

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Triage Facility Subcommittee  
Meeting Summary for April 20, 2017***

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**1. Call To Order**

Committee Chair Chris Phillips called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Health Department Administrative Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

Members Present: Jack Hovenier, Ken Mann, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder

Members Absent: Jeff Brubaker, Betsy Kruse, Kelli Linville

Also Present: Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon

Review September 15, 2016 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

Election of Subcommittee Chair and Vice-Chair

Deacon moved to appoint Chris Phillips as Chair. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Mann moved to appoint Betsy Kruse as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

- 2. Update on Triage Facility architectural plans,**
- 3. Discussion of requirement to engage providers to finalize the architectural design,**
- 4. Update on the capital funding request from the State legislature,**
- 5. Update on plans for neighborhood outreach**

*(The Committee discussed agenda items two through five concurrently.)*

Schroeder stated they are working with the State legislature on funding.

Deacon submitted a handout (*on file*) and reported on the status of the regional request in the House and Senate 2017 Capital Budgets:

- The Senate budget proposes that the Department of Commerce put out requests for proposals (RFPs) and award grant money through a competitive process. Not as much money is allocated as requested.
- The House budget includes both Whatcom County projects at the full requested amount.

The Committee discussed lobbying State Senator Doug Ericksen, 42<sup>nd</sup> District, and Senator Kevin Rankor, 40<sup>th</sup> District:

- The decision will be answered through the Senate and House budget negotiations.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***Triage Facility Subcommittee***  
**Meeting Summary for April 20, 2017**

---

- It would be helpful for the Hospital Association to write a letter of support to the senators for the specific callout in the House budget.
- The Legislature's regular session ends Friday, April 23. A special session is likely to begin after that date.
- Contact representatives in the 40<sup>th</sup> and 42<sup>nd</sup> Districts after the special session begins and before the budget negotiations begin.
- Task Force members should be notified about the importance of making calls, the timing of contact, and the handout of the Comparison of House and Senate 2017 Capital Budgets.
- Schroeder will develop brief talking points and a summary rationale for the Task Force members to help the Senate leadership move forward with the specific capital line items.

The Committee members discussed the architectural design and plans for neighborhood outreach:

- A question is whether they need to further refine the architectural design before doing the neighborhood outreach, or if outreach can be done when just the footprint and landscaping is designed.
- The architect, Ron Wright, is putting together a proposal and scope for a contract, which is due next week.
- The State Department of Health Construction Review Services Division interpreted a fire suppression building code to require fire walls around individual sleeping rooms rather than the entire sleeping area of the building.
- That interpretation prevents an open design in the facility, which is the standard indicator.
- They are waiting to find out if that interpretation will stand.
- Deacon will develop talking points about the State Department of Health's interpretation of fire codes for local officials, including Bellingham Mayor Linville, to present to contacts in the Governor's Office, Governor Inslee, and Attorney General Bob Ferguson.
- Neighborhood meetings are typically done through the City of Bellingham project permit process, but the designs aren't ready to submit for a permit.
- The contract with architect Ron Wright will include that public process that is necessary through the permit process.
- An earlier public process should be done, hopefully in May, in the design review phase to introduce the community to the conceptual plans and allow them to comment, as requested by the Sheriff.
- Schroeder will present to the committee at its next meeting a bulleted outreach plan that will include:
  - Letters and Outreach to the neighbors
  - Bellingham Herald article specifically about the project
  - The City's requirements for public outreach during the building permit process
- The Task Force already approved moving forward with neighborhood outreach.

The committee members discussed operational funding:

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***Triage Facility Subcommittee***  
**Meeting Summary for April 20, 2017**

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- The Healthcare Authority believes these services should be purchased by the managed care organizations (MCO). The service is a required element to be in the provider network.
- The most current model is the current contract with the MCOs in the Southwest Washington region and the North Central region.
- For the first two years, the MCOs will contract with the County behavioral health organizations for some of these specialized services.
- The Executive has concerns about long-term operational funding at the federal level.
- The gap between the operating funds Whatcom County receives now (\$3.5 million per year) and funds needed to operate the new triage facility (\$5 million) is \$1.5 million for both detox and mental health.

**6. Draft content for Phase 3 report**

- The initial Phase 3 report is due July 11. The final Phase 3 report is due in December.
- Issues discussed today: Capital funding from State, neighborhood outreach, Department of Health fire code interpretation.
- Include increased costs of construction, up to approximately \$9 million, which includes furniture, equipment, relocation of the program during construction, startup costs, and other things.
- The County now has \$2.5 million from the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization, so it needs \$7 million for remaining capital construction costs.

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

The Committee agreed to schedule its next meeting on Thursday, May 18, 9:30-10:45 a.m. at the Health Department.

**8. Other Business**

The Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA) is hosting a public forum on “The Future of Affordable Care: Threats and Opportunities” this evening, April 20, 7-9 PM in Bellingham at the St Luke’s Health Education Center.

**9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.