

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Crisis Stabilization Committee

Meeting Summary for April 21, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Members Present: Jack Hovenier, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery

Members Absent: Doug Chadwick, Todd Donovan, Michael McAuley, Tyler Schroeder

A quorum of committee members did not attend. The committee members present discussed the agenda items below.

2. 2022 Annual Report to County Council and County Executive

This item was not discussed

3. Census Data 2022

Mowery gave an update on census and use data for the first quarter

1. Pioneer Human Services / Detox
 - a. Total available bed dates is 1440, 1066 beds actually used = 74 percent use rate
 - b. 409 referrals from various sources
2. Compass Health / mental health stabilization
 - a. Total available bed dates is same, used was 728, 51 percent use rate
 - b. 254 referrals from various sources
 - c. They need to continue to work on improving the use rates above 50 percent

Compass health projects include working on admissions and achieving the 12-hour law enforcement holds certification. Steps to be implemented include:

- They are committed to a no decline program, and accept all clients in crisis
- Incoming referrals receive a brief screening on exclusionary criteria to establish whether a bed is available.
- Target is a 10-minute screening time, which includes a rapid Covid test
- All denials will be reviewed by the manager, nursing supervisor, and leadership.
- Leadership will gather feedback from the community about referrals and admissions
- New streamlined screening process will roll out on May 1, 2022
- Will formally request that community partners contact him directly about any admission challenges
- Expect to see an increase in bed use for the second quarter of 2022

Committee members discussed:

- The possibility of using EMTs at the facility and converting the old facility to a holding or sobering facility. Use the EMTs to oversee people as they sober up.
- Identifying the barriers to a higher use
- Actual bed use and availability vs counting bed days used in the detox unit

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- Improving communications with and from Compass Health so they can use the facility to its maximum potential
- The need to complete data sharing agreements with both vendors

4. Proviso funding for law enforcement 12-hour holds

Compass Health Initiated the application for certification for 12-hour holds.

- There was negotiating with Dept. of Health and the County
- They have worked through the negotiating and hope for a target certification date of May 1.
- They have posted positions needed for certifications to go through
- Need to better educate Bellingham Police Department and Sheriff's Office about what the Compass Health staff can and can't do
- Access to proviso dollars through NS BH-ASO
- With certification, CSC staff still cannot go hands on with a client, but there will be increased consequences if an individual chooses to leave before the 12-hour hold ends

5. Mural project update

Mowery reported that the mural project is complete and described the art. They will include artists names and examples of the artwork in the IPRTF annual report.

6. Role of the committee in developing a behavioral health urgent care facility

This item was held to the next meeting.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.