

# Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for November 15, 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 Dan Hammill called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Doug Chadwick, Brian Estes, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery, Courtney Taylor, Brien Thane

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

## 2. [Develop solutions to alleviate the behavioral health workforce crisis \(continued from October\) \(01:12\)](#)

Gockley said that a small group of members would be working on creating a wish list to send to Representative Alicia Rule, who had requested one ahead of the next legislative session. The group will report back to the Committee at the next meeting. Members discussed the formation of the group, its potential composition, and who else would be consulted.

## 3. [Draft Committee year-end report and 2023 priorities \(08:36\)](#)

Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator, read from the draft report and asked members to send her any feedback on what topics they would like to see the committee take on next year.

## 4. [Mental Health Deputy and Co-Responder Programs \(11:58\)](#)

Chadwick and Mowery gave an update on where the Sheriff's office is at with the behavioral health deputy program and the co-responder program.

- There are currently two behavioral health deputies
- One deputy is retiring, and they hope to fill the vacancy quickly
- They have been working with the health department to hire co-responders who can ride along with deputies to calls that may require mental health assistance
  - There is a lack of workforce available to fill these positions
- Co-responder specialists would ride with deputies two or three days per week, with the ultimate goal being seven day a week coverage
- Behavioral health deputies can respond to all kinds of calls, but are prioritized for calls in which there may be mental health needs
- The Health Department's Response Systems Division has identified one strong candidate for a behavioral health specialist for the co-responder program and interviews are ongoing.
- The Health Department's 2023-2024 budget includes an increase for the Behavioral Health Program Fund. Requested funding includes money for: triage facility maintenance, vehicles for the response systems staff, on-site behavioral health support at supportive housing sites and emergency shelters, mental health court contract services, additional jail psychiatric services, and continued funding for a medical social worker in the jail.

## Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for November 15, 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.*

---

Members discussed and asked questions. Topics included:

- When co-responder behavioral health specialists are not riding in the same vehicle as a Sheriff's deputy, a Sheriff's deputy will respond at the same time. The Sheriff's deputy then will have the ability to leave the scene if only the mental health specialist is needed.
- How various programs are evaluated and how data is collected and reported on.
- Chadwick explained the logistics of how dispatch determines if a behavioral health specialist is needed and when different responders may be dispatched.
- The threshold for enacting the Involuntary Treatment Act (ITA).
- How and when calls to 988 get transferred to the 911 dispatch center.

### 5. [Agenda Items for December Joint Meeting with Legal & Justice Systems Committee \(51:50\)](#)

Nixon reported that they currently have one item on the agenda – a report on the competency restoration workgroup. Ideas for other items included:

- The need for more therapists to treat those with mental illness as well as the need for affordable housing
- The lack of resources for substance use treatment programs
- The need for an increase in group work to treat mental health issues
- How the list of action items requested by Representative Rule is coming together and how that is coordinated with other jurisdictions' legislative agendas
  - Hammill said that he thinks it would be best for the Committee to come up with a list of items at the current meeting to bring to the joint meeting
- A briefing on the 988 system and what it does and does not do
- Co-responder and Alternative Response Models and what the implications of changing the threshold for the Involuntary Treatment Act would be

Members discussed how to address affordable housing, behavioral health workforce issues, and other larger issues and how the joint meeting can be effective.

It was agreed that an update from the group meeting to discuss a wish list for Representative Rule would be a good addition to the next meeting.

### 6. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### 7. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### 8. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 A.M.