

***Incarceration Prevention Reduction Task Force  
Triage Facility Committee***

September 21, 2017

Health Department Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham WA  
10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

**AGENDA**

Topic	Packet Page(s)
<b>1. Call to Order</b> • Review August 3, 2017 meeting summary	1 - 3
<b>2. State capital budget</b>	N/A
<b>3. County Council approval of the triage facility project budget</b>	4 - 7
<b>4. North Sound BHO Executive Committee consideration of becoming an integrated managed care mid-adopter</b>	N/A
<b>5. Architectural plans and scope of work</b>	N/A
<b>6. Public outreach plan</b>	8 - 12
<b>7. Discussion of final Phase III Report, which could include:</b> • An update on the work of architect Ron Wright regarding programming, design, and other factors • Public outreach	13 - 17
<b>8. Next Steps: Ideas &amp; Further Information</b> • Review assigned tasks • Next meeting topics	
<b>9. Other Business</b>	
<b>10. Public Comment</b>	
<b>11. Adjourn</b> The next meeting is not scheduled at this time.	

Upcoming Meetings:

- Full Task Force: 9:00-11:00 a.m. on September 25, 2017 in the County Courthouse 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Rooms 513/514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham
- Legal and Justice Systems Committee: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. on October 10, 2017 at the County Courthouse Fifth Floor Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.
- Behavioral Health Committee: 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. on October 16, 2017 at the Health Department Creekside Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force**  
**Triage Facility Subcommittee**  
**DRAFT Meeting Summary for August 3, 2016**

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**1. Call To Order**

Committee Member Jack Hovenier called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. at the Health Department Creekside Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

Members Present: Jack Hovenier, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder

Also Present: Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Sandy Whitcutt (proxy for Betsy Kruse)

Members Absent: Jeff Brubaker, Kelli Linville, Ken Mann

Review May 18, 2017 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

**2. Update on Capital Funding**

Schroeder submitted a handout on the estimated budget for the triage center additions and renovations (*on file*) and reported on the status of the State's capital budget. The State Senate has not yet passed the capital budget. The 45<sup>th</sup> District seat may change, which may shift the balance in Olympia.

The committee members discussed the upcoming process and what to do if there is no capital budget:

- The County administration will create a project budget at the County Council meeting on September 12.
- The administration will secure a contract with the architect, Ron Wright, to develop a schematic design.
- Schroeder hopes they will have a schematic by December.
- They will need a more than \$7 million for the triage facility. They have \$5.5 million now.
- If there is no money in the State budget for a triage facility, one option is to bond for the rest of the money, but that is the least preferred option.
- It would be better to delay the project if necessary than to bond for the money, so they don't lose funding from the State.
- The construction costs per square foot may be approximately \$232 for renovation and \$268 for the addition.
- Whether or not they should build a LEED-certified facility.
- Don't get too specific on the design before reaching out to the neighborhood and public, so they can provide input and feedback.

The committee discussed what happens if the North Sound Region becomes a mid-adopter of the Medicaid managed care process to integrate behavioral health and medical care.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
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**DRAFT Meeting Summary for August 3, 2016**

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- The Behavioral Health Organization Executive Board, managed care organizations (MCOs), the Accountable Communities of Health (ACH), the Healthcare Authority (HCA), and County Commissioners are having meetings to talk about becoming a mid-adopter.
  - Planning for an interlocal structure
  - Define the categories of services
  - The MCOs in the pilot project are committed to supporting a triage facility in that area
- There is a financial benefit to becoming a mid-adopter and implementing the managed care process a year early.
- Crisis services are separate, and funding will go to the State or counties, which will likely impact the operating funds for the triage facility.
- Get confirmation from Joe Valentine that MCOs will support funding for triage facilities because they are cheaper to run than emergency rooms.
- Make sure the building and services providers are providing the best services possible so they don't lose funding.
- They need assurance from the director of the HCA that goes beyond verbal assurance.
- Convey the message to the County Council that this is a time of transition and there are a lot of moving parts, they will look for certainties, and MCOs are most likely to support the triage facility because they are cheaper.

