

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., March 21, 2022, Remote-only virtual meeting

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the County Council Office at least 96 hours in advance.

Link to join Zoom Webinar

Attendees will join the Zoom Webinar without audio or video controls. Webinar Host will invite attendees to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting

- [Meeting Join Link](#)
- Call in phone number: (253) 215-8782
- Webinar ID: 838 4266 5529
- Password: 17783

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Before we begin, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo People who have cared for and tended this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

Packet Pages

1. Call to Order

2. **Legislative Updates** (*tentative, if legislators can attend*) N/A
Discussion/Representatives Rule, Shewmake, Ramel and Sen. Sefzik

3. **Justice Project Needs Assessment** N/A
Update/Barry Buchanan

- Committee Chairs host subject matter orientation for SAC members
- Regular meetings of the Planning Team and Data Team
- How to incorporate the SAC members into the IPRTF Committees (*from Dan Hammill, Steering Committee*)

4. **Implementation of the GARE Toolkit** 1
Discussion/Co-Chairs

5. **Sequential Intercept Service Inventory Update** 2 – 6
Discussion

- Introduction (*Co-Chairs*)
- Behavioral Health updates (*Perry Mowery*)
- Brainstorm necessary updates

6. Committee Updates

Steering Committee (March 10) 7 – 10
Behavioral Health Committee (February 15) 11 – 14
Joint Behavioral Health & Legal and Justice Systems Committees (March 15) To be distributed

7. Other Business

8. Public Comment

1. If you would like to speak, virtually “raise your hand.”
 - a. Online: select the Raise Hand icon
 - b. Phone: Press *9
2. When called upon to speak, unmute your microphone. Inform the Webinar Host if you would like to enable your video during your comments.
3. Please state your full name for the record.
4. Staff will disable your microphone when you are done speaking.

9. Adjourn

Meeting summary of the previous meeting is included at the end of the packet for information only. Committee members may suggest changes and/or corrections to the draft summary to jnixon@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Visit the [Task Force website meeting calendar](#) for the most up-to-date meeting schedule

At this time, all meetings are held via remote-only Zoom Webinar

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u> Monthly 2 nd or 3 rd Monday 9-11 AM	COMMITTEES				
	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u> Monthly 3 rd Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	<u>LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS</u> Monthly 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<u>CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY</u> Quarterly, 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	<u>INDEX</u> Bi-monthly 1 st Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	<u>STEERING</u> Monthly Various Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
April 18 May 16 June 13 July 18 August 15 September 19 October 17 November 14 December 19	April 19 May 17 June 14*(11:30-1:00) July 19 August 16 September 20 (11:30-1:00) October 18 November 15 December 13* (11:30-1:00)	April 12 May 10 June 14 July 12 August 9 September 20* October 11 November 8 December 13	April 21 July 21 October 20	April 7 June 2 August 4 October 6 December 1	April 7 May 5 June 2 July 7 August 4 September 8 October 6 November 3 December 8

V. The Racial Equity Tool

The Racial Equity Tool is a simple set of questions:

1. **Proposal:** What is the policy, program, practice or budget decision under consideration? What are the desired results and outcomes?
2. **Data:** What's the data? What does the data tell us?
3. **Community engagement:** How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?
4. **Analysis and strategies:** Who will benefit from or be burdened by your proposal? What are your strategies for advancing racial equity or mitigating unintended consequences?
5. **Implementation:** What is your plan for implementation?
6. **Accountability and communication:** How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?

