

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Triage Facility and Facility Programming Ad Hoc Committee

Statement of Work

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force is to continually review Whatcom County's criminal justice and behavioral health programs and make specific recommendations to safely and effectively reduce incarceration of individuals struggling with mental illness and chemical dependency, and minimize jail utilization by pretrial defendants who can safely be released. (Ord. 2015-037; Ord. 2015-025; County Code 2.46.020).

The purpose of this Ad Hoc Committee is to make recommendations to Task Force regarding the construction and operation of a new or expanded multi-purpose crisis triage facility to assist with jail and hospital diversion of individuals struggling with mental illness and/or chemical dependency (County Code 2.46.030).

Recommendations will take national best practices into account, as well as the work of the other two Ad Hoc Committees.

Goals of Expanded Crisis Triage Service in Whatcom County

- Improve the ability of law enforcement or emergency medical services to divert mentally ill citizens directly to a Triage Facility or a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and return to their duties
- Improve the ability of law enforcement or emergency medical services to divert citizens struggling with chemical dependency directly to a Triage Facility or a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) and return to their duties
- Improve access for individuals who are seeking treatment for chemical dependency or mental health concerns
- Provide a clear point of entry (no-wrong door) to access behavioral health services in Whatcom County
- Consider the ability to hold and treat unsafe citizens involuntarily until they have stabilized their symptoms and are safe to return to the community
- Consider opportunities for integrating medical and behavioral health services
- Create clarity around the options for voluntary and involuntary treatment, and provide that information to the Task Force
- Provide comprehensive discharge planning to ensure citizens are connected to and engaged in available treatment services upon their return to the community (warm hand-offs)

Scope (Project Tasks)

- Assemble existing data, including relevant prevalence and utilization data
- Develop options
- Look at feasibility
- Identify models for consideration and make a recommendation
- Put forth feasibility considerations
- Consider, at a later time, the option of including an urgent care facility at the same location as the proposed facility as ancillary or complementary services
- Define the purpose of the proposed facility
- Identify the population it will serve
- Identify what services are currently offered
- Identify appropriate staffing structure
- What are our funding sources for capital costs?
- What are our funding sources for operations?

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Triage Facility and Facility Programming Ad Hoc Committee

Statement of Work

- Develop revenue and expenditure projections
- Determine license requirements
- Obtain clarity re. RCW 10.31.110
- Identify appropriate location(s)
- Identify appropriate services prior to client entry into facility (easy access/no wrong door)
- Identify appropriate resources and supports for client departures from facility (warm hand-offs)

Deliverables for Phase One Deadline (February 9, 2016)

Review current practices and assigned resources, (facilities, programs, funding sources), and develop goals for new or modified programs, and projected operational objectives. Determine licensing requirements and program components. Provide general information on expenditures and sustainable revenue projections.

Provide the Task Force with a set of options that addresses the issues outlined in the Scope.

Schedule of Work (need to set dates)

The Task Force and the Ad Hoc Committees that are engaged in the Phase One work are functioning under a narrow timeframe for the successful delivery of their initial report to the Whatcom County. With a Phase One delivery date of February 09, 2016.

- Workgroup meeting schedule
 - December 10, 2015
 - December 17, 2015
 - January 7, 2016
 - January 14, 2016
- Benchmarking Completed by: TBD
- All Tasks identified in Scope assigned to/completed by: TBD

Measures of Success

Information and recommendations to the Task Force within the defined periods

Identified Best Practices

Incorporate as appropriate for our work and any appropriate additional best practices that meet nationally recognized standards.

- SAMHSA's Gains Center
- VERA Institute of Justice
- National Association of Counties
 - Stepping Up Initiative
- Council of State Governments Justice Center
- Other national standards

Other Ad Hoc Committees

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Triage Facility and Facility Programming Ad Hoc Committee***
Statement of Work

The work of the Behavioral Health Programs and Services Ad Hoc Committee will inform the work of Triage Facility and Facility Programming Committee in Phase One through its review of current behavioral health programs and services that are in operation in Whatcom County, and through the development of recommendations for improvements to current programs and services.

The work of the Legal System Ad Hoc Committee will inform the work of the Triage Facility and Facility Programming Committee in Phase One through its review of current programs and services that are in operation in Whatcom County, and through the development of recommendations for improvements to current programs and services.

The work between Ad Hoc Committees is interrelated and interdependent.