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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

June 18, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Carol Frazey
Absent: None
Also Present: Barbara Brenner, Rud Browne, Satpal Sidhu and Todd Donovan

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1. AB2019-337 ANNUAL REPORT FROM WHATCOM COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

This item was held in committee.

2. AB2019-325 ANNUAL REPORT FROM WHATCOM COUNTY SHERIFF BILL ELFO

Bill Elfo, County Sheriff, reported on the impact to the law enforcement system from individuals with mental health issues and the department's efforts to respond to those issues, including increased crisis intervention training for officers, taking advantages of community resources. He also reported on how the crisis stabilization facility being developed must be an alternative to incarceration; medication assisted treatment (MAT) and other programs now available to jail inmates and at the work center; neighborhood deputy program; a law enforcement assisted diversion (LEAD) program; emergency operations center disaster drills with other jurisdictions; electronic home monitoring for certain pretrial defendants; jail alternatives; use of the Yakima jail; and problems with failing infrastructure and with having adequate space in the jail.

He answered questions on the possibility of building a jail in the downtown area, the MAT program lawsuit, the emergency operation center incident response, how mental health issues are identified, and public disclosure of deputy body cam recordings.

OTHER BUSINESS


There was no other business.

1 **ADJOURN**


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3 The meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

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12 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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17 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair