

**Incarceration Prevention Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Committee**

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. on July 16, 2018

Health Department Creekside Conference Room, 509 Girard Street, Bellingham WA

AGENDA

Topic	Requested Action	Packet Pages
1. Call to Order		
2. Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2263 regarding funding for mental health and cultural activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on Health Department meeting with Health Board on homeless housing activities 	Review	1 - 5
3. Preliminary statistics on drug use trends from the hospital, jail, and Opportunity Council homeless service center	Review	6 - 11
4. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review assigned tasks Next meeting topics 		
5. Other Business		
6. Public Comment		
7. Adjourn		

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

IPR TASK FORCE various Mondays 9-11 a.m. Courthouse Conf. Rm 513/514 311 Grand Ave., Bellingham	COMMITTEES			
	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH various Mondays 2:30-3:30 (except where noted) Health Department Creekside Conf. Room 509 Girard, B'ham	LEGAL & JUSTICE SYS. 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 am-1:30 pm Courthouse Conf. Rm 514 311 Grand Ave., Bham	TRIAGE FACILITY 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 a.m. Health Dept. MOVED TO Courthouse 5 th Floor 513 or 514, 311 Grand Avenue, B'ham	STEERING As needed Courthouse Fifth Floor Conference Room 514 311 Grand Avenue, B'ham
July 16 August 6 September 17 October 15 November 26 December 17	July 16 August 6 September 17 October 15 November 26 December 17	July 10 (no august) September 11 October 9 November 13 December 11	July 19 in Room 513 August 9 * in Room 513 September 20: location TBD October 18 in Room 514 November 15 in Room 513 December 20 in Room 514	September 6: 9:30 a.m.

HOUSE BILL REPORT

ESHB 2263

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to providing local governments with options to strengthen their communities by providing services and facilities for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and other vulnerable populations, and by increasing access to educational experiences through cultural organizations.

Brief Description: Providing local governments with options to strengthen their communities by providing services and facilities for people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and other vulnerable populations, and by increasing access to educational experiences through cultural organizations.

Sponsors: House Committee on Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives Springer, Walkinshaw, Robinson, Tharinger, Carlyle, McBride, Fitzgibbon and Reykdal).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

Finance: 6/8/15, 6/25/15 [DPS].

Floor Activity:

Passed House: 6/28/15, 87-10.

Passed Senate: 6/30/15, 33-12.

Passed Legislature.

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Permits a county or city to create a cultural access program (CAP).
- Authorizes counties with a population of 1.5 million or less, or a city, to impose either a sales and use tax or a property tax levy to fund a CAP.
- Authorizes a county with a population of 1.5 million or more to impose a sales and use tax to fund a CAP.
- Provides restrictions and requirements for how revenues may be allocated within a CAP, including a requirement to create and fund public school programs.
- Authorizes the governing body of a county or city to impose a 0.1 percent local sales tax for housing and related services for specific individuals if approved by a majority of voters.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Carlyle, Chair; Tharinger, Vice Chair; Nealey, Ranking Minority Member; Fitzgibbon, Pollet, Reykdal, Robinson, Ryu, Springer, Stokesbary and Wylie.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 3 members: Representatives Condotta, Manweller and Vick.

Staff: Dominique Meyers (786-7150).

Background:

Sales and Use Tax.

Retail sales taxes are imposed on retail sales of most articles of tangible personal property, digital products, and some services. A retail sale is a sale to the final consumer or end user of the property, digital product, or service. If retail sales taxes were not collected when the user acquired the property, digital products, or services, then use taxes apply to the value of property, digital product, or service when used in this state. The state, most cities, and all counties levy retail sales and use taxes. The state sales and use tax rate is 6.5 percent; local sales and use tax rates vary from 0.5 percent to 3.1 percent, depending on the location.

Property Tax.

Property taxes are imposed by state and local governments. The county assessor determines assessed value for each property. The county assessor also calculates the tax rate necessary to raise the correct amount of property taxes for each taxing district. The assessor calculates the rate so the individual district rate limit, the district revenue limit, and the aggregate rate limits are all satisfied. The property tax bill for an individual property is determined by multiplying the assessed value of the property by the tax rate for each taxing district in which the property is located.

Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill:

Cultural Access Programs.

