

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Crisis Stabilization Facility Subcommittee
DRAFT Meeting Summary for July 16, 2020

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. This was a remote-only virtual meeting.

Members Present: Doug Chadwick, Anne Deacon, Todd Donovan, Mike Hilley, Jack Hovenier, Tyler Schroeder

Members Absent: None

2. Construction Schedule

Deacon reported on the construction of the new Crisis Stabilization Facility, which will be renamed to the Crisis Stabilization Center. Opening is planned for the middle of October, barring any delays. They're meeting with the tenants and the architect every other week to work through details. The City of Bellingham fire marshal is requiring compliance on a number of factors they're working through.

The committee discussed the fire suppression requirements from the State and City.

3. Program Considerations

-and-

5. Operational Funding

Deacon described the programs provided by the treatment providers, Pioneer Human Services and Compass Health. The lease agreement is how the County can hold them accountable for program expectations. Each treatment unit is required to have 24/7 nursing capacity at an RN level, which will allow the emergency medical services (EMS) to divert from the emergency department and drop off at the center. Protocols and procedures are being put in place. Programming is dependent on operational funding from insurance or Medicaid. She described the programming features for both the substance use disorder (SUD) side and the mental health side. They met recently with the managed care organizations (MCOs) about operational funding being more expensive for the mental health side. Initially the County was going to subsidize the rent to a certain extent, but tax revenue has been down, so the subsidy will be less than they originally thought. The MCO representatives seem excited about and want to support the project, but its unclear of that will carry over to those who determine funding levels. The Behavioral Health Regional Administrative Organization is also looking for funding for operations and startup. They plan to provide office space in the center for EMS and other crisis response teams, to make the center the hub of the crisis response system throughout the county. She described a new program advisory committee to monitor programming on an ongoing basis.

Hilley reported on a recent EMS Oversight Board (EOB) meeting about how EMS is looking to support and expand the diversion ability. There is a desire to increase the community paramedic and Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program services and diversion to the new Center. A project draft from the Bellingham Fire Department is forthcoming.

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The committee discussed whether there are options to use funds from the Cares Act for operational funding; the role of this committee going forward and possibly transitioning to the behavioral health committee once the new center has been operational for at least six months; using this committee's leverage to ensure operational funding; whether additional work is needed in Olympia, and; potential gaps in operational funding Medicaid and non-Medicaid clients.

- 4. Involuntary Triage Challenges**
- and-**
- 6. Program Advisory Committee**

Deacon reported on the possibility of police to hold someone for 12 hours in involuntary triage for mental health. Compass Health would like to fully staff the center as though they may need to put someone in seclusion at any time. That is excessive. She anticipates the seclusion room will only be used once or twice per year. The lease agreement requires Compass Health to work toward an involuntary triage model. They want to negotiate two different rates of reimbursement with the MCOs: voluntary and involuntary. They built the facility with involuntary capacity on both sides. Now, they may open the facility as a voluntary facility only until they figure out how incorporate an involuntary service. They will have to work closely with law enforcement on how to use the facility for law enforcement drop-off.

The committee discussed the possibility that law enforcement won't use the facility if there are strict criteria on who can enter the facility; de-escalation training for the program provider staff; a successful involuntary program in Colorado Springs that freed up time for law enforcement and saved enough money to hire another position for that work, and; the number of staff that would be required onsite to accept involuntary admissions.

The committee also discussed a summary report of this meeting at the full Task Force meeting in August. It would include: construction timeline, program advisory committee, and negotiations on operational funding. Also emphasize the importance of prioritizing drop-off for law enforcement.

Deacon reported on discussion in other committees about in-the-field partnerships between law enforcement and behavioral health specialists. Make sure they are all tied into the center so everything is integrated. It would reduce duplication and increase efficiencies. A new software system will facilitate information-sharing.

- 7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

- 8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
DRAFT Meeting Summary for July 13, 2020

1. Call To Order

Committee Co-Chair Dan Hammill called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was a virtual remote-only meeting.

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

Members Absent: Seth Fleetwood, Byron Manering

2. Options for expanding existing programs such as the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), and other community programs that are outreach- or clinic-based.

