

From: Sorum, Doris
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 12:04 PM
To: Jenkins, Jessica
Subject: FW: More info on the releases from Western State
Attachments: RE_ Question re_ releases of patients from Western State Hospital added info 4.10.2020.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 11:46 AM
To: Sorum, Doris <DSORUM@ci.tacoma.wa.us>
Subject: More info on the releases from Western State

Hi Doris, I am attaching an e-mail string that adds more answers and then more questions regarding the releases from Western State. Carol Mitchell at the County, and Tiffany Villines at Beacon Health, have been very quik to respond and helpful. Carol M has not yet heard back from DSHS.

This should be added to the info sent yesterday (sorry to keep sending stuff but the situation changes quite rapidly...).

I also have more info on DOC if that is of interest.

Hope you can get out in the sun for a bit! 😊

Sally

Sally Perkins
Practical Solutions
PO Box 5366
Tacoma, WA 98415-0366
Phone: 253 525 3020 {NOTE NEW WORK PHONE NUMBER}
sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com

From: [Carol Mitchell](#)
To: [Sally Perkins](#)
Cc: e_bowen@comcast.net
Subject: RE: Question re: releases of patients from Western State Hospital
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 9:13:09 AM

Sally and Eve, these are great questions, and I want to know the answers from DSHS as well!

With your permission, we might also want to present these questions to the Pierce County Healthcare Integration Oversight Board (IOB). I am a member, along with Steve O'Ban who chairs the Board. The IOB recently scheduled conference calls with behavioral health providers about the impact of COVID-19 on their ability to deliver services. The managed care organizations (MCOs) are also a part of that conversation, along with the Health Care Authority. I do not believe that DSHS has a representative voice on the call, but I will ask when we have our next call on April 16. It was my impression from the last IOB call that there was some community capacity to receive individuals with behavioral health and mental health diagnoses because voluntary and involuntary commitments are down. I don't know whether WellFound's new facility at Allenmore might be part of the interim plan for DSHS, but WellFound was on the call and offered to take some of the load from other behavioral health providers to ensure social distancing standards were met.

On another related topic, I watched the Governor's press conference and last night's news about the Monroe Correctional Facility. DOC's COVID-19 response seems to be a problem that could get worse for DOC before it gets better. Using isolation as a strategy in a hospital is one thing; using isolation as a strategy inside of a prison is another matter. From the press conference, it does sound as if DOC is working on getting nonviolent offenders released quickly, but the barrier is similar for individuals re-entering from Monroe as from Western State: you have to have the community supports and housing to ensure people will re-enter successfully and not re-offend or relapse shortly after release.

The press conference didn't specify, but there may also be a DOC supervision capacity issue, given the current COVID-19 environment. Probation Officers are probably just as hard hit by the Stay Home order as any other group. Even so, I am going to reach out to my contacts at Progress House to see whether they have been contacted about increasing their contract for work release. They recently reported that they have the capacity for another 20-30 clients at their facility, but the increase would exceed their contract limit. This would apply to Pierce County DOC releases only.

Finally, Patti Jackson (Pierce County Jail Chief) and I are talking at 9:30 a.m. She had a crisis yesterday afternoon that took her time and attention. I will let you know what she says.

Stay the course. We need you.

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Carol Mitchell <carol.mitchell@piercecountywa.gov>
Cc: e_bowen@comcast.net
Subject: RE: Question re: releases of patients from Western State Hospital
Importance: High

Hi Carol, first, my deepest appreciation to you and Tiffany from Beacon for this very quick response. Tiffany's information is an important piece of the puzzle. You both are GREAT!

My worry about what will happen when the 60 people are released is...what ACTUAL community resources there are for them, especially with the many limitations on services and service providers related to COVID-19 impacts and restrictions? I recall the DSHS people saying several months ago that they would “expect that the necessary case management and other services will be available in the community” (or words to this effect). I asked if they were verifying this with local service providers and there was not an answer. The existing caseloads of local case managers were at capacity back in January 2020 when we met with the DSHS people as part of the Trueblood work. Hard to see how this might have gotten better since then. It is really helpful to know that most of these folks already were in the discharge planning process and that the rationale for the releases is to get the staff-to-patient ratio down to the appropriate levels at Western.

