

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Crisis Stabilization Facility Subcommittee  
Meeting Summary for July 15, 2021**

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*Note: Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however YouTube links may change. Links will not be updated. Please refer to time notation on each agenda item.*

**1. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Anne Deacon called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m. The meeting was held remote-only via Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Doug Chadwick, Anne Deacon, Todd Donovan, Jack Hovenier, Michael McAuley

Members Absent: Mike Hilley and Tyler Schroeder

**2. Impacts of HB 1310 on Crisis Stabilization Center (CSC) operations ([00:01:38](#))**

Deacon reported on:

- The current law allows a peace officer to put someone in the CSC on a 12-hour hold in lieu of arrest
- Due to the legislation, law enforcement officers won't have the authority to provide Transportation to the CSC to someone who may not be engaged in a crime

Chadwick reported on how the Sheriff's Office has been talking about legislation and if law enforcement is allowed to transport someone to the CSC:

- Changes go into effect July 25, 2021
- The Sheriff's Office is reviewing and discussing the bill internally, with the Prosecutor's Office, and with law enforcement in other jurisdictions
- Model policy and guidance from the Attorney General is not due until July 2022, so they are required to comply without guidance
- Law enforcement can use force with probable cause for arrest to take someone into custody or if there is an immediate threat
- Law enforcement can offer transportation on a voluntary status
- Often people in a mental health crisis who would be dropped off involuntarily don't want to go to the CSC.
- Designated crisis responders (DCRs) have issued a pickup order to law enforcement, but the order may be 24 hours old, so law enforcement can't say there is an immediate danger
- They are working through those conflicts in the legislation
- This also impacts situations that effect juveniles
- They will need more guidance from the Attorney General's office and potentially a legislative fix for involuntary placement.

Committee members discussed placing someone in lieu of arrest; whether it's a use of force to transport to CSC instead of jail; issuing a referral instead of transporting to the CSC; how often the CSC

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has been used in lieu of jail; police using the CSC for drop-off, and; programs such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) put Whatcom County in a better position than other counties to handle these cases.

**3. Naming the facility: an alternative to Crisis Stabilization Center (CSC) ([00:13:45](#))**

Deacon reported that Executive Sidhu as asked for ideas to rename the facility, possibly naming after a past personality or local individual.

The Committee members discussed possible ways to simplify and rename the facility, and asking the Task Force membership to consider the request and suggest ideas.

**4. Old triage space utilization ([00:19:05](#))**

Deacon reported that there is discussion on how to use the old triage facility space. The MCOT and DCRs are using it now, but they'll be moving. Executive may be interested in using it for similar services.

The committee discussed using the space for a similar crisis stabilization center for youth, including funding; future decisions about a new or renovated jail space, which may create a need for the old triage space, and; short-term vs. long-term uses for the space.

**5. Other Business**

([00:16:54](#)) Deacon reported on the mural project, including fundraising to pay the artists.

([00:32:46](#)) Deacon reported on the current use of the new facility. The mental health unit is still certified as a voluntary service.

The committee discussed challenges with evaluating data on CSC use due to the Covid pandemic and other issues.

**6. Public Comment**

There were no public comments

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.