

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Meeting Summary, January 11, 2016
Whatcom County Courthouse, Rooms 513/514
311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham WA

- Success measurements, and additional analysis being performed by the U of W.
- The development of a workgroup (much like the Task Force) from multiple sectors of the community
- The utilization of community referrals instead of criminal referrals
- Harm reduction programs like “Housing first” for people with chemical dependency issues

3. Smart Justice - Spokane

Brean Beggs from Spokane shared information with the Task Force about the work that Spokane has done in regard to incarceration reduction and prevention.

The three goals of the Smart Justice program are:

- Reduce crime
- Reduce or limit costs
- Transform lives

He discussed the utilization of evidence-based pretrial risk assessment tools and the implementation of pretrial service enhancements, and the additional staffing needed to support the work.

Additional programs include:

- Electronic home monitoring for pretrial defendants
- A proposed diversion court
- Portability judge within the jail (proposed)
- Veterans Court
- FasTrack (Bellingham program)
- DWLS 3rd diversion program

He also informed the group about the development of online dashboards to reflect measures, the utilization of WSIPP for data about savings in specific programs.

4. Scope of Task Force

The Task Force briefly discussed the scope of work, and the need for a broader perspective that includes early prevention strategies as well as work that impacts the things that drive substance abuse. Other, on-going work in the community was noted.

5. Ad Hoc Committee Updates

Jack Hovenier reported for Chris Phillips re. Triage Ad Hoc: Robust discussion with recommendation centering on 2-16 bed facilities (one MH, one detox) co-located, voluntary (with some reservations), and an on-going discussion regarding location recommendations.

Commissioner Heydrich reported that the Legal Ad Hoc heard a presentation on the Jail Alternatives programs, and that they are narrowing a list of program enhancements or new program recommendations for consideration.

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Anne Deacon reported that the Behavioral Health Ad Hoc is in the process of mapping current programs in the Sequential Intercept Model, with the following goals and objectives under development:

- Programs should represent a continuum of care, and be integrated and coordinated
- Workforce development is critical
- Prevention strategies like early engagement are important
- Recovery support services
- Improvements to infrastructure (transportation) need to be made to help people in their recovery

6. Summary & Next Steps

Dean Wight distributed a DRAFT table that reflects local and regional facilities and discussed the timeline for the Phase One Report.

- Draft will be reviewed in Ad Hoc meetings
- 2nd draft will be shared with the TF prior to the February 1st meeting

The Task Force supports the idea that LEAD and Smart Justice should be included as goals for future work.

Task Force Meeting Schedule is as follows:

February 01, 2016, 9-11am, Whatcom County Courthouse, Rooms 513/514

7. Public Comment

Joy Gilfilen asked if the Task Force has considered engagement of the business community.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am