So my questions for DSHS are:

- Will the people being released be tested for COVID-19 prior to release?
- How many of the 60 people being released will be released into Pierce County?
- Where are the “community hospital long term beds” located and are they sufficient for the people being released? What other long-term mental health needs will be impacted by this use of community hospital long term beds?
- Which Pierce County organizations are providing the case management services for the people being released and how realistic is it for them to add this number of people to their caseloads?
- What are the housing arrangements for the people being released? If some are being released to their families, what is the plan if the family placement does not work? How will they get their food, and their medications?
- What are the mental health/SUD services available for the people being released and did these providers agree that they could provide them with current staff? What form do the services take (phone, video chat, etc.), given COVID-19 restrictions about being face to face?
- To what extent will the people being released rely on public transportation and how do the Pierce Transit service cutbacks affect this? What alternative arrangements can people make to get where they need to go?
- Who is talking to the Pierce County providers as to their capacity and service delivery options for the people being released? For example, if the service available is by phone, do the people being released have phones that support this assumption?

I am sure there are additional questions that will arise, but these are the ones that I could think of, given the work being done in Pierce County to serve Trueblood class members.

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From: Carol Mitchell <carol.mitchell@piercecountywa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 8:33 PM

To: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>; Eva Bowen <e_bowen@comcast.net>
Subject: Fwd: Question re: releases of patients from Western State Hospital

Sally and Eve — From my contacts at Beacon. Still waiting to hear directly from Tom Kinlen at DSHS.

Carol C. Mitchell
Senior Counsel, Justice Services

(253) 798-7447

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Villines, Tiffany" <Tiffany.Villines@beaconhealthoptions.com>
Date: April 9, 2020 at 4:14:46 PM PDT
To: Carol Mitchell <carol.mitchell@piercecountywa.gov>
Subject: RE: Question re: releases of patients from Western State Hospital

Hi Carol,

This is what I have heard from Western State and HCA:

- The individuals on the list are individuals who are already discharge ready and this list is designed to speed up those discharges rather than create a new discharge for someone who was not already on the discharge list.
- My understanding is that there are actually two lists: one of discharge ready individuals who liaisons are encouraged to discharge quickly into the community. The other list is for individuals not ready to discharge who would be transferred to community hospital long term beds for ongoing treatment.
- Neither list has been distributed yet, so I do not have any details. I will only receive the Beacon list, so will not be able to provide information on how many individuals on the list are from Pierce County.
- What Western stated earlier this week is that this is due to a nursing/staffing shortage at Western, so that there can be appropriate staffing, I have not heard that this is to increase social distancing within the hospital but to arrive at proper staffing ratios for patients. While it is possible that social distancing is a factor, that was not mentioned to the liaisons in our meeting with the hospital.
- Everyone has an individual discharge plan, so I cannot speak to where individuals will go, that will be dependent on clinical needs, available openings, and what services they qualify for.
- For individuals we are currently working to discharge, we are scheduling outpatient mental health appointments – usually by telephone intake – with providers as usual.
- We will still be creating discharge plans for the appropriate level of services as we would in any other circumstances, we are just encouraged to focus on this list and discharge as quickly as possible.

Hope this helps!

Tiffany

Tiffany Villines, MPA

Account Partnership Director, Pierce

Beacon Health Options

10116 36th Ave Ct, SW, Suite 304

Lakewood, WA 98499

Cell: 360-584-3114

www.beaconhealthoptions.com

From: Carol Mitchell <carol.mitchell@piercecountywa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:39 PM

To: Villines, Tiffany <Tiffany.Villines@beaconhealthoptions.com>

Subject: FW: Question re: releases of patients from Western State Hospital

Importance: High

CAUTION: This message originated externally, please use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments!

Tiffany, can you help?

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:20 AM

To: Carol Mitchell <carol.mitchell@piercecountywa.gov>

Cc: e_bowen@comcast.net; 'Sally Perkins' <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>

Subject: Question re: releases of patients from Western State Hospital

Importance: High

Hi Carol, Eve and I also had questions about imminent release of at least 60 individuals from Western State, as part of Western's reduction of population to protect "at-risk" residents and to improve Western's social distancing options. We

learned of this plan from the TNT, so we are relying on their reporting for the information we have at this time. We do not know if this will be the only release, or if more are planned.

We recognize that this question may not be part of your portfolio and we are more than willing to speak with someone else at the County about this (we just not quite sure who that would be).

Here are our questions and concerns:

Related to the County's Trueblood work, there has been recent news coverage of an initial group of 60 individuals defined as "at risk" for poor outcomes from COVID-19 infection, who will be released from Western State Hospital. This is an effort to reduce the population at Western and improve the chances for appropriate social distancing for the staff and patients who remain at Western. While the goal for social distancing is admirable, the release is worrisome on several levels:

- Community resources for people with severe mental illness are essentially non-existent in Pierce County, as we have heard over and over again in the Trueblood meetings. Resources such as housing, transportation, therapeutic services were in high demand prior to the COVID-19 emergency and given the many cutbacks since then, are likely even more scarce now.

