Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee
Meeting Summary for July 19, 2022
Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however, YouTube links may change. Links in this document will not be updated. Please refer to the time notation on each agenda item.

_____

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Daniel Hammill called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Doug Chadwick, Brian Estes, Seth Fleetwood, Dan Hammill, Stephen Gockley, Jackie Mitchell (for Perry Mowery), Mike Parker, Courtney Taylor, Brien Thane

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Mike Hilley, Jenn Lockwood, Michael G. Smith, Donnell Tanksley

2. [Whatcom Family Community Network project to identify community resources (00:02:00)](#)

Kristi Slette, Secretariat of The Whatcom Resource Information Collaborative (WRIC) gave a presentation about her group:

- WRIC is a group of 50 individuals and 35 organizations working to increase access to resources in Whatcom County by developing a public data utility.
- The Opportunity Council acts as the data steward, who manages the public utility. Community organizations act as members who have a responsibility to share information from the utility with primary and secondary target populations.
- The target group for their pilot is families raising children age zero through eight.
- Equity considerations are central to the data utility.
- The goal is for individuals to be able to access resources directly without a gatekeeper.
- Slette explained the phases involved in the implementation plan and the future vision for the utility.
- The Charter for the WRIC was recently adopted and they've voted in their first Steering Committee.
- Eventually there will be integration with the 211 system.
- They have a beta website up already and have many languages available to select from.

Committee members asked questions, including:

- Will the population that the IPRTF focuses on be served by this database? Slette said that she anticipates that they will be, but is unsure of the timeline.
- What are the expectations of support from local government? The first year budget is only $250,000, mainly for staffing. They will likely be seeking funding from the County, local philanthropists, and may seek City funding in the future.
- Does the 988 system have access to this? They are not yet, but there is no barrier to their inclusion and access.
- How does the 988 system work logistically? It is run locally by Volunteers of America, which has been providing this service long before the new phone number was introduced.
- Will the search function be available and accessible to non-professional people? Yes, they are designing it to be easy to use and accessible to everyone.

- Will there be a curated list available of the top services that may be useful for those going through re-entry? Slette encouraged the committee members to get involved and ask for that if that's what is needed.
- How does advocacy fit in? Members are expected to come to meetings representing those that they are serving and being a voice for that population. The system should be flexible and constantly adapting to the changing needs of communities based on advocacy from members.
- How will clients of the Public Defender's office utilize this? Taylor said that she thought it would be useful to reduce the siloing of services and the ability to offer targeted services, rather than just handing off a list of resources.

3. **Draft updated sequential intercept model service inventory for Justice Project (00:45:28)**

Parker introduced the topic, explaining how and why the sequential intercept model (SIM) was updated for the Justice Project by the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team (BHGAT). Mitchell went over the needs and gaps priority list. Main points included:

- Needs and gaps were broken up into three different priority lists based on parameters including what services would have the greatest impact. The services were broken into four categories based on the location in which they are located, and prioritized within each category.
- Mitchell summarized the top needs identified in each category, as well as the recommendations they came up with. The full list is attached to this summary.
- An addendum was created for the SIM to identify policy issues that need to be addressed.

Committee members discussed and asked questions, including:

- What is the best place for navigation assistance and advocacy services? Should they be in the jail or in the community? Services based in the jail are essential to getting connecting with those who are incarcerated, but community-based services are also needed.
- The SIM primarily addresses needs of those already involved in the criminal justice system rather than prevention programs aimed at young people.
  - The Task Force is limited to focusing on adults, which is laid out in the charter. However, there is a group working on a Children's Initiative.
  - Reaching adults in the jail can also have an impact on interrupting cycles of incarceration because incarcerated people often have families and children as well.
  - Adults involved in the criminal justice system are worth investing in and providing them with services is extremely important.
- Justice-involved individuals can be disaffected by community-based services; however, a public defender can be a valuable asset who is trusted by the individual.
- The BHGAT has finished with its work, and the Task Force now needs to decide if it will adopt it as-is or make changes first.

- Parker pointed out that there is a focus on housing in the updated SIM. He asked for Brien Thane's perspective on the updates to the SIM. He responded that the key is on the clinical support and that simply providing a living space is not adequate.

Hammill and Parker discussed how to move forward with the updated SIM. They agreed to solicit feedback from members and then the Steering Committee would look at it in a more formal way.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 A.M.