Parker updated the committee on the Homeless Outreach Team:

- Funded largely by City of Bellingham, but also work in the county
- Have five staff members, including an opioid substance use disorder specialist
- The program is scalable and could be increased based on hours and days of the week
- There is an opportunity to provide more services in the county

He will provide a more in-depth report to the full Task Force, including current cost and scalability.

The committee discussed HOT:

- The Sheriff's Office would be interested in working to expand the program in the county
- The HOT members had over 5,000 interactions during the most recent year for which they have statistics
- How the HOT members work with individuals in the short- and long-term
- Activities include, but aren't limited to, targeted camp outreach and other focused outreach in downtown Bellingham, visiting meal programs, and going with a client to an appointment.
- During the coronavirus pandemic, services have included delivering food and other services to those who can't make it to the food bank.
- Statistics and reporting data
- Diverting individuals who are overdosing to the new crisis stabilization center when it opens; strengthening the team that works at the center
- The trends in substance use overdose and domestic violence during the pandemic

The committee discussed the PACT team services, which are similar to the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) team services, including housing.

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Anne Deacon, Health Department, described the PACT program, which is considered outpatient hospitalization for people with severe persistent mental illness. PACT program participants can also be involved with the mental health court or GRACE Program. Some have no contact with law enforcement or emergency medical services (EMS). There are approximately 80 individuals involved in the program, provided by one treatment provider. A second provider has applied to expand those services.

Hammill reported on a Eugene, Oregon program that diverts 9-1-1 calls to social workers and nurses when appropriate as part of a program called Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS). These types of diversion programs save communities' money and help people get their lives in better order.

The committee discussed crisis response services versus services for enrolled participants such as GRACE and the possibility of expanding the mobile crisis outreach team (MCOT), which works with law enforcement.

3. Future options for using the Crisis Stabilization Facility

Deacon reported on the status of the new facility. They hope to open in October and are working with the providers on the program models. By opening, they won't have the ability for law enforcement to divert and hold someone involuntarily at the facility for up to 12 hours. There is disagreement about the level of staffing to provide that service. An advisory committee that includes law enforcement is setting up protocols that will allow diversion to the facility. They will have 24/7 nursing services with prescribing ability. They are working to divert from the emergency department at the hospital.

The committee discussed who decides on the service levels provided for involuntary commitment and appropriate staffing levels.

4. Discussion of Ground-level Response And Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Programs

Deacon reported on the GRACE program.

- They are beginning to incorporate LEAD under the GRACE umbrella
- They have hired the LEAD program supervisor, and are working on hiring others
- Much work is being done on program development and sustainability, funding, and protocols with law enforcement and the Prosecutor
- GRACE staff has been diverted to coronavirus isolation and quarantine facility

Hilley continued to report on options for funding and the possibility of expanding in light of upcoming budget cutbacks. Teams are looking at what the services will look like in the future. There is a need for increased use of community paramedics. He would like to expand that team by having an officer, paramedic, and social worker work together 12 hours per day to handle mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) calls.

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The committee discussed an upcoming meeting topic to address looking at programs through the lens of racial equity.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

DRAFT

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
DRAFT Meeting Summary for July 14, 2020

1. Call To Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. This meeting was a remote-only virtual Zoom webinar.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: David Doll, Moonwater, Bruce Van Glubt

2. Project and program updates from committee members

Richey updated the committee on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. The program is fully funded from State and federal grant funds. They hired a program supervisor, who has begun training and learning the program. They are currently hiring for case managers. They plan to follow Burien's LEAD program. In the future, they will begin talking about doing direct diversions 24/7. He hopes this will have a positive impact on racial equity.

The committee discussed an outreach coordinator that will work with law enforcement, LEAD is for municipalities as well. The capacity level is high. The budget is for 3 case managers, an outreach coordinator, and manager.

Garrett reported on the new Pretrial Processes Workgroup. They finalized the pretrial risk assessment questionnaire in March, but the coronavirus pandemic shutdown began the same week that they planned to implement it. Because of the court shutdown for most cases, their training, data collection, and program evaluation is delayed. During the shutdown, there has not been any pretrial incarceration for drug or property crimes, unless there was a concurrent assault or other threat. The jail population went down and remains low. The Prosecutor's Office is beginning to bring forward charges that were initially delayed. They have not required penalties for those who miss hearings. Many defendants are enrolled in the pretrial services unit, which are being handled remotely. As work resumes, they plan to meet again with community advocates for racial equity to discuss how it can be achieved in pretrial services and how the judges make decisions on pretrial services.