Where will the people leaving Western be "placed" in terms of housing? What proportion of the people being released will be released to locations in Pierce County? What is the plan for serving them in the community, and if resources are not available, then what? What recourse do released people have if the promised services do not materialize or do not work?

- Some of the people to be released are Not Guilty by Reason of "Insanity" (NGRI). We know, from our conversations with families of persons deemed NGRI, that their mental illness often is severe and releasing them (especially without appropriate services) could pose a significant threat to them, their victims, and to their families. What is the plan to address these kinds of circumstances? What options do the families or victims have to manage the situation?
- What is DSHS's responsibility to continue to follow/monitor the people who are released to verify that they are receiving the services that they are promised? What recourse do the people released, service providers, families, and community members have if the DSHS placements are not working? What is DSHS's plan for working on an ongoing basis with the County on these issues?

We recognize that County staff people are working extremely hard to get all of these criminal justice and mental health systems to work, under hugely difficult circumstances. Our goal in writing to you is to advocate for the most vulnerable people in the process—incarcerated folks, people with mental illness, and their families and loved ones.

Thank you very much. Please let us know if you have questions.
Eve and Sally

Sally Perkins

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sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com

PLEASE NOTE:

This is an unsecured email which is not intended for sending confidential or sensitive information. Please do not include your social security number, account number, or any other personal or financial information in the content of the email.

From: Sorum, Doris
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Jenkins, Jessica
Subject: FW: COVID 19 related topics for the Friday City Council briefing
Attachments: Jail COVID 19 request Carol M 4.9.2020.pdf; Question re_ releases of patients from Western State Hospital.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

From: Sally Perkins <sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 3:31 PM
To: Sorum, Doris <DSORUM@ci.tacoma.wa.us>
Subject: COVID 19 related topics for the Friday City Council briefing

HI Doris, I hope you and your family are safe and well.

I have two issues of concern for the COVID 19 response in the City of Tacoma. I was urged to send these to you for the Friday CC meeting. So here goes.

The first is a series of questions about the **Pierce County Jail (where TPD has a contract for Jail services) and their policies and practices with respect to COVID-19 to keep their staff people and incarcerated people safe.** The initial request was sent to Carol Mitchell, Senior Counsel for Justice Services at the County. She is actively working on getting the answers and she ultimately may be the best source of answers. Eve Bowen and I have been working as volunteers with the County (at Carol M's invitation) on criminal justice and mental health issues for about 18 months now and as a result have fairly detailed knowledge about the workings. The Jail questions take on new urgency after the "disturbance" at the DOC Monroe Correctional Complex last evening. I have a friend incarcerated at Monroe and I am pretty worried about him.

The second is about the **impending release of as many as 60 patients from Western State Hospital,** to improve social distancing and reduce risk of COVID 19 for the released individuals and for people at Western (both staff and patients). It also went to Carol Mitchell, and poses a number of questions about the release plans, community resources and supports, etc. In this case, we got the information from the TNT and it is possible that there are additional details to be considered. But recognizing the long-term impacts of releases from Western on Tacoma and its services, Eve and I felt this needed to be raised with the City of Tacoma as well. The attachment is the e-mail sent to Carol about this topic.

I would be happy to answer any questions about these requests, or redirect them if needed.

Thank you so much.

Sally

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Questions for Carol Mitchell re: COVID-19, and the Jail. EB, SP, 4.9.2020

Dear Carol,

We are writing to you to ask about COVID-19 precautions and practices being implemented in the Pierce County Jail. In seeking information from the Jail web site, we found only that there are restrictions on visitors. Unlike the WA State DOC website, the Pierce County Jail web site does not include any documents regarding disinfection, hand-washing, social distancing, personal protective equipment, and other CDC-recommended practices to keep Jail staff and incarcerated people safe.

We are concerned that both Jail staff and incarcerated people be protected from exposure to the COVID-19 virus, which is very transmissible and requires a number of consistently-practiced health and safety measures.

The following list is quite detailed, because the detail is important for families to understand what is actually occurring, and who is monitoring/overseeing implementation to be sure that what is intended is actually happening on a consistent basis. We understand that many of these items are likely being addressed, but without specific information from the County, it is impossible to be sure of that.

Could you provide us with the following:

- Written operating protocols that Jail staff are following with respect to using personal protective equipment (N95 masks, face shields, gowns, gloves, etc.);
- Availability and adequacy of the PPE items;
- Nature of the availability of soap and hot water for both Jail staff and incarcerated people to use for hand-washing, where located, 24/7 availability;
- Disinfection protocols, for which areas of the Jail, how frequently, who carries out the disinfection;
- The nature and extent of social distancing procedures that are being used, including the early release of any incarcerated persons, the criteria used to determine which persons are released, the conditions under which they are released (supervision, ankle monitors, etc.) and the community settings to which they are being released;
- The nature and extent of quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of movement, exercise, etc.
- The availability of phone calls, mail, and other connections to loved ones, friends, etc. in the absence of visiting opportunities.
- The process by which Jail leadership assures that all protocols are being followed consistently, and the process used for corrective action if it is discovered that protocols are not being followed consistently.

