

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Crisis Stabilization Facility Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for January 21, 2021

Note: Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however YouTube links may change. Links will not be updated. Please refer to time notation on each agenda item.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was a remote-only virtual Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Doug Chadwick, Anne Deacon, Todd Donovan, Mike Hilley, Jack Hovenier

Members Absent: Michael McAuley, Tyler Schroeder

2. [Crisis Stabilization Center Updates \(01:34\)](#)

Deacon reported that the detox side of the Center opened the first week in January. The triage side is not yet operational in the new facility, as the vendor is awaiting final licensing. The program advisory committee for the new center continues to work out protocols and procedures for how to divert people from arrest and from the emergency department at the hospital. Three of five managed care organizations so far have agreed to pay for involuntary care once the vendor is certified. City attorneys and prosecutors are working out eligibility for the Center. The old triage location is offered to Compass Health at an inexpensive rate to house designated crisis responders and other staff, but only if they provide staff that can help with involuntary treatment when needed.

Deacon played a video tour of the new facility as was published in the Bellingham Herald and shared aerial photos of the facility.

The committee discussed the licensing delay, which should be resolved soon; number of clients in the facility now; reporting requirements; outcomes measures; gathering data on self-referrals versus law enforcement and EMS drop-offs, and; Covid protocols.

Hilley reported on the EMS drop-off protocols they are developing. Priority has been on the detox side so far. Once they figure out the Covid protocol, they can implement quickly. The emergency department physicians are still uncomfortable with the unfamiliar facility, but they'll get over it. There is much interest regionally to see this facility work. There may be rule changes that allow EMTs and paramedics to work in these types of centers.

3. Crisis Stabilization Center's role in the behavioral health crisis system

This item was not discussed.

4. [Wall murals for the crisis stabilization center \(29:55\)](#)

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Deacon described the durability of the wall design. There is a desire to make the rooms more welcoming, so they want to recruit artists to create murals in the individual patient rooms. She is open to ideas on how to recruit ideas. Bellingham City Council Members and others in the community are working on recruiting and funding.

5. Other Business (34:00)

Perry Mowery, Health Department, reported on the vendor lease agreements and provider responsibilities in the memoranda of agreement, which require working with law enforcement to facilitate drop-offs and also require data reporting.

Deacon reported on the status of operational funding. They are okay for now. If funding is needed, local State legislators have committed to making the request of the State legislature. One idea is to make this center a pilot project for the State.

The committee members discussed data reporting and measurements for the INDEX Committee.

Deacon reported that they came in under budget for the new facility.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.