

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***Behavioral Health Subcommittee***  
**Meeting Summary for January 14, 2019**

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**1. Call To Order**

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. at the Health Department Creekside Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

Members Present: Anne Deacon, Kelli Linville, Doug Chadwick, Ryan King, Mike Parker

Also Present: Linda Grant, Stephen Gockley, Perry Mowery, Jackie Mitchell, Mark Gardner, Megan Ballew

Members Absent: Dan Hammill, Byron Manering

**2. Mental Health Court Program**

Linda Grant, Mental Health Court Program Manager, gave a presentation on the deinstitutionalization of mental health services and resulting problems that include lack of funding for local services, deteriorating health when severe mental illnesses are untreated, and mentally ill people ending up in the criminal justice system; changes in civil commitment laws; how the specialty court is structured and functions; the types of clients that are admitted to the specialty court program; and how clients begin to rebuild their lives.

The Committee members discussed:

- The differences between ending up in jail due to narrowly-defined civil commitment laws and ending up in involuntarily committed treatment if those civil commitment laws were more broadly defined
- Lack of voluntary commitment services for people who are severely ill
- Whether there would not be a need for a mental health court program if there were more and better inpatient mental health services, so there wouldn't become people involved in the criminal justice system
- The treatment providers

Grant continued to present information on statistics on the length of the program, number of people enrolled in the program, and their outcomes. The successful completion rate is 58 percent, which is standard for other similar mental health court programs. It's necessary for intakes to be done in the jail, get the case managers involved while still in jail, and have discharge medication and appointments set up when released. There is a gap for Medicare-only substance use disorder treatment.

Committee members continued to discuss how drug court must focus on the most challenging clients to service the community; transitioning people from the jail into the program and the timing of getting people on medications; housing and targeted rental assistance programs; the status of the Peace Health recovery house; what happens to the federal funds previously designated for the Western

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State hospital; the Governor's priority on community-based mental health services; and the vision of expanding mental health court to smaller jurisdictions.

**3. Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for crisis stabilization facility treatment providers**

This item was not discussed.

**4. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information**

The next meeting is February 4, 2019.

**5. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**6. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.