INCARCERATION PREVENTION & REDUCTION TASK FORCE SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT SERVICE SUMMARY

FEBRUARY 2020

Programs **IN BOLD** are developed or expanded through or in consultation with the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Intercept 0	Intercept 1	Intercept 2	Intercept 3	Intercept 4	Intercept 5
Community Services	Law Enforcement	Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings	Jails/Courts	Reentry	Post-Incarceration Community Supports
<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>
<p>0.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEE APPENDIX A: Health Department, Human Services Division, community health programs • Gang prevention programs • Community Paramedic • Opiate Outreach and Engagement • GRACE Program • School District Prevention Programs • Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) (<i>Opp. Council</i>) • Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) • Community Medicated Assisted Treatment • Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC) youth restorative practices/justice services and conflict resolution training • WDRC adult conflict resolution training and skill building workshops • Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) • Brigid Collins Parenting Academy 	<p>1.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood Policing • Specialized training for law enforcement and first responders • Truancy/discipline school-based services • Law Enforcement crisis intervention team (CIT) training • Crisis Stabilization Facility (Mental Health and addiction stabilization services) • Specialized training for case managers • GRACE Program • Behavioral health specialized law enforcement officers & deputies (multiple jurisdictions) • Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) • Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) 	<p>2.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Screening • Suicide Assessment • Superior Court & District Court Pretrial Risk Assessment • Superior Court Pretrial Services Unit • Electronic Home Monitoring in Lieu of detention when applicable • District Court phone call and text reminders for select court calendars • Bellingham Municipal Court: Pretrial SCRAM, Pretrial GPS EHM, Pretrial Risk Assessment, and 2x/week warrant quash • District Court: Pretrial Unit and Pretrial Electronic Equipment Program 	<p>3.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEE APPENDIX A: Health Department, Human Services Division, community health programs • SEE APPENDIX B.1 and B.2: Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau Programs • DUI Victim Impact Panel • Work and School release • In-custody work crew • Specialized courts (Teen, Drug, Mental Health, Family) • Enhanced Drug Court • Health Dept. Jail Behavioral Health Program • Sheriff's Office reduced fees and increased eligibility for jail alternatives • Expanded and increased out-of-custody work crew and work release capacity • District Court Post-Conviction Electronic Equipment Program • Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) • Coordinated Entry Referral Specialist • Bellingham Muni Court: Mental Health Court, DV Court, EHM in lieu of incarceration • Dist. Court High Risk DV Unit, court text messaging • Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Program 	<p>4.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term housing for stabilization • Health Dept. Jail Reentry Program • Prescriptions and access to prescriptions upon release • Specialized Behavioral Health Unit in District Court • GRACE Program 	<p>5.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized Behavioral Health Program • Community Outreach • Peer-to-peer community supports (12-step programs, volunteer organizations) • Community Medicated Assisted Treatment • GRACE Program • WDRC adult conflict resolution training and skill building workshops • Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) • City Gate Supportive Housing • Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) • Offender Reentry Community Safety (ORCS) - DOC

Intercept 0	Intercept 1	Intercept 2	Intercept 3	Intercept 4	Intercept 5
Community Services	Law Enforcement	Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings	Jails/Courts	Reentry (LJS)	Post-Incarceration Community Supports
<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>
<p>0.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sex offender ADA accessible housing Funding for affordable housing, clean and sober housing, and other specialty housing Employment resources, including “second chance employers” Supportive shelters Eviction prevention assistance 	<p>1.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Outreach and Recovery Support (CORS) Law enforcement direct referral to Crisis Mobile Outreach Team (BHASO) Additional behavioral health trained officers Funding CSF beds for non-Medicaid individuals, especially 12-hour holds <p>Training for Law Enforcement & First Responders (BH)</p>	<p>2.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental Health-Assisted Outpatient Treatment / Lesser Restrictive Orders (LRO) Superior Court Pretrial Services Unit 	<p>3.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APPENDIX B.3: Sheriff’s Office Corrections Bureau Programs Vocational and Literacy Training for Offenders, with bilingual accessibility Jail Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) program Dedicated housing for drug court participants Increased warrant quash opportunities Housing Lab in Jail LROs – more teeth Increased work release capacity DV Offender Treatment <p>Can Drug Court have a program that is less than 2 years, as an incentive to participate? (BH)</p>	<p>4.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jail Reentry Services, including from contracted jail service agencies Community-based reentry service Access to mental health treatment 2nd Sheriff Corrections fulltime re-entry specialist Goodwill reentry employment services Employment resources, including “second chance employers” Expand work release Improve pathway for voluntary removal of protection orders / DVSAS services Brigid Collins Family Support Services 	<p>5.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24/7 staffed permanent supportive housing Clean and sober housing Community SUD Treatment CJTA Rental Assistance Supportive Shelters Improve pathway for voluntary removal of protection orders / DVSAS services