#### **4. Other Business**

Schroeder stated that approval of a budget and fund with \$300,000 for architect Ron Wright is scheduled on the September 12 County Council agenda. He will look at the project scope and programming, talk to service providers, get verification from the State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and Department of Health on licensing requirements, look into the structural requirements, confirm requirements from all permitting agencies, and prepare an estimate of probable construction costs and a timeline. They want to build a stand-alone crisis triage center. The administration is going to investigate whether it's better to build a new stand-alone crisis triage center on the vacant lot between the work center and the road. One saving is that they won't have to move people from the existing program during construction.

The committee talked about the possibility of creating a backup option to build the triage center in phases in case there are problems with securing operational and/or construction funding and the importance of ensuring the triage facility is a viable option for law enforcement.

Hovenier moved for this Committee to ask the County to diligently explore making the triage and crisis respite facility a free-standing facility for three reasons: 1. The cost differential for the remodel and a new facility is only 16 percent, 2. Hidden problems often occur with remodels, so the new construction forecast will be more accurate, 3. It gives better use of the existing building by not eliminating what they currently have. The motion was seconded.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
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Schroeder stated the property is County-owned property in the same location and would provide more flexibility.

The motion carried unanimously.

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

The committee discussed whether they can take steps to encourage State legislators to vote in favor of the capital budget, continuing to discuss operational funding, beginning work on the final Phase III Report to the County Council, and the timeline for Ron Wright's deliverables.

The next meeting will begin around 10:00 a.m. on September 21. The agenda items will include:

- An update on the State's capital budget
- An update on Council passage of the triage facility project budget
- A report on the North Sound BHO Executive Committee consideration of becoming a mid-adopter
- An update on architectural plans and scope of work
- An update on the public outreach plan
- Discussion of the final Phase III Report, which could include:
  - An update on the work of architect Ron Wright regarding programming, design, and other factors
  - Public outreach

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

**WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL**

NO. 2017-246

CLEARANCES	Initial	Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned to:
Originator:	MDC	7/26/17	RECEIVED  AUG 01 2017  WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	8/8/17	Intro
Division Head:				9/12/17	Finance Committee; Council
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:	KNF	7/27/17			
Purchasing/Budget:	MDA	7/26/17			
Executive:		8-1-17			

**TITLE OF DOCUMENT:** Ordinance Establishing the Triage Center Expansion Fund And Establishing A Project Based Budget For The Triage Center Expansion Project

**ATTACHMENTS:** Ordinance and Exhibit A

SEPA review required? ( ) Yes ( X ) NO      Should Clerk schedule a hearing? ( ) Yes ( X ) NO  
 SEPA review completed? ( ) Yes ( X ) NO      Requested Date:

**SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:** (If this item is an ordinance or requires a public hearing, you must provide the language for use in the required public notice. Be specific and cite RCW or WCC as appropriate. Be clear in explaining the intent of the action.)

*Request establishes the Triage Center Expansion Fund and requests a project based budget for Phase I of the Triage Center Expansion project in the amount of \$300,000.*

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

**COUNCIL ACTION:**

**Related County Contract #:**

**Related File Numbers:**

**Ordinance or Resolution Number:**

PROPOSED BY: Executive  
INTRODUCTION DATE: 8/8/17

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE TRIAGE CENTER EXPANSION FUND AND  
ESTABLISHING A PROJECT BASED BUDGET FOR THE TRIAGE CENTER EXPANSION  
PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the current Triage Center facility does not have enough capacity to meet community needs, and

**WHEREAS**, the County is now ready to begin Phase I of the Triage Center expansion project, to include plan design, architectural services, and public outreach efforts, and

**WHEREAS**, the County has received a \$2,500,000 grant from North Sound Behavioral Health Organization in support of this project, and

