

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for October 13, 2020

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Arlene Feld / Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: David Doll, Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Deborah Hawley, Moonwater, Bruce Van Glubt

2. [Racial Equity Toolkit \(00:40:28\)](#)

Parker gave a presentation on the need for a racial equity toolkit, such as the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) toolkit.

The committee discussed how to engage a more diverse population at meetings and outside of a regular meeting structure, the proposal for the City and County creating a Racial Equity Commission, reengaging the Lummi Nation representatives on the Task Force, and applying the GARE racial equity toolkit to the work of the Task Force and committees.

3. [Reentry \(00:00:56\)](#)

Review MCO Contract requirements

Mitchell and Anne Deacon, Health Department, referenced the packet information and reported that the managed care organizations (MCOs) do not want to fund the reentry position in the jail. The metrics for evaluating the work aren't community-centric. The MCOs are business-oriented, instead. They plan to house their staff in Tacoma or Olympia, with periodic site visits to the jail. They are beginning to work with the Washington State Association of Counties on this issue.

The committee discussed how it can influence the MCOs to provide better services; scheduling this before the full Task Force; potential follow-up with the Health Care Authority (HCA) and Governor on funding and performance measures, and; looking for funds for a local reentry navigator.

4. [Update on status of involuntary holds in the Crisis Stabilization Center \(00:21:10\)](#)

Anne Deacon, Health Department, reported on the request for proposals (RFP) requirement for the current tenants to provide involuntary placement for the mental health unit. It would allow an involuntary hold by a peace officer for up to 12 hours. It could be used as a diversion from arrest and incarceration. The service provider, Compass Health, is negotiating with the MCOs for reimbursement of costs associated with involuntary treatment. Compass Health and law enforcement must work

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together to identify the profile of the types of patients that could be brought to the facility for involuntary treatment.

The committee discussed how the law enforcement can work with the service providers on the Crisis Stabilization Center Program Advisory Committee to identify the population, so there is mutual understanding and so Compass Health knows how to manage people safety and effectively. The committee also discussed funding for the service, partnering with the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (NSBH-ASO), and protecting victim safety and developing the procedures for handling the types of charges that would be appropriate for involuntary commitment.

5. Agenda items for Joint meeting with Behavioral Health Committee on November 10

This item was not discussed.

6. Data questions for the INDEX Committee

This item was referred to the joint meeting with the Behavioral Health Committee on November 10.

7. Public Comment

No none spoke.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.