The committee discussed new, lower standards in the program that have been enacted because of the pandemic shutdown. They're still working with Dr. Peterson to determine the traits that are important to predict community safety issues and failures to appear, and will include the new information they've learned during the shutdown.

Mitchell reported on the Health Department's work with the managed care organizations (MCOs) on increasing resources for jail reentry.

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Elfo reported on the ongoing construction work in the jail. Due to unforeseen problems with the new door designs, all 80 doors have to be retrofitted, so the project is behind schedule. After meeting with medical staff, Coronavirus screening has been enacted throughout the jail facility for the protection of inmates and staff. They have adopted extraordinary booking restrictions and law enforcement guidance, with the concurrence of the Prosecutor and courts, which has reduced the jail population. They've eliminated reliance on other jails. He described the changed booking restrictions and recent jail population levels. The work center is also undergoing some remodeling that will increase distancing options and allow the work center to be used for higher offender classifications. The County has asked all departments to plan for a 20% cut in the budget for the next biennium, which will impact staffing and programs. Regarding the recent criticism of policing in the news, all the agencies in the county have worked to create a law enforcement culture that reflects professionalism, integrity, and accountability. He described the internal procedures in place for vetting and training deputies; the continual review of policies, standards, and best practices; the neighborhood policing program; commencing use of new body-worn cameras for deputies; procedures for investigating officer-involved shootings.

King reported on the status of the small cities' courts. All have resumed court hearings with protection measures and some remotely-held hearings. The court staff have also recently received training on implicit racial bias.

Peterson reported for the City of Bellingham on limited booking, the backlog of cases, putting a hold on warrants for failure to appear, and the impact and challenges with coronavirus protective measures enacted within the court system.

The committee discussed the staffing required to review body cam footage when a records request is received, needed improvements to the work center, and inviting a speaker to make a presentation on what needs to be done in the jail and court system to address racial bias.

3. Discussion of jail population status and changes due to recent factors, who's being booked, and effects of changes on law enforcement and the courts

See the previous discussion.

Peterson reported on the increasing use of alcohol monitoring bracelets.

The committee discussed continuing the restrictions for the foreseeable future, challenges with getting all the cases processed, and changes in crime patterns over the past few months.

4. Next steps for the committee: review committee work plan and how to address racial equity

The committee members discussed:

- Talking more about racial equity
- The status of reentry programs and staffing

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- The need for hiring a new reentry specialist and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment beds
- Expansion of behavioral health services
- Reentry during the coronavirus pandemic
- Gathering data from each jurisdiction on jail population and number of people in the criminal justice system compared to overall population, by race and ethnicity
- A new case management system for the Prosecutor's Office and Public Defender's Office

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

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Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for June 29, 2020

1. Call To Order

Committee Member Jack Hovenier called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Remote-only virtual meeting.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Anne Deacon, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Mike Parker

Members Absent: Tyler Schroeder

2. Restart IPRTF and committee meetings: schedule, areas of focus, ongoing work, next steps

Jill Nixon, Council staff, described the current technical challenges with having remote-only meetings and restrictions on discussion of items not included in the agenda.

Committee members discussed the topics for the upcoming Task Force meeting in August. Each member will be invited to present what's been happening with their agency since March, work that's been done, and issues that have arisen. The Task Force meeting should focus on:

- The status of all their initiatives and how to retool them in light of Covid and recent nationwide concerns regarding racial equity
- What is the current jail population like
- What changes have the Sheriff and police made regarding their equity practices
- How the Courts are starting up again

The committee members also discussed the need to expand social services for incarceration reduction, current and future initiatives regarding racial equity, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee for the Justice Project pausing their work through the end of the year, and how the committees can begin addressing racial equity.

The subcommittees will hold their July meetings prior to the August full Task Force meeting to discuss what the members are doing, what they have done, and how they are planning to continue to move forward. Questions for the committees to report on at the Task Force include how the committees can begin addressing racial equity and what do the committees want to communicate to the Task Force as a whole.

