

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for January 19, 2021

Note: Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however YouTube links may change. Links will not be updated. Please refer to time notation on each agenda item.

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Dan Hammill / Mike Parker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was a remote-only virtual Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Megan Ballew, Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Donnell Tanksley

Members Absent: Seth Fleetwood, Byron Manering

2. [2021 Committee Priorities \(00:11:37\)](#)

Committee members discussed the following items:

- How has Covid impacted the behavioral health population (a needs assessment)?
- Reentry, including on-boarding the new full-time reentry specialist. Can the reentry specialist work outside the jail to maximize the possibility of a successful warm hand-off?
- Methamphetamine treatment and recovery. Are there additional services to provide for people who want to recover? Examine the problems of meth use in supportive housing.
- Enhanced juvenile SUD treatment and services
- Dedicated mental health professionals in ride-along program with law enforcement, similar to the Impact Program in Skagit County.
- Review outcomes of the new recovery house.

The committee chairs will review and begin developing forward movement on the listed items, and bring it back to the committee in February.

3. Youth and young adult current interventions, challenges, and opportunities (00:00:00)

[Peer Learning Network through NACO \(00:32:00\)](#)

Anne Deacon, Health Department reported on the National Association of Counties (NACO) Peer Learning Network technical assistance grant:

- Whatcom is one of 13 counties nationwide
- The focus is reducing incarceration for people with behavioral health disorders and unfairly treated due to ethnic and racial disparities
- They meet to share work and get technical assistance from national experts
- A nationwide theme is how to work more closely with law enforcement
- Upcoming webinars will address close collaboration with law enforcement and youth and young adult interventions

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[Bellingham School District \(00:37:30\)](#)

Cochran described his background and read through a presentation (on file):

- The guiding values of his position
- Programs that provide support to staff, families, and students
- The multi-tiered system of supports
- Their continuum of services, from preventive to after-care
- Preventive services from Pre-K to Grade 12
- Programs by age group
- Community partners

The committee discussed:

- Connections and collaborations with other school districts in the county
- School-based mobile response teams (MRT) for Bellingham and schools in the county
- Collaboration with school districts in other counties through the Northwest Educational Service District (ESD) located in Anacortes
- The importance of health and wellness efforts in the district
- Trauma-informed practices
- Effective support across different systems, including mental health and medical providers, and law enforcement, is a gap in the system
- Privacy concerns with law enforcement sharing information with school districts when a traumatic event occurs in a student's family.
- Tracking data on school discipline and racial and ethnic disparity.

4. [LEAD Early Implementation \(01:19:19\)](#)

Malora Christensen, SeaMar Community Health Center, described her background and read through a presentation (see video) on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) draft eligibility criteria, additional considerations, restrictions, and exceptions.

Christensen and the committee discussed capturing data on individuals who are approved versus individuals who are denied for the program for the purpose of gaging racial and ethnic equity.

5. **Legislative Updates**

This item was held to the next meeting.

6. **How to use GARE in decision-making**

This item was held to the next meeting.

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7. [Other Business \(01:36:00\)](#)

Flaherty referenced Camp 210 and stated a segment of the homeless population is difficult to serve, and has untreated addiction and mental health issues. They should all be aware of this population.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.