**WHEREAS**, Section 6.80 of the Whatcom County Home Rule Charter allows for project-based capital budget appropriation ordinances that lapse when the project has been completed or abandoned or when no expenditure or encumbrance has been made for three (3) years,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that a new fund is hereby established titled Triage Center Expansion Fund. This fund shall be used to account for the revenues and expenditures of the capital project mentioned above, and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the Triage Center Expansion Fund is approved with a Phase I project budget of \$300,000 as described in Exhibit A.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Chair of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

( ) Approved      ( ) Denied

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Louws, County Executive  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Supplemental Budget Request**

Status: Pending

**Health**

**Human Services**

Suppl ID # 2330

Fund

Cost Center

Originator: Patty Proctor

Expenditure Type: One-Time

Year 1 2017

Add'l FTE

Add'l Space

Priority 1

Name of Request: Phase I - Triage Center Expansion

X

Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)

Date

7/31/17

Costs:	Object	Object Description	Amount Requested
	4334.04605	NSRSN Grant	(\$2,500,000)
	6190	Direct Billing Rate	\$20,000
	6630	Professional Services	\$280,000
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>(\$2,200,000)</b>

**1a. Description of request:**

The North Sound Behavioral Health Organization has provided \$2.5 million to Whatcom County for expansion of the existing triage facility. These funds will be combined with other state and local funding to complete the future construction. This funding request is intended to support pre-construction activities to include an update to the design plan, architectural services, and public outreach efforts.

**1b. Primary customers:**

County staff and the community members impacted by the Triage Facility construction

**2. Problem to be solved:**

The current Triage facility has 13 total beds, five for mental health crisis stabilization, and eight for alcohol and/or drug detox. The facility is often full, unable to meet the demand of the community. First Responders often come into contact with individuals who would be better served by the Triage facility as opposed to jail or the emergency department. Due to insufficient number of beds, First Responders are often unable to access the services at the Triage facility for these individuals.

Expansion of the Triage facility will increase the number of beds to 16 of each type for a total of 32, thereby providing accessible alternatives to jail or the emergency department.

**3a. Options / Advantages:**

Phase I of the Triage Facility expansion will be fully supported by these funds, and set the stage for the Phase II construction process.

**3b. Cost savings:**

No local county funds will be used for this request.

**4a. Outcomes:**

A final architectural pre-design with construction cost estimates will be completed and used to inform the public of the construction and Triage expansion project.

**4b. Measures:**

**5a. Other Departments/Agencies:**

The county Administrative Services Facilities division

**5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:**

Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager, will oversee programming elements and the Facilities division will oversee pre-construction activities

# Supplemental Budget Request

Status: Pending

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Health

Human Services

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Supp'l ID # 2330

**Fund**

**Cost Center**

**Originator: Patty Proctor**

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**6. Funding Source:**

100% of the funds supporting this request come from an external source, the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization.



# **Whatcom County Crisis Triage Facility Expansion**

## **Draft Public Involvement Plan**

**Located: Whatcom County Triage Facility  
2030 Division St.  
Bellingham, Wa 98226**

**May 2017  
(Amended)**



# Public Involvement Plan

## Introduction

As part of planning for the expanded Whatcom County Mental Health and Acute Detox Triage Facility (Crisis Triage Facility), it has been identified that there is a need to prepare a Public Involvement Plan (PIP). The Plan is intended to provide a transparent, open process for stakeholders, citizens and decision makers.

The Executive, Sheriff and County Council, as recommended by the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (IPRTF), want to ensure that there is community understanding of the proposed expansion of the Crisis Triage Facility. Additionally, when Whatcom County purchased the Division Street property for the Work Center, it was imagined as an interim location until a new jail was built and the Work Center services moved there. The County indicated to the City of Bellingham and the neighbors in the area that the location would be sold and returned to commercial use at that time. It is still contemplated that Work Center Facility would move into a new jail facility, however, the recommended option of expansion to the triage facility would all but preclude a private, commercial future for the property. Given the success of the current facility and limited impact of the Work Center and current triage facility on the neighbors, this may not be an issue.

With this and other aspects in mind, the County has identified the need to perform public outreach to ensure that community input is heard and understood to accomplish a fully informed decision of the future use of the Division Street Property.