Intercept 0	Intercept 1	Intercept 2	Intercept 3	Intercept 4	Intercept 5
Community Services	Law Enforcement	Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings	Jails/Courts	Reentry (LJS)	Post-Incarceration Community Supports
<i>Programs needed but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs needed but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs needed but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs needed but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs needed but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs needed but not in existence:</i>
<p>0.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Storage • Youth Street Outreach Team (NWYS) • Eliminate criminalization of homelessness 	<p>1.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seamless protocol for CSF discharge treatment plans for individuals admitted on a 12-hour peace officer hold • Dedicated DCR to BPD/WCS • DCR procedures evaluation • Triage mental health unit for juveniles 	<p>2.C</p> <p>Can Housing be an incentive to participate in Specialty Court? (BH)</p>	<p>3.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offender treatment for Domestic Violence • Young Adult Court • Young Adult reduced incarceration • Court processing and case workload efficiency improvements • Brigid Collins family support services • Intensive case manager for the jail • MAT: include possibility of temporary release for evaluation and new treatment <p>Housing for Mental Health Court? (BH)</p> <p>Youth Court (BH)</p>	<p>4.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forensic program for Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) • Offender treatment for Domestic Violence • Reentry navigators • Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau: Reentry services for release from incarceration other than Whatcom County jail. • Warm handoff • Employment assistance • Discharge planning and mainstream benefits re-enrollment • Peer re-entry specialists <p>Community Resource Handout for defendants (LJS)</p>	<p>5.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health consultation to housing providers • Recovery house (3/4 way house after treatment) • Sex offender ADA accessible housing • City Ambassadors / hiring program like Metropolitan Improvement District in Seattle • Safe storage

Affordable supported housing **and more funding sources and opportunities are** necessary across all intercept levels.

In addition to expanding existing and developing new programs, the Task Force will continue to identify best practices and engage in ongoing review and monitoring of current

programs for quality assurance purposes.

CRISIS STABILIZATION COMMITTEE ONGOING REVIEW

- Programmatically effective and financially sustainable Triage and Crisis Stabilization facility for Whatcom County
- The Triage Center programming is effectively integrated with new and existing programs

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ONGOING REVIEW

- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Coordinate with other agencies and workgroups
- CORS Program
- GRACE Program
- Jail MAT Program

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE INFORMATION GATHERING

- Look into connections to other factors, besides age, such as economic, employment, diversion programs, and foster care
- Look at the drivers of and identify the best practices regarding criminal behavioral
- Look at and identify the best practices regarding age groups
- Get information about family treatment court, and hear from Northwest Youth
- Existing programs from the following agencies: Brigid Collins Family Support Center, Lummi Nation, School districts, Health Department regarding their school services, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS), Northwest Youth Services, Child Protective Service (CPS) services, Peace Health pediatricians, Other

LEGAL AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE ONGOING REVIEW

- Integrating restorative practices & their role in the criminal justice system
- Policies and procedures, to reduce number of bench warrants / warrant quash
- Opportunities for individuals to pay off fines
- Pretrial Services
- Court case processing and workloads

LEGAL AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE INFORMATION GATHERING

- Ease of entry into behavioral health services
- Policies and procedures that will reduce number of bench warrants issued for FTAs
- Review of Juvenile Justice Systems

The Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Subcommittee works to support policy and program data efficiency enhancements across all intercept levels.

The Task Force will first prioritize specific requests from the Whatcom County Council.

ACRONYMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BH	Behavioral health
BHASO	(North Sound) Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (formerly NS Behavioral Health Organization: NSBHO)
BPD	Bellingham Police Department
CIT	Crisis Intervention Training
CJTA	Criminal Justice Treatment Account
CORS	Community Outreach and Recovery Support
CSF	Crisis Stabilization Facility
D/C	Diversion
DCR	Designated crisis responders
DUI	Driving under the influence
DV	Domestic Violence
DVSAS	Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
EHM	Electronic home monitoring
FACT	Forensic Program for Assertive Community Treatment
GPS	Global positioning system
GRACE	Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (Program)
HOT	Homeless Outreach Team
LEAD	Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
LRO	Lesser restrictive orders
MAT	Medication Assisted Treatment
MCOT	Mobile Crisis Outreach Team
NWYS	Northwest Youth Street Outreach Team
PATH	Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
PCAP	Parent Child Assistance Program
SCRAM	Secure continuous remote alcohol monitor
SUD	Substance use disorder
TX	(medical and/or clinical) treatment
WCOS	Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
WDRC	Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for March 10, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Caleb Erickson, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Tyler Schroeder

Members Absent: None

2. [Update on Justice Project and Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(01:02\)](#)

Buchanan told committee members that they are preparing for the second Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting, which will be focused on data. He added that SAC members are invited to observe upcoming IPRTF committee meetings. IPRTF committee co-chairs will also be holding meetings with SAC members during which they can ask questions.

County Executive, Satpal Sidhu, commented that the notion amongst community members that the problems with the jail are the responsibility of the Sherriff are misguided and that it is the responsibility of the County to provide adequate facilities. He went on to say that the County needs to provide acceptable conditions for corrections staff to work as well as housing for those who need to be in jail.

