

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for April 20, 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 Co-Chair Dan Hammill / Mike Parker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Britta Johnson, Byron Manering, Mike Parker, Brien Thane

Members Absent: Megan Ballew, Doug Chadwick, Heather Flaherty, Seth Fleetwood, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery

2. [Review Draft Annual Committee Report \(00:07:08\)](#)

Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham Legislative Analyst, described his process for drafting the committee annual report.

Hammill described the background of the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, and the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force's sequential intercept model. He spoke about the beneficial impacts of the Behavioral Health Committee, adoption of the racial equity toolkit, and development of a Racial Equity Commission.

Committee members discussed the annual report timeline and requirements, the importance of recognizing efforts to establish racial equity.

3. [Items for the May joint meeting with the Legal & Justice Systems Committee \(00:19:11\)](#)

Jill Nixon, Task Force Clerk, stated an additional item is added to the proposed agenda at the direction of the full Task Force, to discuss domestic violence offender treatment.

Hammill described the background for the proposed behavioral health crisis response expansion.

Committee members discussed the importance of addressing reentry programs and efforts; jointly defining what they mean for the scope of reentry; prevention and recidivism; creating a service model for reentry that is similar to GRACE and LEAD, with oversight, coordination, and intervention; the need for navigators in each part of the criminal justice system, especially reentry; current reentry services provided in the jail; funding coming into the community that could be available for behavioral health programs and services; the challenge of workforce shortages, and figuring out how to attract a workforce, and; the possibility of having a joint meeting with the Racial Equity Commission when it is formed, to address unarmed response.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for April 20, 2021***

4. [Rising Strong inpatient pregnant and parenting women's treatment program from Brigid Collins \(00:49:07\)](#)

Hammill and Parker reported on the program:

- The workgroup for this program has engaged with representatives from other counties to explore existing models
- Two questions are whether enough demand exists in Whatcom County for a small facility and how it would be funded; 20 to 30 families in Whatcom County request these services
- Placements are generally voluntary

Parker reported on the Shelter+Care voucher program from the Housing Authority and the discussion about whether they can target housing vouchers for GRACE participants.

5. [Current state of behavioral health funding sources and how the funding sources are spent \(01:04:00\)](#)

Parker stated this item will be held in committee.

Hammill reported on new funding for housing from House Bill (HB) 1590 and the need for affordable housing and housing for unhoused individuals.

Task Force members discussed housing funds from HB 1406.

6. [2021 Priorities \(00:56:26\)](#)

Parker reported on the ranking list in the packet and discussed having committee members and task force members complete the ranking form in order of importance. He also reported on data they need to request from the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.