This Public Involvement Plan is principally for use by Whatcom County and the IPRTF to guide outreach efforts during development of the Crisis Triage Facility. It is a dynamic document, subject to change as circumstances warrant. Coordination of the Plan's updating and implementation will be done by Whatcom County in coordination with the IPRTF Triage Facility Ad Hoc Committee.

## Objectives

The primary objective of a Public Involvement Plan is to foster understanding in the process leading to a decision of siting the expanded Crisis Triage Facility at the Division Street property. An expanded facility will play an important role in behavioral health treatment in Whatcom County and help to address the mental health and substance use challenges facing the community, including the criminal justice system, by creating a

more robust diversion option for those whose primary interaction with law enforcement is a result of problematic symptoms of mental illness and/or substance abuse.

After initial review and input it has been determined that the priority location of the expanded Crisis Triage facility is the Division Street property that houses the current triage facility and the County's Work Center. The advantages of such a location were identified by the IPFTF, as recommended in the Phase I report to the County Council:

- The land is owned by the County, this makes the entire project more affordable.
- Preliminary design work for remodel and addition was done in 2010, reducing the cost of design.
- The location is close enough to downtown, the hospital, and the freeway to not create significant difficulties for law enforcement and emergency medical services (EMS) over other locations. This is especially true if the time it takes first responders to drop off individuals is sufficiently brief.

**Recognizing the advantages that the property at Division Street brings to the siting of the expanded Crisis Triage Facility, it is important to provide the public information on the project and garner public input to help form the decision making process.**

### **The Public Involvement Plan**

Various mechanisms will be used to inform and involve stakeholders, consistent with the County's goals. As a first priority, the Public Involvement Plan will reach out to those most affected by the project and those neighbors that live in the vicinity. Overall, the County will include those individuals seeking information on the project.

Public involvement will be an informational activity educating the public on the need to enhance the Crisis Triage Facility, provide information on the site selection process and explain what the neighbors can expect the facility's impact is on the neighborhood in the future. It will be conducted in a respectful, responsive manner. The County will work with the City of Bellingham in a "no surprises" manner to understand how their policies and regulations affect the design, location and permitting process, including public outreach of the proposed project.

### **Key Messages**

Key Messages are the overarching themes that define more specific statements regarding the project.

- **Expand the existing Triage Facility located at the Division Street property**
- **Develop two 16 bed units joined in one building off a common foyer with a common intake space; each unit licensed as a Residential Treatment Facility.**

- **One unit will provide mental health crisis stabilization services as a Crisis Triage Facility.**
- **The 16 bed mental health Crisis Triage Unit will be certified as voluntary with enhanced security.**
- **The other unit will provide for a 16 bed acute substance detoxification services.**
- **The land is owned by the County, this makes the entire project more affordable.**
- **Preliminary design work for remodel and addition was done in 2010, reducing the cost of design.**
- **The location is close enough to downtown, the hospital, and the freeway to not create significant difficulties for law enforcement and emergency medical services (EMS) over other locations. This is especially true if the time it takes first responders to drop off individuals is sufficiently brief.**
- **Public transportation is limited in the areas, which can make it difficult for self-referral/walk-in patients. Additional transits options will be important for the project to function appropriately**
- **This project is important to reinforce an ongoing process of recovery by connecting people to supportive services in the community. An adequate continuum of care includes community based mental health counseling, residential and outpatient substance use disorder services, recovery house level of care, longer term supportive housing, case management, and access to primary care and dental services.**

## **Methods**

Following are several methods that will achieve the Objectives listed above. They will be implemented as soon as possible and continue through the site and design selections; and final permitting.

