

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for November 26, 2018

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. at the Health Department Creekside Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

Members Present: Anne Deacon, Dan Hammill, Ryan King, Kelli Linville, Byron Manering, Mike Parker

Also Present: Jill Bernstein, Stephen Gockley

Members Absent: Doug Chadwick

2. Jail population statistics and research

Deacon submitted corrected packet information, the Whatcom County Jail Behavioral Health Program Data report (on file), and reported on the 2015 study to find out what kind of triage facility is needed. The results are similar to another study done by the Prosecutor's Office. Focus on serious and persistent mental illness with either psychotic disorder or bipolar I disorder. The questions to answer are who to serve in the jail and what to do with inmates with other mental illnesses.

The Committee members discussed intertwining of mental illness, substance use disorder, and criminogenic factors and intervention.

Jackie Mitchell, Health Department, described the 2015 cohort of selected inmates and the screening and assessment processes.

Deacon continued to report on programs to capture this cohort of defendants. Studies show that those incarcerated recently or more often began in their teens. To answer the question of who to serve:

- They need to know how many of the 298 inmates who received assessments have non-serious and non-violent charges
- Don't focus on those who will get a court order for service anyway
- Focus on the youth under 18 and the 18 to 24 year old age group
- Support law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) officers in the Sheriff's Office
- Identify the services available and services gaps in the sectors of prevention, intervention, and crisis response
- The Task Force could work to identify federal and State dollars

3. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

At the upcoming meetings:

- Update and discuss the current sequential intercept map, including the 0 category.

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- Discuss possibility of a youth court, as proposed by Judge Cedric Kerns
- Ask the Task Force to consider expanding its focus to consider options for juvenile court.
- 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
- Put together a plan for 2019
- Get information about family treatment court, and hear from Northwest Youth Services
- Identify existing community services
- Identify data for tracking

4. Other Business

The committee members decided by general consent to cancel the December meeting.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.