportunity Council
Guests	
Linda Grant	Mental Health Court Manager
Darrin Hail	Public Defender's Office
Staff	
Parker, Mike	Opportunity Council
Mowery, Perry	Whatcom County Health Department
Smith, Veronica	WAHA
Wight, Dean	WAHA, Lead Facilitator

Meeting Summary

1. Call to Order

Anne called the meeting to order the Meeting Summary from December 17, 2015 was reviewed.

2. Mental Health Court

Linda Grant, program manager for Mental Health Court, informed the Committee as to current operations and census in Mental Health Court.

Key Points:

- Program started in January, 2015
- 19 participants at this time, expect to be at capacity by end of 2016
- 18 of 19 have co-occurring disorders
- Mix between Bellingham Municipal Court and District Court is about even
- Moral Reconation Therapy – building empathy and creating successes
- Gaps in the broader continuum of care noted:
 - MD/CD/Housing (this is the most difficult population to house)
 - Transitional assistance upon release from jail
 - Geographic isolation in outlying communities
 - Transportation challenges for those in outlying communities
 - Limited availability/access for specialty care

3. Sequential Intercept Map Review

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Behavioral Health Ad Hoc Committee

Meeting Summary, January 07, 2016

Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement

800 East Chestnut, LL, Bellingham WA 4 – 6 pm

The Committee reviewed the current draft of the Sequential Intercept Map, key points of the discussion include:

- Geographic disparities
- Gaps in the continuum of care
- Need to identify best practices
- Acknowledgement that some programs cross into the legal realm
- Need to identify “low hanging fruit”
- Need to identify the “best” place to invest resources – what would be most impactful
- Acknowledgement that it can be hard to engage the target populations

Phase One Deliverable Discussion:

It was noted that the Phase One deliverable for this Ad Hoc Committee should include reference to the following needs:

- A comprehensive continuum of care
- Workforce development
- Early engagement services
- Complete spectrum of treatment services
- Recovery support
- Staffed, supportive housing

Reference should also be made to the current programs and services in place, and a timeline with activities related to the review of behavioral health programs should be created.

The Committee also discussed the development of a “profile” of the current population that utilizes these services.

4. Meeting Schedule

January 21, 2016, WAHA 800 E. Chestnut, Bellingham WA, 3 – 5pm