- Objective: Providing convenient means for citizens to ask questions or express opinions.
- Methods
  - **E-Mail through the Whatcom County Executive Office and Health Department;**
    - Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive – [tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:tschroed@co.whatcom.wa.us)
    - Anne Deacon, Human Services Manager  
[adeacon@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:adeacon@co.whatcom.wa.us)
    - Additional email contacts as appropriate, to be determined

- **A dedicated website address created for the updates to the expanded crisis triage facility project.**
  - <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/2075/Crisis-Triage-Center>
  - <http://www.whatcomcounty.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/26331>  
- Compass Health Flyer on existing Whatcom County Triage Center
- **Briefings - Throughout the planning, permitting and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process, there should be briefings of stakeholders and key officials. These should be scheduled to allow input prior to important stages of the process. Key meetings would be as follows:**
  - Incarceration Prevention Task Force – Triage Facility Subcommittee
  - Incarceration Prevention Task Force – Full Committee
  - Bellingham City Council Briefing
  - County Council Briefing
- **Neighborhood Notice/Meeting discussions**
  - Identify addresses of neighbors within 500' ft. of property
    - Other contacts ([neighborhood and media list](#)) similar to City of Bellingham's [community meeting requirements](#)
  - Ensure that all addresses in Orchard Street area are included
  - Identify a community meeting day and space, to be determined
    - Explain the project and permit process
    - Obtain opinions on site
    - Discuss the uses on the site
    - Listen to concerns about impacts
- **Key Stakeholders Discussions**
  - Incarceration Prevention Task Force members
  - Whatcom County Council
  - Whatcom Crisis Oversight Committee
- **Permit Process**
  - Property is zoned Public to allow governmental operations
  - Outright allowed in the Public zone
  - Pre-Application Process (or, waiver)
  - SEPA process, two week public comment period
  - Building permit process application

SPONSORED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
PROPOSED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
INTRODUCTION DATE: July 21, 2015

ORDINANCE 2015- 037

**ORDINANCE AMENDING ORD2015-025, WHICH CREATED A WHATCOM COUNTY INCARCERATION PREVENTION AND REDUCTION TASK FORCE INTENDED TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS, OVERSIGHT, AND SPECIFIC TIMEFRAMES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW, OR ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING, PROGRAMS DESIGNED ALONG A CONTINUUM THAT EFFECTIVELY REDUCES INCARCERATION OF INDIVIDUALS STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY, AND MINIMIZES JAIL UTILIZATION BY PRETRIAL DEFENDANTS WHO CAN SAFELY BE RELEASED**

**WHEREAS**, in 2012 the Jail Planning Task Force recommended that space be found for a behavioral health triage facility with sufficient capacity and capability to offer pre-booking diversion from jail; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed countywide jail is currently designed to include needed space for expanded medical and mental health program space in that facility; and

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Health Department has been planning toward an expanded and new crisis triage facility to provide an alternative to the jail or the hospital emergency room; and

**WHEREAS**, the Whatcom County Council and Whatcom County Executive are committed to these facilities and programs related to behavioral health issues and share the commitment to reduce jail populations and reduce recidivism through jail alternative programs and the County has the financial capacity and is committed to providing the capital and operating funds necessary for a new or expanded crisis triage center; and

**WHEREAS**, the County currently provides behavioral health programs funded through the Behavioral Health Tax, at approximately \$4.1 million annually, which include a continuum of behavioral health services designed to reduce criminal justice involvement of people struggling with mental illness and chemical dependency and has earmarked \$3 million in Behavioral Health Tax revenue reserves for the expansion and/or relocation of a new triage center; and

**WHEREAS**, the County currently owns and operates a behavioral health crisis triage center and Interim Work Center on Division Street in Bellingham, which property the County may sell or transfer or repurpose for behavioral health uses, when the new countywide jail is completed and the County has agreed and ordained that if that property is sold or transferred, the resulting value and proceeds from the transaction will be applied by the County to facilities and programs that support the goals of treating and diverting individuals with behavioral health problems from the criminal justice system, such as a new or expanded multi-purpose triage center; and

**WHEREAS**, these behavioral health facilities and programs are designed to achieve the following policy goals, 1) a reduction of the number of mentally ill and chemically dependent people using costly interventions like jail, emergency rooms, and hospitals; 2) a reduction of the number of people who recycle through the jail, returning repeatedly as a result of their mental illness or chemical dependency; 3) a reduction of the incidence and severity of chemical dependency and mental and emotional disorders in youth and adults; and 4) diversion of mentally ill and chemically dependent youth and adults from initial or further justice system involvement; and

