

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for September 16, 2019

1. Call To Order

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

Members Present: Doug Chadwick, Dan Hammill, Ryan King, Byron Manering, Mike Parker

Members Absent: Megan Ballew, Kelli Linville

2. Discussion with Kristi Dominguez, Executive Director Teaching and Learning, Bellingham School District on Bellingham School District's efforts, programs and challenges on behavioral health interventions for Bellingham students

This item is rescheduled to the October meeting.

3. Report on Children's Funding Institute: Dan Hammill

Hammill reported on a recent trip to Denver, Colorado regarding dedicated funding for children's services, and the committee discussed:

- New revenue for children aged birth to three years old
- The Chuckanut Health Foundation
- Bellingham School District
- Investments in mental health and universal pre-kindergarten childcare
- Whatcom Family Community Network
- Identifying the services that communities with funding have implemented
- Whether any services targeted incarceration reduction and prevention
- Pre-conditions for criminogenic behaviors

Hammill reported on and the committee discussed the Handle with Care Program and the possibility of creating a juvenile assessment center within the school district:

- Concerns about victim rights, privacy issues, and unintended consequences of a school district program
- Whether or not teachers should engage in trauma care and training
- Existing protective factors and support systems for kids
- Informal communications are already happening
- Other possible points of response in the system
- How this connects to the work of the Task Force subcommittee

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4. Framing priorities around investments in kids that reduce criminogenic outcomes

Committee members discussed how to move forward without needed resources; using existing resources more efficiently; creating a prevention committee of the full Task Force; getting more information on youth services available in the community; funding philosophies; committee members' need for more education on the issues; reentry efforts to reunify families, parents, and children; focusing on youth mental health and; identifying a common variable of some sort of incarceration within the family.

Manering will provide information for the committee to review on interventions being recommended regarding temperament and impulse from the International Journal of Child, Youth, and Family Studies (2011).

5. Future agenda items

Hammill stated the next agenda item will include the discussion with the Bellingham School District, the Executive Director of Handle with Care, and information from the Bellingham Police Department on substance disorder (SUD) use-related arrests. The committee discussed extending the length of the October meeting.

6. Other Business

The committee discussed the possibility of creating a separate Prevention Subcommittee.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.