

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for February 21, 2023

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Mike Parker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar and in person at the Whatcom County Council Conference Room, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 105, Bellingham, Washington

Members Present: Brian Estes, Heather Flaherty, Mike Hilley, Mike Parker, Stephen Gockley, Doug Chadwick, Courtney Taylor, Dan Hammill, Donnell Tanksley, Malora Christensen

Members Absent: Arlene Feld, Brien Thane, Jenn Lockwood, Michael Smith, Nathan Bajema, Seth Fleetwood

2. Behavioral Health Committee: 2022 Recap and 2023 Priorities

-AND-

3. Legislative Priorities

2022 Recap

- Invited / Received presentation on 988 System – suicide prevention line
- Whatcom Resource Information Collaborative (WRIC)
- Legislative Priorities “wish list”
- Behavioral Health workforce
- Updated Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) – used by Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)
- SAC submitted report
- Collaborative responses
- New drugs – Xylozine
- Alternative Response Team (ART) – Bellingham Police Department

2023 Priorities

- Diversion from narcotic overdoses
- Behavioral Health / Re-entry
- Cross-trained treatment providers for co-occurring disorders
- Joint meeting with Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (BHAC)
- Incarceration – alternative options
- Annual session with Administrative Service Organization (ASO)
- Briefing in May on Legislative bills
- Legislative needs in the fall time
- Using co-responders – diversion from law enforcement
- Invite Lindsay Clark, re-entry specialist with Whatcom County Jail to future meetings
- Insurance coverage – waiver / extension on cut-off of Medicaid for those incarcerated

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

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5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.