

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***Behavioral Health Subcommittee***  
**Meeting Summary for March 16, 2017**

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**1. Call To Order**

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. at the Lummi Administration Building, Kwelsham 2nd Floor North Conference Room Side A, 2665 Kwina Road, Bellingham.

Members Present: Anne Deacon, Dan Hammill, Nick Lewis, Randy Polidan

Members Absent: Susan Gribbin, Byron Manering, Greg Winter

Also Present: Jill Bernstein, Mark Gardner, Justin Iwasaki, Jackie Mitchell, Veronica Smith

Review February 16, 2017 Meeting Summary

There were no changes to the meeting summary.

Election of 2017 Chair and Vice-Chair

The Committee appointed Anne Deacon as Chair and Dan Hammill as Vice-Chair for 2017.

**2. 21ST CENTURY CURES ACT**

Deacon reported on the 21st Century Cures Act, which was signed into law in December 2016.

- Grants for Diversion
- Sequential Intercept Mapping
- Assess mental health in corrections
- Release services
- Community Services
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Assertive Community Treatment

The Committee members discussed the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) program through Lake Whatcom Treatment Center, which has an interdisciplinary Team available 24 hours per day, seven days per week for people with a serious mental illness coming out of Western State Hospital. The team includes medical substance use disorder professionals, peers, counselors, and case managers. It's unknown what will happen if the federal budget is passed. It drops an number of waivers for programs and housing.

Lewis stated that the Lummi Tribe has capacity for services for Native Americans with a tribal certificate if needed, and they could serve them in culturally appropriate ways.

**3. Discussion on how to reduce instances of jail incarceration resulting from illegal behavior during emergency room involuntary treatment evaluation**

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This item was not discussed.

**4. Phase III Report**

This item was not discussed.

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

This item was not discussed.

**6. Other Business**

Deacon referenced the joint effort by the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County, and hospital for the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) project. She submitted an invitation and list of stakeholders invited to the first work session on April 11 (*on file*). She reported on upcoming GRACE forums. Information is on the flyer. She asked for feedback from the committee members.

The committee discussed:

- Development of software for connecting entities who are coordinating work.
- Fix immediately the confidentiality, which is a significant concern and which often sets up barriers.
- How to share information, despite Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements.
- See how other jurisdictions are working with confidentiality issues.
- Making confidentiality waivers available at the triage center or with the first responders.
- Engage the Community Health Plan of Washington (CHPW), Molina Healthcare, and legal counsel to help solve the confidentiality issue and process.
- Contacting officials in Spokane about their program to see if is a model that can be used locally.
- Develop programs that offer incentives versus threaten consequences and meet needs through a wider spectrum of services.
- The need to have the right program or services available as the best strategy for engagement.
- Memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between tribes and other entities.
- The list of invited stakeholders should include a representative from the Public Defender's Office, Dr. Iwasaki, the Lummi Chief of Police, and a representative of the municipal public defenders.
- Goals for GRACE outcomes:
  - Protect Public Safety
  - Cost Effectiveness of program
  - Transforming Lives
- Another benefit of the GRACE program would be reduced risk for hospital emergency room staff.
- Hospital staff are not able to engage certain people and get them into the psych unit, so they are at risk for violence.

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- In some of these cases, the criminal justice system would incorporate behavioral health engagement, knowledge, treatment, and intervention embedded in the jail system.
- In the end, some people will still need to be jailed and kept somewhere safe, so it's crucial to treat them appropriately, including corrections officers, defense attorneys, and prosecutors.

**7. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.