

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force**  
**Behavioral Health Subcommittee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Summary for May 16, 2016**

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**1. Call To Order**

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m. at the Health Department Lower Level Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

Members Present: Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Susan Gribbin, Betsy Kruse, Byron Manering, Randy Polidan

Also Present: Stephen Gockley, Forrest Longman, Perry Mowery, Jeff Parks

Members Absent: Julie Finkbonner, Kelli Linville, Greg Winter

Review July 28, 2016 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

**3. Review of Phase 2 Draft Report**

The Committee discussed:

- Addressing criminogenic risk factors
- The City of Bellingham law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD)-like jail diversion program
- Collaboration between the Sheriff and City of Bellingham Police Department
- The level of specificity in the report
- Collaboration among the County Health Department, the City of Bellingham, and housing agencies to address the need for more mental health supportive housing
- First responder database software packages to track mental health calls
- When the committee will discuss prevention and early intervention to reduce adverse childhood experiences.

**2. Letter from Sheriff regarding proposed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**

Jeff Parks, Sheriff's Office, described the Sheriff's additional services request (ASR) for funding for a CIT. The new specialized program includes:

- Three new deputy positions
- A higher level of specialized training for the three deputies
- An ongoing relationship with other community and regional service providers
- Deputies would assist with jail staff to get people out of jail
- Deputies would follow up with residents who need specialized care
- The cost is approximately \$300,000 per year, plus approximately \$100,000 or \$200,000 for startup costs
- It's unlikely the County Executive will fund the program

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The committee discussed:

- Whether the Sheriff's Office can create the unit with existing staff
- Whether a better model would be to include a mental health professional on a response team
- Whether the Sheriff and Bellingham Police can collaborate on a program
- Smaller jurisdictions calling on the Sheriff's Office when a specialty situation comes up
- The Task Force's obligation to identify the best program and services options, regardless of a budget process.
- Identifying which projects that work in an integrative and collaborative model
- A software system that combines database information with case management

#### **4. Recovery Support Services**

Deacon stated this item is focused on backdoor services at the triage facility, to keep people stable once discharged:

- Supportive housing programs
- Behavioral Health Revenue Advisory Committee (BHRAC) prioritized future sales tax dollars going to housing
- BHRAC also prioritized pre-arrest diversion activities

The Rainbow Recovery Center will relocate in 2017 to a new location to alleviate problems with predatory people using the program and for the safety of its vulnerable clients. It will shift away from being a homeless drop-in center.

#### **2. Letter from Sheriff regarding proposed Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)**

The committee continued discussion of the Sheriff's request:

- The proposed CIT is a step in the right direction
- Law enforcement throughout the county coordinate to the greatest extent possible
- Having a team concept is important
- Include potential outcomes in the information about the CIT
- The CIT should coordinate with the jail

Polidan moved to support the Sheriff's Office effort to create a CIT that can team with local mental health providers. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

Deacon stated it would be important for the Whatcom Police Chiefs to have a discussion about appropriate levels of cooperation and coordination.

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**5. Prevention & Early Intervention Efforts**

The committee did not discuss this item.

**6. Transition to commercial managed healthcare in 2020**

The committee did not discuss this item.

**7. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information**

Deacon stated the next meeting of the committee will be on October 27 at 2:30 p.m.

**8. Public Comment**

No one spoke.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

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