

January 29, 2016

The Honorable Joe McDermott  
Chair, King County Council  
Room 1200  
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

This letter transmits the second progress report of the Community Alternatives to Boarding Task Force (CABTF) in response to Motion 14225. The motion asked the CABTF, co-convened by the Governor and the King County Executive in fall 2014, to review and develop recommendations for short-, medium- and long-term sustainable solutions for early intervention, prevention, and least restrictive alternatives for individuals in mental health and substance abuse crisis.

As the second of three reports from the CABTF to the King County Council, the major focus of this report is to offer the CABTF's draft long-term system improvement recommendations to date. These include recommendations in several main categories:

- Anchoring work in broad system change processes and initiatives;
- Pursuing strategic services and programs that have the greatest potential to reduce involuntary treatment demand, including:
  - Prevention and early intervention services to facilitate earlier treatment access, before contact with emergency systems, via innovative service delivery and outreach;
  - Proven and promising crisis diversion resources, in order to connect or re-connect people in crisis with needed supports and keep them out of inpatient settings and involuntary treatment; and
  - Critical community-based discharge options to improve movement through the inpatient system, thereby creating system capacity to transition patients out of acute care settings faster and reduce delay in delivering long-term treatment in state hospitals when necessary; and
- Pursuing policy and legislative changes to support the delivery of integrated care by a robust workforce and improve involuntary care for vulnerable populations.

This recommendation set will be further validated, refined, and/or expanded in the coming months in light of changing conditions. Final recommendations will be articulated in CABTF's final report in June 2016.

To place these recommendations in an updated context, and to provide information about ongoing short-term efforts, this report also includes:

- An overview of major legislative developments from the 2015 State legislative session, when the legislature endeavored to provide resources and policy changes to enable compliance with the Supreme Court ruling and improve treatment access;
- An updated analysis of emerging issues that are affecting access to inpatient care in King County, including recent developments at Western State Hospital (WSH) and behavioral health workforce conditions;
- Information about how King County, in partnership with willing community hospitals, has maintained compliance with the 2014 Washington Supreme Court decision *In re the Detention of D.W. et al*, while still continuing to detain any person who meets the standard for involuntary care, despite continuing capacity shortages and recent increases in the legal use of SBC; and
- Updated information about forthcoming expansion of inpatient psychiatric capacity in this region; and
- Updated information about the CABTF's collaborative efforts on procedural innovations at the local level that are continuing to improve inpatient psychiatric bed access in King County.

To provide additional historical background, the CABTF's first report from June 2015 is also included as an attachment.

The Task Force includes a diverse range of stakeholders engaged with this treatment access crisis, including representatives from the Governor's Office, the King County Executive's Office, the state Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, Western State Hospital, Washington State Hospital Association, Harborview Medical Center, Navos, the King County Department of Community and Human Services, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division, King County Superior Court, the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and the King County Department of Public Defense.

The CABTF's work to address this treatment access crisis via collaborative upstream innovation and upstream interventions contributes to two of the County's strategic plan priorities in the Health and Human Potential domain: protecting the health of communities and ensuring a network of integrated and effective health and human services is available to people in need. In addition, it supports the County's fair and just principle and addresses a key Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) determinant of equity: access to health and human services.

It is estimated that this report required 444 staff hours to produce, costing \$22,614.

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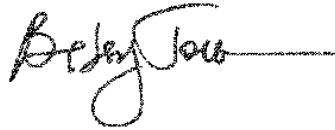
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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services at 206-263-1491.

Sincerely,



Andi Smith  
Senior Policy Advisor  
Office of Governor Jay Inslee



Betsy Jones  
Health and Human Potential Policy Advisor  
Office of King County Executive Dow Constantine

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff

Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Carrie S. Cihak, Chief of Policy Development, King County Executive Office

Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

Adrienne Quinn, Director, Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)

Jim Vollendroff, Director, Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services  
Division, DCHS