- Receive input at the Legal & Justice Systems Committee on jail population status and changes due to recent factors, who's being booked, and effects on law enforcement and the courts

The August Task Force meeting agenda will include:

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Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for June 29, 2020***

1. status report from each member stakeholder (including Sheriff, Bellingham Police Department, and the courts)
2. reports from the subcommittees on how their work plan will shift
3. Update from Barry Buchanan on the Council's Justice Project, the status of jail planning, and direction from Council on moving forward.
4. What's next?

Deacon reported on a grant for reducing incarceration from a racial perspective and the need for the INDEX Committee to gather data.

The Committee concurred to resume the regular meeting schedule in July for the Task Force and its committees.

Kathy Kershner, County Councilmember, spoke about the HOK contract, the weekly jail population report from Chief Wendy Jones and CARES Act dollars that may be available to reduce incarceration as well as prevent the spread of Covid.

3. INDEX Committee next steps

Buchanan reported that Tyler Schroeder is no longer able to continue as the INDEX Committee Chair. It is not likely that they can organize an INDEX Committee meeting by July 9. He will work with Mr. Schroeder on finding someone to serve as chair for the committee.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment

5. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for July 23, 2020

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. This was a remote-only virtual meeting.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Anne Deacon, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Mike Parker

Members Absent: Tyler Schroeder

4. Other Business

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, presented information on an upcoming community listening series on race and justice, hosted by the community leaders.

The committee concurred to schedule this presentation before the full Task Force at its meeting in August. After the listening sessions, at the end of September, the issues and points that that are raised could come to the Task Force for further review. Make sure community members can also submit written comments via email. Listening to the community is the first step, but there must also be further action. Make sure the community is aware of the work they're doing. The Task Force must do better at articulating challenges and communicating their success with a comprehensive communications plan. The Task Force could formally apply a racial equity lens to any recommendations it makes.

2. Task Force Priorities

The committee discussed potential areas of focus and actions for the Task Force:

- Regarding racial equity:
 - Finding and implementing a racial equity toolkit to help evaluate potential policy recommendations
 - Develop a list of racial equity resources through a local team of leaders involved in a MacArthur grant peer learning network
 - Inviting minority groups to speak
 - Inviting Chief Tanksley to give a presentation on implicit bias training
- Regarding behavioral health:
 - Consider the Eugene, Oregon model of behavioral health response at the 9-1-1 level to address the prevention, intervention, treatment, and aftercare (PITA) continuum. Figure out how to build, maintain, and fund a robust behavioral health response.
 - Consider the possibility of expanding the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program
 - Continue review of existing behavioral health programs, particularly their capacity
 - Addressing the importance of having a training, recruitment, and retention program in the community for specialized behavioral health professionals who are trained to deal with more complex behavioral health clientele.

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- Making the new Crisis Stabilization Center the hub for behavioral health crisis response for the entire county
- Regarding data:
 - Data is critical to racial equity uniform collection and reporting
 - Data is also critical in domestic violence and sexual assault cases
 - The Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee will be critical in ensuring comprehensive and disaggregated data
 - Supporting the implementation of a new case management system for the Prosecutor's Office, which will enhance the accuracy of racial equity data collection
- Make sure the Crisis Stabilization Center is funded and operational

Deacon gave an update on operational funding for the Crisis Stabilization Center:

- There are meetings with the tenant vendors and the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)
- The regional Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization has found additional funds to help support the non-Medicaid population.
- The first year is funded, and they're working on sustainable funding

The committee discussed whether these priorities are in addition to the existing priorities within the committees. Many agencies and jurisdictions will be cash-strapped due to the Covid pandemic, so innovative solutions in terms of funding will be necessary. Identify cost savings from doing things better, which could help pay for ongoing services. A separate team working on upstream diversions is working on a financial mapping strategy. Make sure they continue to look at prevention, particularly for youth.

3. Task Force Agenda for August Meeting

The committee concurred to schedule updates from each committee and status reports from:

- Sheriff Elfo on the jail
- Prosecutor Eric Richey and Vanessa Marten on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program
- Anne Deacon on the GRACE Program

The Committee discussed the possibility of increasing the number of full Task Force meetings this year and scheduling a special Steering Committee meeting in late August. It's important to restore and keep momentum and to stay nimble and responsive to current and emerging issues.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.