Counties are authorized to establish a cultural access program (CAP) that allocates funds to cultural organizations providing programming or experiences for the general public. The primary purpose of the organization receiving funding must be the advancement or preservation of science or technology, the visual or performing arts, zoology, botany, anthropology, heritage, or natural history. The CAP funding must be used for a public benefit that generally relates to increasing access, outreach, and opportunities to the public.

Any county may authorize a CAP or enter into an interlocal agreement with a group of contiguous counties to create a CAP. A county may designate an entity or agency to operate the functions of the CAP. A county with a population under 1.5 million may contract with the Washington State Arts Commission to provide consulting, management, or administrative services to the CAP. Any county may establish an advisory council with members that

programs. Upon renewal of a tax levy authority for the CAP, as approved by the voters, the county must set a new minimum annual revenue amount for a regional cultural organization.

The funding allocation available to eligible regional cultural organizations is distributed proportionally based on an annual ranking based on each organization's revenue and attendance. No organization may receive more than 15 percent of its annual revenue.

Housing and Related Services.

County legislative authorities are authorized to implement a 0.1 percent sales and use tax in order to fund housing and related services. A city legislative authority may implement the whole or remainder of the tax if the county has not opted to implement the full tax within two years in a county with a population of less than 1.5 million, or three years in a county with a population of over 1.5 million.

A minimum of 60 percent of revenues collected must be used for constructing affordable housing, affordable housing units, facilities providing housing-related services, or mental and behavior health-related services, or to fund the operations and maintenance costs of newly constructed affordable housing, facilities providing housing-related services, or evaluation and treatment centers. The affordable housing and facilities providing housing-related programs must serve individuals with mental illness, or any of the following individuals with income below 60 percent of area median income: veterans, senior citizens, homeless families with children, unaccompanied homeless youth, persons with disabilities, or domestic violence victims.

A county may issue bonds against up to 50 percent of the revenues in order to construct affordable housing, housing units, and facilities providing housing-related services or mental and behavior health-related services. The remainder of the funding must be used for the operation, delivery, or evaluation of mental and behavioral health treatment programs or housing-related services.

Revenues may be used to offset reductions in state or federal funds for housing and related services; however, no more than 10 percent of the revenues collected may be used to supplant existing local funding for such services.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on June 4, 2015.

Effective Date: This bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed, except for section 405, relating to the constitutional and statutory limitations of property tax levies, which takes effect January 1, 2018.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony:

(In support) There is a reasonable direct line between cultural access and mental health and educating the whole person. The mental health portion of this bill expands the allowable uses compared to the chemical dependency and mental health tax option currently available.

Cultural access is one of five pillars of the regional council; this bill can help facilitate the advancement of this pillar.

This bill gives local communities the option to create programs if they chose to fund them by taxing themselves. The state is not in a position to fund the kinds of programs that it had in previous years. Cultural programs often are cut in times for rescission. Local governments need options to create programs for their own districts. The idea has evolved to include communities throughout the whole state. This will help establish a robust arts economy in the state. This program will serve citizens through heritage arts science programs that will strengthen local communities. It provides access to many people who otherwise could not go to cultural activities and brings events to areas that do not have access to cultural events. Many residents cannot afford to pay for programs or transportation. This bill will help organizations continue to provide reduced or free public access to programs and events, and to bring events out into the community.

This provides a substantial new local tool to meet the growing need for affordable housing and mental health programs in every county in the state. It is very hard to find affordable housing while suffering homeless and other mental health issues. It took ten years to finally receive a housing voucher and no longer live on the streets. There is a crisis for affordable housing especially for people in Thurston County with mental health issues. Mental health programs can help end the cycle of homelessness and eliminate struggles for the next generation. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction reports that there are more than 700 homeless students in the Wenatchee and East Wenatchee school districts; the affordable housing need is greater than the available units in the county. Mental health programs are currently underfunded and this bill is one-step in the right direction to allow communities to establish the funding they need to meet the needs of their communities. Despite the great recourses in the operating budget for mental health programs, there is still a great need, specifically a need for affordable housing.

(With concerns) The mental health crises needs to be addressed, but this should be a statewide effort and the local option might not actual achieve the results the states need to address this crises. This could increase inequities in the mental health treatment throughout the state.

