

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

9:00 - 10:30 a.m., November 15, 2022, Hybrid meeting

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the County Council Office at least 96 hours in advance.

Meeting Participation Information

Meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend via Zoom webinar using the join link below or in person at the County Council office located at 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105. All committee members will participate remotely via Zoom. Zoom attendees will join the meeting without audio or video controls. The Webinar Host will invite attendees to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting.

[Link to join meeting](#)

Call in phone number: (253) 215-8782

Webinar ID: 863 3731 0781

Password: 17783

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Before we begin, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo People who have cared for and tended this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

[Packet Pages](#)

1. Call to Order

2. Develop solutions to alleviate the behavioral health workforce crisis *(continued from October)* 1 *Discussion*

3. Draft Committee year-end report and 2023 priorities 2 *Review*

4. Mental Health Deputy and Co-Responder Programs

Updates/Perry Mowery and Doug Chadwick

1. Highlights of proposed 2023-2024 budget on increases in Behavioral Health funding and staff in the Health Department
2. Status of funding and staffing level of the Sheriff's Office co-responder program
3. Status of mental health deputy positions/vacancies

5. Agenda Items for December Joint Meeting with Legal & Justice Systems Committee

6. Other Business

7. Public Comment

1. If you would like to speak, virtually "raise your hand."
 - a. Online: select the Raise Hand icon
 - b. Phone: Press *9
2. When called upon to speak, unmute your microphone. Inform the Webinar Host if you would like to enable your video during your comments.
3. Please state your full name for the record.
4. Staff will disable your microphone when you are done speaking.

8. Adjourn

Meeting summary of the previous meeting is included at the end of the packet for information only. Committee members may suggest changes and/or corrections to the draft summary to jnixon@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Visit the [Task Force website meeting calendar](#) for the most up-to-date meeting schedule

At this time, all meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend meetings via Zoom webinar or in person at the County Council office, 311 Grand Ave Suite 105, Bellingham.

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u>	COMMITTEES				
Monthly 2 nd or 3 rd Monday 9-11 AM	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u> Monthly 3 rd Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	<u>LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS</u> Monthly 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<u>CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY</u> Quarterly, 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	<u>INDEX</u> Bi-monthly 1 st Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	<u>STEERING</u> Monthly Various Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
December 19	December 13* (11:30-1:00)	December 13		December 1	December 8

NOTES from October Behavioral Health Meeting with Representative Rule and Joe Valentine

WCC program and WWU Human Services Program are partners to look at these suggestions and implement some of the recommendations.

Be clear, put together a list. Rep. Rule will use the list to work on the levers in State and federal government. Have a clear, bold vision of what they want for Whatcom County. Access behavioral health dollars for what they want to use it for. Money has been allocated. There is political will. Now is the time to address staffing challenges.

Draft wish list for recruiting and retaining for a diverse behavioral health workforce:

Categories: Recruitment and Retention incentives, Policy Changes, Salaries and Wages, Training, Other?

Include?	Category	Item:
	R&R	Internship pay
	Policy	Increased medical reimbursement rates
		support for navigating the Medicaid system
	R&R	tuition reimbursements
	S&W	training and supervision stipends
	S&W, R&R	proper funding of the social worker career pathway
	S&W	pay parity for mental health providers with other types of health providers to improve living wage
	Policy	cultural competency in clinical care (UW program with Rep. Rule)
	Training	cross training: social worker and law enforcement (from Joe Valentine)
	R&R	paying for ongoing annual licensing and certification
		Competency restoration at the local level.
		Diversity in the workforce

To-Do:

Learn how the State actuary recommends the Medicaid rates, is proposing an overall rate decrease for the base underlying rate.

Advocate on how the State goes about determining what BH rates should be. Unfortunately, they looked at lower use rate last year (due to covid) and a higher percentage of people were in medicaid who traditionally did not have BH needs, so that lowers the mathematical rate.

Pressure federal delegates to get better results and better rates. Also need to pressure the commercial insurance space.

Help law enforcement and behavioral health providers understand each other’s roles.

Review the recommendations from statewide committees, including 1. Behavioral health workforce advisory committee, hosted by the workforce development council and 2. State children’s behavioral health advisory group, also 3. the children and youth behavioral health workgroup.

Engage the WCC program and WWU Human Services Program as partners to look at these suggestions and implement some of the recommendations.

I. Committee Updates and Next Steps

Behavioral Health Committee

A. 2022 Update

- Filling gaps in the behavioral health work force
- Program Preview: Whatcom Family Network's Whatcom Resource Information Collaborative (WRIC)
- Program Review: Strategy and Metrics for the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) and Law-Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Programs

B. What's Next in 2023

- Develop Solutions to the Behavioral Health Workforce Crisis
- Continue to monitor alternate response program data

Joint Meetings: Behavioral Health and Legal & Justice System Committees

A. 2022 Update

- Program Review: Various
Clubhouse International model
Whatcom Community College Substance Use Disorder Professional (SUDP) Program.
Court childcare programs.
- Mental Health Sentencing Alternatives

B. What's Next in 2023

- Continue to monitor the progress and outcomes of various programs and services
- Continue to Identify and review reentry existing services, needs and gaps
- Continue to address competency evaluation and restoration issues

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for October 18, 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 Mike Parker called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Donnell Tanksley, Courtney Taylor,

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Brian Estes, Seth Fleetwood, Heather Flaherty, Jenn Lockwood, Michael G. Smith, Brien Thane

2. [Behavioral Health and SUD medical reimbursement and provider rates \(00:01:35\)](#)

Joe Valentine, Executive Director of the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (BH-ASO), shared recommendations regarding Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder treatment. They were outlined in the Recommendations document shared with members and posted online. The state has also created a new Substance Use Disorder Professional Apprenticeship program starting this year.

Members discussed and Valentine and State Representative Alicia Rule fielded questions on topics including:

- Funding for work study
- How to make internships financially realistic
- How to make it affordable for practitioners to live in the area once they start their careers
- Medicaid reimbursement rates, parity, and how pressure can be applied at various levels to improve the situation
- The competency restoration process, the length of time people remain in jail pre-trial awaiting competency restoration, and the possibility of establishing a local option for providing competency restoration
- Strategies for workforce retention in the behavioral health field including compensation, reimbursement for licensing, and training
- Racial equity considerations
- The importance of being bold in what the Task Force asks for from the legislature

3. [Strategy and metrics for evaluating outcomes of LEAD and GRACE \(01:07:05\)](#)

Malora Christensen, Response Systems Manager, presented to the committee on her department's programs, including the Ground-level Response And Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program, the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, Mental Health Court, the Alternative Response Team (ART), and the Co-Responder Team. She focused on the GRACE and LEAD programs, including information on what services they provide, eligibility criteria, how impact is evaluated, the availability of data, success rates, and how they are incorporating participant voice.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for October 18, 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.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.