

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for August 16, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Daniel Hammill called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Brian Estes, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery, Michael G. Smith, Donnell Tanksley

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Arlene Feld, Seth Fleetwood, Heather Flaherty, Jenn Lockwood, Mike Parker, Courtney Taylor, Brien Thane

2. [Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team \(BHGAT\) Needs and Gaps \(00:01:00\)](#)

Mowery gave an overview of the status of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) as updated by the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team (BHGAT). The Steering Committee was tasked at the last meeting of the IPRTF with reviewing the needs and gaps document and the addendum to analyze what resources may be needed to implement solutions to fill the gaps. He summarized the documents he referenced, which were included in the meeting packet.

Estes asked if the document takes into account plans for another treatment facility at Maplewood, adding that he understood that there was funding secured at the state level. Mowery replied that he was not fully familiar with the project, but that the document can be updated as needed. Committee members discussed the status of the planned facility and the services it may offer.

Mowery read from the Community Facilities and Services page of the document and explained the needs/gaps in more detail. Committee members discussed the needs/gaps and the resources needed to implement recommendations. Main points included:

- Workforce issues among providers
- What services are available in the area and who is providing those services. A document that outlines the services available would be helpful to use as a quick reference guide.
- The possibility of the Task Force taking a more active roll and meeting with providers in order to make sure the funds available are being used as efficiently as possible to address the needs/gaps. The Response System Division already has relationships with the providers and meet with them regularly.
- Hammill proposed an agenda item for the next meeting in which law enforcement and the Response Systems Division could go over scenario-based training and the steps involved in referring individuals to various programs.
- The importance of the public understanding the co-responder models that are being implemented.

3. [Local fentanyl use trends \(00:45:03\)](#)

Hammill briefly summarized the Blake decision and its effects on street drug use and law enforcement's response to it. He stated that police can hand someone a business card with a recovery hotline and he does not believe that is sufficient, especially given the potency and lethal nature of fentanyl.

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Hilley gave an overview from an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) perspective of what the situation with fentanyl use is currently. He shared a report that summarizes overdose data throughout the state. He went through each page of the report, pointing out some of the most relevant statistics

Hilley added that they just received a grant to add two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes aimed towards communities that may not have traditionally been interested in becoming an EMT. There will be modules on fentanyl use and mental health in the new classes.

Hilley announced that Jeremy Morton, data specialist, is moving to the Health Department Informatics Team, which may create an opportunity to integrate data such as that found in the report to create an accessible information exchange in the County.

Mowery recommend a book, "The Least of Us" by Sam Quinones, which details the rise of fentanyl use.

Hammill asked Hilley for clarification on what fentanyl strips are. Hilley responded that some states distribute testing strips to drug users so that they can test their drugs for fentanyl.

Gockley asked about a drug called "tranq" that he has heard is being mixed in with other drugs. Hilley said that they have not seen that yet as far as he knows. Smith said that tranq is often mixed with PCP, and it has the effect of making people "stuck" and zombie-like. He said that it is probably happening here but may not be reported. Committee members continued to discuss drug mixtures.

In regards to fentanyl strips, Mitchell added that they can also be used by drug users to ensure that fentanyl is in their substance or to increase their tolerance.

Hammill brought up enforcement issues and harm reduction at the street level. He also mentioned property crime associated with drug use and the increase of folks going in to stores and walking out with large amounts of products.

Smith discussed the cultural lens through which to view drug use.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 A.M.