(Opposed) Understanding the fiscal challenges of local governments and the need for services, this legislation is regressive and will negatively impact the people it is trying to serve. This will reduce consumer purchases and in turn hurt retail business in the state. Citizens purchasing vehicles already pay an additional sales tax on those vehicles, this could hurt vehicle sales throughout the entire state.

Persons Testifying: (In support) Representative Springer, prime sponsor; Jane Hague, King County Council; David Brown, Cultural Access Washington; Ellen Walker, Pacific Northwest Ballet; Antonio Gomez, Broadway Center for the Performing Arts; Pattie Belmonte, Hands on Children's Museum; Thomas Green; Susan Russell, Real Change; Cathy Harmon; Marty Kooistra, Housing Development Consortium; Phoebe Nelson; Terry Belkoe, Northwest Credit Union; M.A. Leonard, Enterprise Community Partners; Bill Rumpf, Mercy Housing; Michael Ramos, Church Council of Greater Seattle; Joe Cunningham, ARC of King County; John Smiley; John Theiron; Inez Williams; Kelli Larsen, Plymouth Housing; Paul Tipps and

Chris Heath, Downtown Emergency Service Center; Tim Meliah, Catholic Charities; Paul Purcell, Beacon Development Group; Seth Dawson, Washington State Community Action Partnership; Rachel Myers and Liz Trautman, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance; Shelia Anderson, Champion Advocacy Fund; Chris Pegg, Longview Housing Authority; Andy Silver, Council for the Homeless; Michael Seiwzrath, Capitol Hill Housing; Adam Roselli and Martin Flynn, Share; Dennis Saxman; Len McComb, Washington State Hospital Association; Michone Preston, Tammey Newton and Daryl Dawgs, Habitat for Humanity of Washington; Sue Bergman and David Nixon, Behavioral Health Resources; Bryce Yadan, Futurewise; Linda Olsen, Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Dave Asher, Kirkland City Council; Timothy McKinley and Kathy Lindquist, Home First; Connie Brown, Affordable Housing Consortium of Pierce County; Schelly Slaughter, Family Support Center of South Sound; Meg Martin, Interfaith Works Emergency Shelter; and Frank Palmer.

(With concerns) Helen Price Johnson, Island County District One.

(Opposed) Joanie Deutsch, Washington Retail Association; and Scott Hazlegrove, Washington State Auto Dealers Association.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: None.

From: [Anne Deacon](#)
To: [Jill Nixon](#)
Subject: FW: PCAP data
Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018 5:04:43 PM



Anne Deacon, LICSW | Human Services Manager
509 Girard Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
Direct: 360 778-6054 | Office: 360 778-6002
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

Leading the community in promoting health and preventing disease

My incoming and outgoing email communication is subject to disclosure.

From: Byron Manering, MSW [mailto:bmanering@brigidcollins.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 4:20 PM
To: Anne Deacon
Subject: PCAP data

Hi Anne,

I have asked the University of Washington for more up to date numbers and cross tabulations regarding our PCAP cases.

In the meantime, based on the previous 23-month report for Whatcom County from Feb 2014-December 2016 on 97 clients enrolled in the three year program.

- 76% had been jailed at some point in their lives
- 70% had a mental health diagnosis
- 40% had used opiates during and after their pregnancy
- 47% had used meth
- 47% had unstable housing

Byron

Byron G. Manering, MSW
Executive Director
Brigid Collins Family Support Center
Nurturing children, ending abuse
Direct: (360) 734-4616 ext.:12 | FAX: (360) 734-1763 | Email: bmanering@brigidcollins.org
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From: [Doug Chadwick](#)
To: [Anne Deacon](#); [Jill Bernstein](#); [Jill Nixon](#); [Byron Manering, MSW](#); [Mike Parker](#); dhamill@cob.org
Subject: WCSO drug trends
Date: Thursday, June 14, 2018 4:57:49 PM
Attachments: [WCSO Drug cases June 2016-June 2018.PNG](#)

All,

I will not be able to attend the next Behavioral Health Committee meeting, however I wanted to pass on some information that was requested on current drug trends. The attached is a 2 year snapshot of drug cases handled by the Sheriff's Office. It is a year to year comparison, which includes both cases investigated by Patrol, as well as the Whatcom Gang and Drug Task Force.

