

# **Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Joint Behavioral Health and Legal and Justice Systems Committees**

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., December 14, 2021, 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

- [Link to join](#)
- Call in phone number: (253) 215-8782
- Webinar ID: 867 4541 5880
- 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.

### **1. Call to Order**

### **2. Vacant Behavioral Health Specialist Position in the Jail**

*Update/Jackie Mitchell*

### **3. Current use data on the Crisis Stabilization Center**

*Report/Perry Mowery*

### **4. Staffing at Western State Hospital**

*Discussion*

- **Shortage of Facilities**
- **Timeline for evaluations**

### **5. Reentry Services**

*Discussion*

- **Identify services that are currently available, best practices, and gaps in connections**

### **6. Other Business**

### **7. 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.

### **8. 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](mailto: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

<a href="#">IPR TASK FORCE</a>	<a href="#">BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE</a>	<a href="#">LEGAL &amp; JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE</a>	<a href="#">CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY COMMITTEE</a>	<a href="#">INDEX COMMITTEE</a>	<a href="#">STEERING COMMITTEE</a>
Monthly on various Mondays 9-11 AM	Monthly, 3rd Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	Monthly, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Bi-monthly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	Bi-monthly, 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	Various Thursdays 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
2022 Schedule TBD	2022 Schedule TBD	2022 Schedule TBD	2022 Schedule TBD	2022 Schedule TBD	2022 Schedule TBD

# Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

## Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for November 16, 2021

*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.*

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### 1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Mike Parker called the meeting to at 9:09 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Seth Fleetwood, Byron Manering, Michael G. Smith, Brien Thane

### 2. [Task Force Communications \(00:01:13\)](#)

Parker reported on the intent of the Task Force to improve its public communication about the work of the Task Force.

Committee members discussed potential campaign topics, including:

- The Crisis Stabilization Center
- Service capacity for behavioral health capacity in the community, including challenges and existing options for treatment
- The intersect between all first responders, including law enforcement, EMS, and behavioral health providers. Highlight what they are doing collaboratively to get people into services.
- Educating the public about how law enforcement officers can respond to behavioral health calls
- Keep the messages simple
- Include messages about what's next, such as a 24/7 behavioral health urgent care center
- The range of programs that include the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Programs, the upcoming Alternative Response Team Program, and the proposal for the ride-along program
- Include a flow chart of where law enforcement and first responders go, where they can take people, who they should call, and the path a person could take when in contact with law enforcement

The committee members discussed the purpose and content of the Respond Whatcom website, a state committee to discuss the Blake Decision and Healthcare Authority upcoming report to address the requirements of the Blake Decision, short videos that work well as an information medium, and harmonizing and coordinating the various information sources.

### 3. [Continued review of priority items \(00:22:30\)](#)

The committee members reviewed work done so far and discussed the reentry and warm handoff item:

- The current status and future goals of the Health Department reentry program; new contractor and connections to existing programs
- Handoff and community transitions
- The need for a survey of existing resources
- Understand impeding factors such as housing and jobs
- Identify gaps in connections
- The role of the crisis stabilization center
- Funding for a navigator position embedded in the jail

## **Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Behavioral Health Committee**

Meeting Summary for November 16, 2021

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- Review the expectations and levels of training for individuals providing behavioral health services
- Add a peer counselor staff person who is closely supported by a supervisor
- Review the admission denials at the crisis stabilization center
- Status of the number of releases due to the Blake Decision
- Advocacy to State legislatures regarding the requirement for two treatment interventions before arrest; make sure interventions are meaningful and effective

Committee members discussed the priority item to address methamphetamine use:

- Lack of treatment
- Problems with finding housing
- Other problematic drugs that are on the horizon in the community
- Current drug use trends
- Lack of treatment services system and capacity; providing different treatment options for different people
- A recovery navigator attached to the LEAD Program, funded through the Health Care Authority
- The necessity of inpatient treatment for meth addiction; creating relationships around the state with inpatient facilities that treat meth addiction
- Identify the necessary action items for next steps on meth use

#### **4. [Agenda items for December Joint Meeting with Legal & Justice Systems Committee \(01:18:08\)](#)**

Mowery stated there was a request to include an agenda item to give a simple report on use of the Crisis Stabilization Center.

#### **5. Other Business**

There was no other business.

