

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***Behavioral Health Subcommittee***  
**DRAFT Meeting Summary for October 6, 2020**

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**1. Call to Order**

Committee Co-Chair Mike Parker called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. The meeting was a remote-only virtual Zoom webinar.

Members Present: Nathan Bajema, Doug Chadwick, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Byron Manering, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker

Members Absent: Megan Ballew, Arlene Feld, Seth Fleetwood

**2. [Briefing on Children's Initiatives \(00:01:09\)](#)**

Flaherty gave a presentation work being done in the community on children's initiatives, including key documents, policy and institutional groups prioritizing behavioral health, childcare needs assessment, and fiscal mapping for childcare. Key goals include information and navigation system improvements and creating a task force for children and families.

The committee discussed the timeline for creating the Office of Family and Well-Being; specific needs, programs, and interventions that help people avert criminal justice systems; the need for more mental health clinicians in the area; increased anxiety and depression acuity, and; how the committee can support this work:

- Education to the community and policy makers about the connection between a lack of programs and services and how it impacts the criminal justice system
- Explore the root causes of what causes juveniles to end up in detention
- Endorse and participate in the Children's Initiative work
- Educate the community on mandatory reporting and the community's responsibility to protect children

The committee continued to discuss Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) behavioral health services for children and families; helping homeless children navigate behavioral health services; parent-child mediation resources provided through the Dispute Resolution Center; challenges with delivering services to families and services, particularly during the Covid pandemic; adding a youth specialist to the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT); maintaining in-school resource officers; creating opportunities to build the clinician workforce; [H.R.6800 - The Heroes Act](#); creating non-police school resource officers, and; supporting families to break negative cycles.

**3. Continued discussion on expanding committee representation**

This item was held in committee and not discussed.

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**4. [Update on communication planning efforts \(00:43:40\)](#)**

Hammill proposed ideas for enhanced communication:

- Have a forum once or twice per year, with a presentation and public comment period, to have a dialog with citizens.
- A couple times per year, publish an op-ed piece in Cascadia Weekly and post it on the County and City Facebook pages.
- Work with the Bellingham Herald to come up with a format for an article.
- Work with the County's Community Outreach Facilitator on ideas and strategies.
- Add notations in meeting agendas to the video discussion.

The committee discussed other ideas that include using data from the annual reports to create information and graphics.

Hilley and Hammill will work together to collect data and develop a proposal for the beginning of 2021.

**5. [Agenda items for November 10 joint meeting with the IPRTF Legal & Justice Systems Committee \(00:50:22\)](#)**

The committee members discussed and suggested the following items:

- Update on status of 1. stipulated orders of continuance for low level charges, 2. Driving while license suspended (DWLS) third degree, 3. violation of Uniform Controlled Substance Act misdemeanor to felony, and 4. crime and jail admission trends, and how these four components are working together
- Update on Drug Court and Mental Health Court update, including housing and gaps in the system
- How the LEAD program will work in the courts and integrate with the GRACE program
- Update on the Crisis Stabilization Center, including how it works with programs and the processes for involuntary commitment
- Data on race disparity in the jail, particularly Native American, and specifically how Lummi Nation makes arrests. Information on the racial makeup of the people that different agencies are booking.
- The need for data to inform policy discussion and decisions. Identify what data they need and for disaggregated data.

**6. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.