As you can see, the numbers are in line with the information that the group discussed about increases in methamphetamine (12.9%) and opioid (16.88%) use, as well as increased cases involving the sale of methamphetamine(80%).

Doug Chadwick
Chief Criminal Deputy
Whatcom County Sheriff's Office
360-778-6618

EXCELLENCE INTEGRITY TEAMWORK

Offenses

Drugs
 Period 1: 321
 Period 2: 367
 Total: 688
 Difference: **14.33%**

[return to previous page](#)

Mental Issue

0 138 276 414 552 690 15.45%

Drugs

0 74 148 222 296 370 14.33%

Year ▼ **Period 1: 23-Jun-2016 - 17-Jun-2017** **Period 2: 18-Jun-2017 - 12-Jun-2018** All Locations ▼

[Reset View](#) [Toggle Groups](#) [Update View](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Offense Code	Period 1	Period 2	Total	Difference
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub Involved (NO CRIME)	16	17	33	6.25%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub, Poss Cocaine	6	12	18	100%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub, Poss Meth	124	140	264	12.9%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub, Poss Opiate	77	90	167	16.88%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub, Poss Other	48	47	95	-2.08%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub, Sale Manu Meth	15	27	42	80%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub, Sale Manu Opiate	32	31	63	-3.12%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cont Sub, Sale Manuf Cocaine	3	3	6	0%

Whatcom Homeless Service Center

Bellingham Police Department

Reducing Victimization and Chronic Homelessness

Pilot Project

Initial Evaluation Report

September 2011

Introduction

In the spring of 2010, Bellingham Police Department convened a multi-agency initiative implementing services to reduce victimization toward people who are homeless and highly vulnerable to victimization and serious, negative health outcomes. This led to a multi-program partnership designed to engage people who are highly vulnerable and chronically homeless in housing-first services to reduce their risk of serious harm associated with life on the street. Service delivery began in the fall of 2010 with the first participants obtaining housing placement in January 2011. This report examines the project's housing and supportive service intervention and community outcomes associated with criminal justice and emergency services before and after the housing intervention.

Project Context

Vulnerability and victimization. People who are chronically homeless and who have behavioral health disabilities are susceptible to negative health outcomes and victimization. According to an annual study of homelessness in Seattle, the average age at death of people who are chronically homeless is 47 years. Locally, homeless persons in Bellingham have been robbed, beaten and even killed – situations that are often related directly or indirectly to their homelessness. It is also extremely difficult for people with behavioral health disabilities to access and maintain regular, therapeutic care that will help them in their recovery. Housing stability has been shown to enhance recovery for people with these complex needs. At last count, there were at least 83 persons who are disabled and chronically homeless in our community, many have been living outside for years.

Housing-First as a new, local strategy to end homelessness. Since 2008, local community partners have been building an increasingly coordinated response to homelessness. New resources and best practices resulted in substantial benefits to the community as measured by decreases in the number of people who are experiencing homelessness. This collaborative of providers became more adept at using a strategy known as “housing-first” to increase the housing stability of people who are chronically homeless and who have serious behavioral health and/or physical health disabilities. *Housing-first*, as it is practiced locally, engages homeless clients in a suite of services that include, housing placement, intensive housing case management, and long-term assistance to pay a portion of the client's rent. Within this model of service delivery, clients become stable renters as a result of successfully making progress toward a tailored stability plan.

Vulnerability assessment. Over the past decade, a Seattle-based nonprofit housing and mental health provider – Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) – piloted and refined a Vulnerability Assessment that is used to prioritize housing-first services to people who are disabled and chronically homeless. The purpose of this assessment is to target scarce services to those who are most at risk of victimization and/or serious health outcomes due to their homelessness.

Outreach and engagement. Often, people who are most at risk of harm due to their homelessness, are also the least likely to seek supportive services. That is why it is important to have people in the community who reach out to people living unsheltered, to build trust and to let them know that help is available. We are fortunate in Bellingham to have a team of committed volunteers who regularly give aid to and monitor the status of many people who are chronically living on the streets or in their vehicles.

