

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 5, 2018

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. at the Health Department Creekside Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham.

Members Present: Anne Deacon, Dan Hammill, Byron Manering, Mike Winter

Also Present: Dean Wight, Michael Lilliquist, Stephen Gockley, Eric Richey, Jackie Mitchell, Perrey Mowery

2. Potential funding sources and legislative options

Hammill referenced Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2437 and stated send support to the State legislators. It's a sales tax rebate.

This item was held to the next meeting.

3. Review list of data needs for Information and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee

The committee discussed the following data-related information:

- Who is in jail
- What are the behavioral health disorders identified
- What programs exist to address behavioral health disorders of jail inmates
- Is there potential for an involuntary facility
- Does the inmate have serious and persistent mental illness, which is defined as very symptomatic and chronic
- What are the legal charges a person has that allows him or her to be diverted from jail
- Whether the person has had services previously, and if so, what were those services
- Who has behavioral health issues that are not serious and/or persistent
- What kind of treatment components or services can they put in place or enhance that would help those people so they don't keep coming back to jail
- What is the social information on the inmate: social, legal, family
- Whether the inmate is a young adult who has not yet met the diagnostic criteria for a specific mental illness
- The need for a confidential interviewer that is like a healthcare provider, not law enforcement
- What kind of substance use disorder
- Information on people in jail versus out of jail
- An assessment at point of release
- Interview people who have been in jail in the last six months
- Offer an incentive to participate in an interview
- GRACE cohort to provide data

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Deacon stated there are many data needs. They need to start listing them and figure out how to accomplish gathering that data. They will create a proposal and bring it back to committee.

4. Update on the Ground Level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program

Dean Wight gave the committee an update on the status of the GRACE program. He described the purpose, formation, structure, funding, and process. A request for proposals (RFQ) for the hub agency goes out on March 7 and are due April 3. They hope to implement the program June 1. They have convened two teams:

- Leadership team = policy decision-makers
- Program team = technical staff

The committee discussed:

- The selection process for the hub agency
- Whether respondents outside the county are expected
- The hub would employ care coordinators
- Data analysis funded through the emergency medical services (EMS) levy
- The need for a software tool to register and track the participants
- Regulations that prevent data sharing of certain information
- Care coordinators will be clinicians
- Payment by capacity
- GRACE is not a crisis response program
- Multi-partner care plans
- Likely respondents to the RFQ would include the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement (WAHA), Opportunity Council, Catholic Community Services, and others
- How a program like law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) would work with the GRACE program
- Pre-arrest diversion
- Future program funding
- Adjusting the contracts of providers who are already working with some of the participants

5. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

This item was not discussed.

6. Other Business

This item was not discussed.

7. Public Comment

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 5, 2018

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 a.m.