**WHEREAS**, the County's costs for current criminal justice and incarceration programs continue to rise every year; mental illness and chemical dependency problems have a significant impact on the utilization of these very expensive services; and successful diversion programs should result in substantial long term savings to the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, the County intends to construct and operate a new or expanded multi-purpose diversion crisis triage center and intends to reduce long-term jail populations and reduce recidivism, by providing safe and effective medical, mental health and substance abuse services to individuals in need of such services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that the recently established County Code Chapter 2.46 is hereby amended as outlined in **Exhibit A** to this ordinance and as reflected in redline throughout this document.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the initial tasks to be accomplished by the Task Force are as follows:

- A. Develop plans for a new or expanded crisis triage center for individuals struggling with mental illness and chemical dependency, including:
1. Substantive programming to be included and auxiliary services that would increase efficiency and effectiveness
  2. Location and space needs criteria
  3. Funding sources and recommendations for both construction and operations
  4. Specific timeframes for decision-making and completion
  5. Documentation of assumptions used to project the effectiveness and costs
  6. Provide recommendations to the County for enhancements of alternative services in the existing facility prior to the expansion or relocation of the facility.
- B. Development recommendations for new, or enhancement of existing, programs designed along a continuum that effectively reduces incarceration of individuals struggling with mental illness and chemical dependency.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the initial work of the Task Force for the above tasks shall be accomplished and reported to the County Council in the following phases:

**PHASE I** - 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. Deliver the initial Phase 1 report by January 10, 2016.

**PHASE II** - As service facilities are identified in Phase I- develop facility specifications, identify possible facility options (either new or existing locations), analyze and recommend 1 or 2 options with projected short and medium term costs. Deliver the initial Phase 2 reports as completed, but no later than November 1, 2016.

**PHASE III** - Develop specific operational plans and budgets leading to implementation of appropriate crisis intervention, triage services and incarceration prevention and reduction programs. Include details on schedules, assignment of responsibilities, projected outcomes anticipated, possible cost allocations between the County and the cities, and a basic business plan for each selected initiative. Deliver the initial Phase 3 report with sufficient details to proceed with construction and programming of a new or expanded crisis triage center no later than March 2017.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the County Council, with the full support of the County Administration, will implement a continuum of alternatives to incarceration and jail diversion programs with the following expectations and commitments of assistance for the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, which will be provided without cost to the Signator Cities of the Jail Facility Use Agreement authorized by the Whatcom County Council on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015:

- Complete a preliminary plan for the new or expanded crisis triage center and alternatives to incarceration and diversion programs and provide quarterly reports to the Council and Administration on Task Force progress.
- Review national best practices for the before mentioned objectives and establish benchmarking of the County's performance against same.

- Complete detailed planning sufficient to proceed with construction and programming of a new or expanded crisis triage center to start no later than March 2017.
- Fund the support activities of the Task Force, including a robust and detailed planning process for the new or expanded crisis triage center and other recommended diversion programs. Initial funding for 2015 will be \$75,000.
- Identify opportunities to acquire governmental and non-governmental funding to support financing for the construction and operation of the new crisis triage center.
- Commit to opening the new crisis triage center no later than the scheduled opening of the new countywide jail.
- Expand, as soon as reasonably possible, available alternatives to incarceration such as probation services, subsidized home monitoring, crisis intervention teams, intensive case management, and other available programs as recommended by the Task Force and approved by the County Council by November 2016, using existing funds and potential new funds as determined available by the County Council after passage of a sales tax ballot measure.
- Negotiate interlocal agreements to provide services to the cities consistent with this ordinance if necessary.
- Include, as part of the 2016-2017 budget, funds to focus on incarceration prevention and reduction programs, and work with the Task Force.