#### **6. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

# Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

## Legal and Justice Systems Committee

Meeting Summary for November 9, 2021

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### 1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Moonwater, Eric Richey, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Darlene Peterson, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley

### 2. [Task Force Communications \(00:01:06\)](#)

Committee members discussed:

- Increasing the frequency of joint meetings with Behavioral Health Committee and will continue to interact productively in 2022
- Opening of the new Crisis Stabilization Center
- The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program
- Setting goals and targeting specific audiences
- Evaluating the success of communications campaign
- Social service connections made on the Task Force
- Home detention as a jail alternative
- Mental health deputy program
- Available and digestible statistics and dashboard for the public to see
- More data to present information to the community regularly
- The accuracy of data over the last couple of years due to artificial influences such as the pandemic and court backlog
- Building a stronger behavioral health crisis response, despite systemic barriers
- Integrating data systems
- Describe the artificial numbers from the jail due to the Covid pandemic ,court backlog, construction, Blake decision, and other factors, and what they need to do in 2022
- Identifying workforce and data issues and barriers and work to overcome those barriers in 2022
- Anticipate and respond to the issues important to the community in the moment
- Educate the public on how they can respond and participate in the process
- Make sure the communications person is hearing from and following the values of the community and meeting people where they are at
- How they are responding to concerns about public safety and invest in systems of care
- Where the government dollars are going, which is related to the data
- Have an accessible dashboard about the data they already have
- Recovery House
- Review the existing reports on activities and goals to prioritize the tasks accomplished and the goals
- Be transparent about achievements, the current landscape, and future goals
- Educate about the work being done
- Community understanding that people are coming together with shared values to address the issues about which the community cares

## Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Legal and Justice Systems Committee

Meeting Summary for November 9, 2021

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### 3. [Domestic Violence Offender Treatment \(00:28:32\)](#)

Van Glubt reported on the possibility of approaching existing substance use disorder programs to gauge if they are interested in developing a domestic violence offender treatment program. The Health Department staff will gauge their interest. One agency is currently looking into the process and evaluating the statutes to become certified. A provider in Eastern Washington is interested in a local contract. Services would be provided remotely.

Mitchell reported that agencies have reported they don't have enough space or staff.

Feld reported on information from Joe Valentine regarding funding:

- Funding for domestic violence offender treatment is available via grants and various departments
- If specialized treatment is being provided by a domestic violence agency, then it would not be covered by Medicaid or state behavioral health funds
- If service is provided by a licensed behavioral health agency and the individual is receiving Medicaid, then it is covered
- The State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) provides grants for domestic violence prevention and treatment services
- Other grant sources for domestic violence prevention and treatment services are through a State program called GrantWatch

Committee members discussed the types of treatment provided to offenders, people referred to domestic violence treatment who are Medicaid recipients, whether mental health treatment providers would consider domestic violence treatment as part of their services, the appropriate agency that would apply for grants for individual treatment, whether American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds could be used for this purpose, and recommending to the Task Force that the County administration pursue grant funding for treatment services.

### 4. [Reentry: Status and Next Steps \(00:43:34\)](#)

Mitchell reported that Compass Health has cancelled its contract to provide behavioral health reentry services in the jail. They may be able to get two clinicians within the contract they are negotiating with Lifeline Connections.

Committee members discussed:

- Recidivism from habitual offenders
- Space constraints in the jail
- Reentry work that occurs outside of jail through social service organizations
- The Task Force recommendation to the County Council and Executive regarding ARPA funding included a priority on reentry
- Look at the systems of support available to people
- Training for everyone in the system to keep reentry success in mind
- Court provisions for release conditions
- Reentry services for all, not just those who have behavioral health services
- The need for a reentry navigator that is outside the criminal legal system
- Reaching out to Goodwill Industries on the status of their services
- Middlesex, Boston success with court and reentry navigators

## **Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Legal and Justice Systems Committee**

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**5. Status of Law Enforcement Drop-Off at Crisis Stabilization Center**

This item was not discussed.

**6. Agenda Items for December Joint Meeting with Behavioral Health Committee**

This item was not discussed.

**7. [Other Business \(00:59:27\)](#)**

King spoke on upcoming agenda items that include review of their meeting length and a presentation on the Middlesex, Boston program success with court and reentry navigators.

**8. [Public Comment \(01:00:09\)](#)**

Mark Gardner spoke in support of producing a dashboard of jail data and information that includes a narrative to explain the current situations and trends.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.