Committee members discussed Executive Sidhu's comments including:

- What level of decision-making power the Sheriff holds, where responsibility for the facility lies, and the perception of the public on those topics;
- The SAC's responsibility to communicate to the public clearly the need for a new facility and new services;
- The Sheriff's willingness to support various solutions to the issues with the jail;
- How effective communication can be and the need for the community to be engaged;
- Which aspects of the court system are currently jeopardized by the condition of the jail and the resulting frustration of judges and court employees;
- The need to frame the discussion around creating a comprehensive system, of which the jail is one piece but is not the main focus;
- The working conditions for the staff who work in the jail and the importance of advocacy for the staff as well as those who are incarcerated;
- The interconnectedness of these issues – the point was made that these decisions will affect everyone involved in the criminal justice system;
- Progress that is already being made in terms of services, including the upcoming start of the Alternative Response Team pilot program;
- The importance of those programs and the changes in the criminal justice system that they herald.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for March 10, 2022

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

3. [GARE Implementation Strategy for the IPRTF \(32:32\)](#)

Hammill kicked off the conversation on the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), saying that it is a mistake to not utilize GARE. He said that the Task Force should be implementing the toolkit when making policy recommendations and taking advantage of the trainings, workshops, etc. offered. He went on to say that decision making should be done through a racial equity lens and suggested that they should start that practice at the next joint meeting. He also emphasized the importance of data to help understand and measure any racial disproportionalities.

Gockley proposed that the Committee ask Legislative Coordinator, Jill Nixon, to put together a grid of the six tool kit questions and that those questions be answered before the group makes decisions or recommendations. That analysis would then be part of the record of the Task Force.

Nixon and committee members discussed exactly when this framework would be used, given that the Task Force does not make official recommendations very often.

Committee members discussed challenges associated with data collection and analysis through a racial lens. Topic brought up included:

- Challenges arising because of discrepancies between what people self-report their race to be compared to what race someone else may assume them to be;
- The need for more specific guidance on how to use GARE as a lens in data collection;
- Data points that could potentially be missing because some offenders are not being arrested because officers know that they won't be able to do anything with them and some aren't being booked because of space at the jail;
- Inaccurate data related to gender if a person's gender identity changes;

Gockley clarified that he was looking more broadly at this time and was focused on implementing GARE on a process level rather than a data level. He added that adopting the GARE lens would start to drive the data needs in a direction of racial equity.

Hammill said that he doesn't want to focus on the ultimate output of the Task Force work since there are relatively few official recommendations, but he wants to apply the toolkit to the discussions they were having in committees and the recommendations those committees made to the full Task Force.

Buchanan asked that Nixon create a matrix that can be used for the County Council and other County departments in addition to the IPRTF.

Gockley asked the committee members to give consensus to use the framework. Committee members gave their assent via head nods.

Nixon clarified that those members with County e-mail addresses can access the GARE portal, but the other members would not have a mechanism to sign up for access.

Hovenier said he wanted to be cautious about the Task Force implementing GARE on its own if the County will be implementing it and could share their work on implementation with the Task Force.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for March 10, 2022

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

Gockley replied that he agreed that the Task Force should not disregard the work the County is doing, but the County's work to implement GARE could take many months and he thinks the Task Force should get started on it as soon as possible.

Parker said that one of the benefits of GARE was the membership and the cohorts that they offered. He suggested that access to those groups could be valuable.

Mowery suggested that they add a reference to the GARE lens at the beginning of certain meetings, akin to the land acknowledgment statement.

4. [Updating the Sequential Intercept \(01:04:05\)](#)

Mowery said that he has not yet taken the sequential intercept model (SIM) to his service providers, but that he had assembled a Behavioral Health Team for the Justice Project. He reported that the team is meeting to review the SIM soon.

King said that the pre-trial services group from the SIM hasn't given a report recently, though they show up in the "systems in place" intercept. She says she was unsure if they had any data to report and to whom they should be reporting.

Nixon said that she did not hear back from committees last time she asked them to e-mail her ideas on updates to the SIM and that she believes time will have to be dedicated to the topic in a meeting. She asked if this is something they should task the committees with or if the whole Task Force should brainstorm as a group. Buchanan responded that he expected updates to the SIM to come from the gap analysis conducted by the Behavioral Health Team for the Justice Project.