APPROVED this 4th day of August, 2015

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis,  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Carl Weimer,  
Council Chair

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Jack Louws, County Executive

(X) Approved ( ) Denied

Date Signed: 8/10/15

## EXHIBIT A

### Chapter 2.46

#### INCARCERATION PREVENTION AND REDUCTION TASK FORCE

**Sections:**

- 2.46.010**     **Established.**
- 2.46.020**     **Purpose.**
- 2.46.030**     **Function.**
- 2.46.040**     **Permanent Members.**
- 2.46.050**     **Additional Appointed Members.**
- 2.46.060**     **Term of Office.**
- 2.46.070**     **Organization – Meetings.**
- 2.46.080**     **Staff and Funding Support.**
- 2.46.090**     **Reporting.**

**2.46.010**     **Established.**

There is hereby established a Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force.

**2.46.020**     **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.

**2.46.030**     **Function.**

The Task Force will consider national best practices and report on and make recommendations to the County Council, Executive, and other appropriate officials regarding:

- A. 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 chemical dependency;
- B. Development of new, or enhancement of existing, programs designed along a continuum that effectively reduces incarceration of individuals struggling with mental illness and chemical dependency;
- C. Effective pretrial service programs that assure that defendants appear for court proceedings while minimizing jail utilization by defendants who can safely be released;
- D. Necessary and effective programs and services that can assist offenders with successful transition from both the jail and triage center back to the community to reduce rates of recidivism and improve public health and safety;
- E. The ongoing staff support and funding for the Task Force;
- F. Review of the diversion programs of the County and all cities, and establishment of benchmarks to measure the effectiveness of the programs in reducing incarceration.

**2.46.040**     **Permanent Members.**

The Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force shall include the following 13 designated officials or their representative:

- A. One Member of the Whatcom County Council;
- B. Whatcom County Executive;
- C. Whatcom County Sheriff;

- D. Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney;
- E. Whatcom County Public Defender Director;
- F. One Representative from the Whatcom County Superior Court or District Court;
- G. One Representative of the Bellingham City Attorney or Municipal Court or Police;
- H. One Representative from the Bellingham City Council
- I. City of Bellingham Mayor or designee;
- J. One Representative from the small cities designated by the Small Cities Caucus;
- K. One tribal representative from either the Lummi Nation or the Nooksack Tribe;
- L. One representative from the Whatcom County Health Department Human Services;
- M. North Sound Mental Health Administration Executive Director.

**2.46.050 Additional Appointed Members.**

In addition to the officials designated above the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force shall include the following 11 members appointed by the Whatcom County Council:

- A. Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA) representative;
- B. Peace Health St. Joseph's Medical Center representative;
- C. Community Health Center representative;
- D. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) representative;
- E. Representatives from a Community Action Agency, a Mental Health Provider, Substance Abuse Treatment Provider (3);
- F. Consumer of Services or Family Member of Consumer (2);
- G. Concerned Citizens (2).

**2.46.060 Terms of office for appointed members.**

The term of office for appointed members shall be four years; provided that the terms of those first appointed shall be staggered so that five will be appointed for two years, and six will be appointed for four years. Appointment of members shall comply with Chapter 2.03 WCC.

**2.46.070 Organization – Meetings.**

- A. Meetings of the task force shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
- B. At every meeting, the task force will schedule an open session to take public comment.
- C. Written records of meetings, resolutions, research, findings and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be submitted to county staff and shall be made public, including posting on the county website.
- D. The task force shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.
- E. The task force shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.
- F. The task force shall determine its meeting schedule and agenda, but shall meet at least quarterly.
- G. The task force may form and appoint ad hoc committees to work on specific issues, so long as at least two committee members are also members of each ad hoc committee.

**2.46.080 Staff and Funding Support.**

The Task Force will have full support from the Council, the County Executive's Office, Health Department staff, and locally delivered paid consultant assistance to conduct and complete its tasks in an efficient and effective manner.

**2.46.090 Reporting.**

At least annually, no later than June 30 of each year, the Task Force will provide a report and recommendations to the County Council and Executive on outcomes of existing incarceration prevention and reduction programs throughout Whatcom County, new innovative programs being used in other communities, and recommendations for changes or additional programs.