Police Department commitment. Often, a chronically homeless person's regular contact with a service provider is his or her frequent encounter with a police officer. As such, police officers have valuable knowledge and access to vulnerable, homeless citizens. Bellingham Police Department has deepened its commitment to partner with local nonprofits through active sponsorship and leadership in bringing about what is now an annual event called, Project Homeless Connect (PHC). And now, as a result of this pilot project, homeless service providers have access to several officers who are dedicated to the project to serve as a law enforcement resource.

Putting it all together

In the spring of 2010, Bellingham Police Chief, Todd Ramsay, convened a meeting of service providers to begin a discussion that would result in proactive approaches to reduce the potential for victimization among unsheltered, disabled, chronically homeless citizens in Bellingham. Soon thereafter, a multi-agency team assembled for the purpose of designing a pilot project to respond to the problem. Whatcom Homeless Service Center led the program design and implementation effort in strong partnership with the following programs:

- **Bellingham Police Department:** Data, police officer liaisons, funding
- **Catholic Community Services – Hope House:** Street outreach and engagement
- **Catholic Community Services – Housing Services:** Intensive housing case management
- **Downtown Emergency Service Center:** Vulnerability Assessment training
- **Pioneer Human Services:** Jail outreach
- **Whatcom Counseling and Psychiatric Clinic:** Special housing units and training
- **Whatcom County Health Department:** Funding, planning and guidance
- **Whatcom Homeless Service Center:** Intake assessment, rent subsidy, landlord liaison, data processing, planning and evaluation
- **Whatcom County Sheriffs Department – Whatcom County Jail:** database services

The implementation plan called for the following steps:

- Consult with Bellingham Police officers to determine which individuals have high frequency police contact.
- Provide outreach and engagement services to chronically homeless individuals that have a high frequency of police contact.
- Assess interested clients for vulnerability using the standardized DESC assessment tool.
- Prioritize people who score high for vulnerability to receive housing-first services (long-term financial assistance and intensive case management)
- Enroll clients with a housing-first case manager and develop a housing stability plan.
- Place clients in scattered site apartments in either for-profit or nonprofit-owned units.
- Assist clients in the implementation of their stability plan (access other supportive and clinical services, increase income and employment, life skills training, etc.).
- Monitor project outputs and outcomes (e.g. clients served, housing access and retention, etc.).
- Monitor community outcomes (e.g. pre- and post-housing uses of criminal justice and emergency response services).

Initial Pilot Project Evaluation Findings

Client Housing Outputs

Using the limited resources of this small-scale pilot project, the original plan called for providing long-term rent subsidy and intensive case management for eight chronically homeless and highly vulnerable individuals. To date, the project provided these services to 12 individuals.

Goal: 8 housing placements
Actual: 12 housing placements

Client Housing Outcomes

The housing retention goal of the project is that 75% of housed individuals retain permanent housing for 12 months. Because we are conducting this early evaluation prior to the 12 month mark, we report here only the proportion of clients who have retained housing to date: 10 out of 12 or 83%. We will report the 12 month outcome in a forthcoming report in the summer of 2012.

Goal: 75% retain homes for 12 months
Actual: 83% have retained homes to date

Community Outcomes

One way to measure this project's success is to examine the project participants' uses of community-base criminal justice and emergency services. There is a growing body of research literature that shows strong associations between the use of housing-first services interventions and decreased utilization of criminal justice and emergency services.

For the purpose of this project's evaluation, we compare these pre- and post-housing placement outcomes:

- Average monthly police contacts
- Average monthly jail bookings
- Average monthly days in jail
- Average monthly EMS contacts

For the 10 project clients who have retained housing, there was a significant reduction in their uses of criminal justice and emergency services (see table below). Police contacts decreased 63%; jail bookings and jail days decreased 92% and 99% respectively; and Fire/EMS contacts decreased 28%.

	Pre-housing services	Post-housing services	Difference
Average Police contacts per month	4.561	1.697	-63%
Average Jail bookings per month	0.739	0.059	-92%
Average Jail days per month	13.550	0.176	-99%
Average Fire/EMS contacts per month	0.016	0.012	-28%

Data for the analyses were provided by Bellingham Police Department, Whatcom County Sherriff's Department, and Bellingham Fire Department.