Hamill pointed out that a large number of members would be at the joint meeting on March 15th and that may be a good opportunity to ask a lot of committee members at once for update ideas. He also asked if they wanted to expand the SIM to include intercepts further upstream, such as preventative measures implemented before intercept zero.

Buchanan said that he would like to incorporate more upstream work, but acknowledged the need to establish parameters on that.

Parker pointed out that they already have an intercept zero to talk about upstream work. He also asked if the groups doing the gap analysis had significantly different membership from the IPRTF, pointing out that updates from the IPRTF may not be needed if the groups were largely the same. Mowery replied with the names of the members of his group and described the work they are tasked with now and in the future.

Parker suggested that Mowery's group do an initial update to the SIM first and then bring the updated document to the IPRTF for any further changes needed.

In regards to how far upstream they wanted to take the analysis, Nixon pointed out that there is a statement on the project proposal form that outlines a framework for considering preventative measures.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for March 10, 2022

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

Hammill said that he could see the upstream work going very far upstream and emphasized the need to put boundaries on that. He added that he thinks Mowery's Behavioral Health Team for the Justice Project would be the best group to analyze the updates to the SIM and that Mowery should be the one to present on it to the IPRTF.

Feld commented that the community is very interested in prevention and that there was state-level legislation being proposed to increase the number of school counselors. She said the next step would be increasing availability of family counseling. She added that all these programs matter and contribute to the web of services available. She said that she is in favor of supporting the largest amount of services possible, though she understands the complexity of adding so many things to the SIM.

Gockley emphasized the importance of gap analysis and pointed out that services we didn't think would be important at the time of the creation of the SIM are now very important.

5. [2022 Annual Report to Council and Executive \(01:24:20\)](#)

Nixon told members that she would be scheduling an agenda item on each committee to start planning what they want included in their committee reports within the annual report.

6. [Items for the next Task Force Agenda \(01:25:44\)](#)

Items suggested for the next Task Force meeting included:

- GARE – how to formulate a process for implementation
- The sequential intercept model – presentation and brainstorm on updates
- Legislative update – possible presentation from state legislators and from County elected officials such as Sheriff Elfo or Prosecutor Richey
- Incorporating SAC members into committee meetings and/or regular Task Force meetings

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for February 15, 2022

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Dan Hammill called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Brian Estes, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Michael G. Smith, Courtney Taylor, Brien Thane

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Seth Fleetwood, Heather Flaherty, Rhyhan Lopez, Donnell Tanksley

2. [Recovery Navigator Program \(00:54\)](#)

Mowery gave an overview of how the Recovery Navigator Program was established and the guidelines for the program laid out by legislation. He explained that the Recovery Navigator Program will be imbedded within the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. The program is focused on outreach and referral. Staff will provide community referrals and short-term assistance.

Parker asked if a recovery navigator would be limited to serving people who have committed an infraction, as is the case with LEAD, or if they can engage with others within the community. Mowery said that they can respond to anyone in the community and that they will be Substance Use Disorder (SUD) professionals, unlike LEAD staff. He went on to say that the program is voluntary and the individuals being served have to be open to it.

Parker asked if there was future opportunity for peer navigators to be integrated into this. Mowery said that that would make a lot of sense and that individuals with less formal education need to be paired with strong leadership in order to support them in the high stress situations they face.

Estes asked Mowery to clarify where each of the programs mentioned are located organizationally speaking. Mowery replied that the Ground-Level Response and Coordinated Engagement program (GRACE) has been administered through a contract with Sea Mar up until this point, but will be moving to County administration under a new division in the Health Department. He added that LEAD is housed under the Prosecutor's office through a grant and will also be moving to County administration. The Recovery Navigator Program will be imbedded into the LEAD program.

Feld said that this program was a very big step in behavioral health care. She expressed that this program made her hopeful and emphasized the impact it will have. She asked what the background is of the head of the new Health Department division, Malora Christensen. Mowery responded that she was the manager for GRACE and was a housing manager before that.

Feld asked what "response systems" would mean in real terms. Mowery said that it has not been finalized yet, but would likely include GRACE, LEAD, mental health court, the recovery navigator program, an alternative response team, and possibly co-responder staff.

Parker asked how the task force might evaluate the effectiveness of the new division and its programs are and how gaps may be found and filled. Mowery said that he is in support of data driven decision

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for February 15, 2022

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

making and suggested that Malora Christensen should be participating in the Task Force on some level. He said that Christensen will be a good resource for data and she will be working on ways to gather needed data about the new division.