Could you also provide a description of the process whereby:

- Staff and incarcerated persons are screened for possible COVID 19 symptoms;
- Individuals are identified/prioritized to receive COVID 19 testing;
- Individuals with symptoms are provided medical care and appropriate isolation or other housing;
- Individuals with positive COVID 19 cases are provided treatment and appropriate housing;
- Other individuals who may have come into close contact with presumptively or confirmed positive COVID-19 are notified and appropriately isolated.
- How the implementation of these procedures is overseen, verified, and followed up.

Our goal is for incarcerated people and Jail staff people to be safe and protected from COVID-19 exposure. We know that this is the County's goal as well, and the information requested will go a long way toward helping people understand how the County is working to achieve this goal.

Thank you very much and please contact us if you have questions.

Eve Bowen, Sally Perkins

From: [Sally Perkins](#)
To: ["Carol Mitchell"](#)
Cc: e_bowen@comcast.net; ["Sally Perkins"](#)
Subject: Question re: releases of patients from Western State Hospital
Date: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:19:00 AM
Importance: High

Hi Carol, Eve and I also had questions about imminent release of at least 60 individuals from Western State, as part of Western's reduction of population to protect "at-risk" residents and to improve Western's social distancing options. We learned of this plan from the TNT, so we are relying on their reporting for the information we have at this time. We do not know if this will be the only release, or if more are planned.

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Thank you very much. Please let us know if you have questions.

Eve and Sally

Sally Perkins

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sally@practicalsolutionstacoma.com

From: Charhys B <charhyseb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:59 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: COVID-19 Support for Low-income and Vulnerable Residents

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello Council Members,

I'm writing with deep concern for the residents of Tacoma who are struggling to meet their basic needs during this pandemic. The most vulnerable among us are in desperate need of a rapid response to the economic hardships caused by this pandemic and the government response that has put countless people out of work. Many of you were elected on promises to do more for the middle class, but what are you planning to do for the poor citizens who support you?

To be prevented from working and still expected to pay rent, mortgages, car payments, and other critical needs is causing a rise in food and housing insecurity. The ban on evictions during the pandemic won't save people from losing everything and the local economy as you know it collapsing as a result. There won't be much "normal" to return to if we don't have the leadership necessary to implement a plan to prevent this pandemic from becoming even more catastrophic for low-income residents who rely on each of you for support and equitable representation. It's common sense that if people can't work, they can't pay bills.

My family has resided in Tacoma for five generations. But, I'm severely disappointed in the lack of communication and response from the City Council. Mutual Aid volunteer networks, GoFundMe campaigns and the good will of everyday people have been more response than our own local government. And to be expected to take out loans or borrow from a future tax return is a recipe for being suffocated by debt.

Either devise a way for the people of Tacoma to survive this pandemic without leading to bankruptcy or cancel all housing payments and remove barriers to self-sufficiency. As a self-employed person, I'm not even eligible to apply for unemployment at this time. Many are dealing with far worse than my situation.

Please, do something before it's too late.

Best,

CB

From: Christopher Keil <christokeil@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:03 PM

To: City Clerk's Office

Subject: Renter's protection

Follow Up Flag: Follow up

Flag Status: Flagged

Hello,

What is being done to protect renters from additional fees during this time? I am asking the City Council to provide additional protections, in addition to what Gov Inslee's moratorium, to protect the nearly half of Tacoma's residents who are renters.

--

Christopher Keil

Tacoma, WA

From: jen schlatter <jenschlatter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 4:00 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Rent Moratorium

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Nearly half of Tacoma residents are renters. Governor Inslee's moratorium on evictions through April 30 has loopholes that will hurt renters. Landlords are still allowed to add fees during this time, compounding an already difficult situation. I am asking the City Council to provide additional protections for Tacoma's renters immediately.

Jen Schlatter
Tacoma, WA 98402

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cheryl Bockus <cheryl.bockus74@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 3:58 PM
To: City Clerk's Office
Subject: Renter protections

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

The City of Tacoma is the only large city in WA state to not add renter protections to Inslee's rent moratorium. This means landlords in Tacoma can add fees to tenants affected by this pandemic.

I'm asking that at tonight's city council meeting you discuss adding renter protections and no fees for Tacoma tenants struggling due to Covid-19 to Inslee's moratorium.

Cheryl Bockus
Tacoma resident (and concerned citizen)