

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
DRAFT Meeting Summary for May 16, 2016

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. at the Health Department Lower Level Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

Members Present: Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Susan Gribbin, Betsy Kruse, Byron Manering, Randy Polidan

Also Present: Stephen Gockley, Forrest Longman, Perry Mowery, Jeff Parks

Members Absent: Julie Finkbonner, Kelli Linville, Greg Winter

Review July 28, 2016 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

3. Review of Phase 2 Draft Report

The Committee discussed:

- Addressing criminogenic risk factors
- The City of Bellingham law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD)-like jail diversion program
- Collaboration between the Sheriff and City of Bellingham Police Department
- The level of specificity in the report
- Collaboration among the County Health Department, the City of Bellingham, and housing agencies to address the need for more mental health supportive housing
- First responder database software packages to track mental health calls
- When the committee will discuss prevention and early intervention to reduce adverse childhood experiences.

2. Letter from Sheriff regarding proposed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

Jeff Parks, Sheriff's Office, described the Sheriff's additional services request (ASR) for funding for a CIT. The new specialized program includes:

- Three new deputy positions
- A higher level of specialized training for the three deputies
- An ongoing relationship with other community and regional service providers
- Deputies would assist with jail staff to get people out of jail
- Deputies would follow up with residents who need specialized care
- The cost is approximately \$300,000 per year, plus approximately \$100,000 or \$200,000 for startup costs
- It's unlikely the County Executive will fund the program

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The committee discussed:

- Whether the Sheriff's Office can create the unit with existing staff
- Whether a better model would be to include a mental health professional on a response team
- Whether the Sheriff and Bellingham Police can collaborate on a program
- Smaller jurisdictions calling on the Sheriff's Office when a specialty situation comes up
- The Task Force's obligation to identify the best program and services options, regardless of a budget process.
- Identifying which projects that work in an integrative and collaborative model
- A software system that combines database information with case management

4. Recovery Support Services

Deacon stated this item is focused on backdoor services at the triage facility, to keep people stable once discharged:

- Supportive housing programs
- Behavioral Health Revenue Advisory Committee (BHRAC) prioritized future sales tax dollars going to housing
- BHRAC also prioritized pre-arrest diversion activities

The Rainbow Recovery Center will relocate in 2017 to a new location to alleviate problems with predatory people using the program and for the safety of its vulnerable clients. It will shift away from being a homeless drop-in center.

2. Letter from Sheriff regarding proposed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)

The committee continued discussion of the Sheriff's request:

- The proposed CIT is a step in the right direction
- Law enforcement throughout the county coordinate to the greatest extent possible
- Having a team concept is important
- Include potential outcomes in the information about the CIT
- The CIT should coordinate with the jail

Polidan moved to support the Sheriff's Office effort to create a CIT that can team with local mental health providers. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

Deacon stated it would be important for the Whatcom Police Chiefs to have a discussion about appropriate levels of cooperation and coordination.

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5. Prevention & Early Intervention Efforts

The committee did not discuss this item.

6. Transition to commercial managed healthcare in 2020

The committee did not discuss this item.

7. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

Deacon stated the next meeting of the committee will be on October 27 at 2:30 p.m.

8. Public Comment

No one spoke.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

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