Estes echoed the need for evaluation and data analysis. He suggested that it would be beneficial to look at how similar programs are evaluated across the country and that a contractor would likely be needed.

Hilley said that they should think about developing a community information hub to concentrate all the data from various departments and organizations. He added that the most challenging part of this will be obtaining data sharing agreements from all involved.

3. Public Health, Safety, and Justice Needs Assessment (30:25)

Hammill, Parker, and Gockley explained that the Committee has years of experience gathering knowledge about behavioral health topics. Many of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) members may benefit from being able to join the committee meetings as guests in order to build their knowledge and bring it back to their work on the SAC.

Hammill said he has concerns about compressing eight years of information from the committee and passing that content on to the SAC members. He said that the best way they have been able to come up with to do this so far is to have the SAC members be able to interact with the committee by joining meetings rather than watching previous recordings. He emphasized that he is very concerned with public safety and the issues stemming from the degradation of the jail facility.

Taylor shared that she is seeing a disagreement in the community about where taxpayer money should be going. She said that the changes would need to be larger than a new facility and that she is supportive of more behavioral health specialists in the jail. Hammill agreed that it was about more than just a facility and described programming and staff he feels are important.

Gockley added that jail planning should be the smaller part of the work of the SAC and that service development should be the larger part, which will require education for the SAC members and where the work of Behavioral Health Committee's collective knowledge could be useful. He spoke further about the interplay between behavioral health and law enforcement.

Chadwick agreed that there is a lack of behavioral health services in the community and it is a source of frustration with law enforcement. He said that he has seen a shift in attitudes and an acknowledgement that law enforcement and behavioral health services have a symbiotic relationship. He added that a new facility is an important component of behavioral health so that there is space for those programs.

Feld said that her support for a new jail is dependent on a robust mental health and social service system. She went on to say that it is crucial that this facility include the services that our County needs.

Mowery spoke about intrinsic and extrinsic motivations for joining programs and the impact on recidivism the programs have.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for February 15, 2022

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

Smith stressed the importance of having a facility that offers a wide range of services. He said there can be a mindset with incarcerated people that service providers are part of the system, akin to correctional officers, and it can be seen as taboo for incarcerated individuals to interact with those staff members. He asked how many peer staff were being utilized and added that peers who are in the jail with those receiving services would be more effective. Taylor responded that with some of her clients, she sees the opposite effect. Some of her clients see their cell mates getting services and want that for themselves. She said that there are a variety of situations and attitudes among incarcerated people.

4. [Update the Sequential Intercept \(1:00:50\)](#)

Hammill went over the sequential intercept model and showed committee members how the programs and services are organized within the model. He said that Whatcom is far ahead of many counties in terms of services offered, but there is still work to do. He read out the programs that are in place but have resource shortages.

Chadwick gave an update on the jail Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) program, saying that it has expanded significantly in the last month due to a new physician being on board.

Parker explained the housing lab program and advocated for including that or something more robust in the new facility.

Taylor said that mental health court was operating normally in a mainly virtual environment. She added that they would only be doing one trial per week in Superior Court.

Hammill continued with the intercept model document, reading out the programs that are needed but not yet in existence.

Parker said that the intercept model demonstrates that the jail is only one piece in the larger context of support services. He asked if the committee members thought this framework would be a good example to bring to the SAC members and larger community. Feld suggested that the intercept model was too overwhelming and that it would need to be simpler and clearer in order for the majority of people to understand. Taylor agreed that the intercept model is not accessible to everybody and that community members will disengage when faced with this level of data. She said that it would be helpful for the information to be reframed so that it is accessible to the people who are actually interacting with the various intercepts. Estes added that portions of that chart could be useful to certain voters, but agreed that it needed to be simplified for most voters.

5. [Items for March Joint meeting with Legal & Justice Systems Committee \(1:23:40\)](#)

Ideas suggested for discussion at the upcoming joint meeting included:

- Outpatient restoration services
- Chief Wendy Jones presenting on the current situation with Western State and prevalence of mental illness in the jail.
- Inviting SAC members to the meeting

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for February 15, 2022

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

6. Other Business (1:30:06)

Hammill said that he is meeting with Congressman Rick Larsen about Medicaid reimbursement and increasing capacity of 16-bed facilities. Parker and Hammill asked Chadwick to pass on the committee's support for the Sheriff's officers recently wounded in the line of duty.

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 A.M.