

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Meeting Summary August 12, 2019***

**1. Call to Order**

Task Force Co-Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Present:** Barry Buchanan, Anne Deacon, Arlene Feld, Heathery Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Deborah Hawley, Jack Hovenier, Wendy Jones (proxy for Bill Elfo), Raylene King, Darlene Peterson, Dave Reynolds, Eric Richey, Tyler Schroeder, Kevin Turner, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter

**Absent:** Angela Anderson, Travis Brockie, Jerry Debruin, David Doll, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Scott Korthuis, Kelli Linville, Rachel Lucy, Byron Manering, Moonwater, Eric Peterson

**8. Report on the presentation of the 2019 Annual Report to County Council and Bellingham City Council**

Hovenier reported on the presentations. There was great interest in data. The report was well received.

**2. Update on GRACE Program**

Malora Christensen reported and answered questions on:

- Basing the program on the Bellingham Community Paramedic program
- Current staff levels
- Currently servicing 70 people, with a capacity of 80
- Weekly meetings and care plans
- 80 percent reduction in emergency medical services (EMS) interactions

Task Force members discussed community education on who to call, how the GRACE program interacts with the community paramedic and homeless outreach team (HOT), crisis response versus case management, how people are accepted into the program, expanding and growing the program, how the IPR Task Force can help the program, metrics and outcomes, and measuring impacts to incarceration reduction.

**3. Recommendation that the County Council implement provisions in Substitute House Bill 1406 regarding affordable and supportive housing**

Hammill submitted a handout and reported on SHB 1406 background. He moved that the Task Force recommend that the County Council support and move forward with funding allowed through Substitute House Bill 1406. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Buchanan, Deacon, and Schroeder referenced the handout and reported on Council action and the process required to enact SHB 1406.

Task Force members discussed bonding the amount received from the rebate, small cities' support, and next steps.

**4. Update on Crisis Stabilization Facility**

Schroeder and Deacon reported and answered questions on the construction bid response and award. The County received one responsive bidder at a cost of \$1 million more than anticipated. The administration, with County Council support, is working on plans to cover the additional cost. Once they award the construction bid, construction can begin.

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**5. Update on domestic violence offender treatment**

Deacon reported on the status of treatment services. They did not received a request for proposal (RFP) from a qualified provider. The current plan is to reimburse any certified provider who works with an offender in court-ordered treatment.

**6. Report on County Council Amendments to Task Force enabling ordinance**

Buchanan reported on recent amendments to the County Code to include additional prevention efforts. The Council added language to give the IPR Task Force flexibility in exploring emerging behavioral health programs that may not have a background for being evidence-based.

**7. Update on Intergovernmental Policy Academy**

Hammill, Deacon, and Buchanan referenced and read from handouts and reported on the McArthur Grant program, and the resulting action plan and sustainability plan:

- All jurisdictions that participated have issues with data collection. They are working with the INDEX Committee
- The Policy Academy Group's sustainability plan includes work from the IPR Task Force and its INDEX Committee
- State Representative Goodman will use the County's template for programs statewide.
- They are working on changing the State's classification of non-Medicaid individuals who seek services at the crisis stabilization facility, so the State can fund those services.

Task Force members discussed Medicaid bridge funds lost due to the funding shift away from the Behavioral Health Organization to managed care organizations (MCOs).

**11. Other Business**

Hovenier announced that the IPR Task Force was awarded the Peace Builder Awards for public service by the Dispute Resolution Center. An awards ceremony and fundraising event will be held in November.

**9. Committee Updates**

Buchanan reported for the Steering Committee. He referenced and read from the summary in the packet.

Task Force members discussed improvements to the Tyler Technologies Odyssey program.

Deacon reported for the Crisis Stabilization Facility Committee on the request for qualifications for the tenant agreements for service:

- Compass Health was chosen for mental health services
- Pioneer Human Services was chosen for substance use disorder services and kitchen services
- Recent purchase of furniture for the facility using grant funds
- Policies and procedures, including minimizing the use of seclusion and restraint

Hammill and Mike Parker, Opportunity Council, reported for the Behavioral Health Committee on the June and July committee meetings, including:

- Adding programs to the sequential intercept service inventory
- Available medication assisted treatment (MAT) services in the community
- The GRACE presentation to the committee
- SHB 1406 and HB 2263

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Task Force members discussed changes to HB 2263 and having a broader discussion on new and existing taxes for housing programs.

Gockley reported for the Legal and Justice Systems Committee on the drug court program evaluation and the sequential intercept service inventory.

Task Force members discussed moving forward and next steps with the sequential intercept service inventory.

Schroeder reported for the Steering Committee and Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee on potentially sending a letter to the Administrative Office of the Courts on its program to replace the courts of limited jurisdiction case management system.

**11. Other Business**

Winter reported and answered questions on a recovery housing project for homeless therapeutic court participants:

- Property donated to the Opportunity Council dedicated to supportive housing
- \$1.8 million for 16 beds, considered rehab, for single males
- Recovery house model
- A second building on the site will be offices and a kitchen and dining room facility.
- Open is anticipated for early 2020

**10. Update by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs**

King reported on Blaine expanding its use of electronic home monitoring.

Peterson gave an update on Bellingham electronic home monitoring statistics, the new jail diversion manager, and a review of existing programs.

**11. Other Business**

Schroeder reported that the IPR Task Force's EMS representative will change from Chief Debruin to County EMS Manager Mike Hilley.

Hammill reported that he will travel to Denver to look at their LEAD and other programs.

**12. Public Comment**

Irene Morgan thanked the IPR Task Force for its work. She would like information on the GRACE program, including the 80 percent reduction of the number of calls to EMS and housing for GRACE participants.

**13. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.