



Whatcom County

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
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Agenda Bill Master Report

File Number: AB2019-307

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| Agenda Date: | 06/04/2019 | Next Mtg. Date: | | Hearing Date: | |

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TITLE FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Resolution regarding reducing incarceration of young adults (Council acting as the Health Board)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OR LEGAL NOTICE LANGUAGE:

None

HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE FILE

| Date: | Acting Body: | Action: | Sent To: |
|------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| 06/04/2019 | Council | APPROVED | |

Attachments: Proposed Resolution for June 4, 2019

Final Action: 06/04/2019
Enactment Date: 06/04/2019
Enactment #: RES 2019-030

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-030

REDUCING INCARCERATION OF YOUNG ADULTS
(Council acting as the Health Board)

WHEREAS, The Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (Task Force), acting as the county Law and Justice Council, has identified a priority focus of young adult incarceration prevention and reduction; and

WHEREAS, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has awarded a grant for technical assistance to Whatcom County to participate in a national Policy Academy focused on this effort; and

WHEREAS, a Policy Academy Team consisting of a Whatcom County Councilmember, a Health Department Manager, two Bellingham City Councilmembers, a Washington State Senator and two State Representatives have formed a Policy Academy Team funded in large part by the MacArthur Foundation and working with the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, and the National Conference of State Legislatures in a concerted effort to identify and implement local strategies to prevent and reduce incarceration of young adults aged 18 – 24; and

WHEREAS, research emphasizes the importance of nurturing positive neuro-development in very young children to develop protective factors and resilience that reduce risk of future criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated that exposure to adverse experiences at a young age can increase risk for future criminal justice involvement; and

WHEREAS, behavioral health challenges left untreated or undertreated can compromise resilience; and

WHEREAS, the model of population health developed by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has determined that 50% of what makes and keeps a person healthy results from access to healthy environments, economic opportunities, housing security, and education; and

WHEREAS, the geography of where an individual lives is indicative of the social determinants of health they experience and thereby influences their overall health and future resilience and protective factors, which include living in a safe and higher quality environment, caring and positive community norms, and economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, research shows that exposure to domestic violence and incarceration of an adult in the family home are significant risk factors for children that correlate to increased risks in adulthood, leading some into intergenerational engagement with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, young adults incarcerated for more than an initial 72-hour period are more likely to return to the criminal justice system than those who experience fewer hours of initial incarceration; and

WHEREAS, public safety and public health are mutually inclusive and exist only when behavioral health, family health and stability, and social determinants of health are positively supported; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council resolved to include Health In All Policies, which includes strategies along a continuum of Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Support; and

1 **WHEREAS**, numerous efforts in the community are in progress to address the health
2 and well-being of families, young children, youth, and young adults, to include programs that
3 increase connections to schools and local communities, improve built environments, increase
4 access to quality child care, as well as the formation of "Generations Forward"; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, these efforts can result in a positive return on investment in healthy early
7 childhood development as well as long-term decreased exposure to the criminal justice system;
8 and

9 **WHEREAS**, the INDEX (Information Needs and Data Exchange) Committee of the Task
10 Force is forming policy goals to prioritize prevention and reduction of young adult incarceration;
11 and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, data indicates that an aging workforce edging toward retirement will open
14 opportunities for young adults to become contributing members of society; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, demographic trends indicate an increase in the racial and ethnic diversity
17 among the youth and young adult population; and
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19 **WHEREAS**, racial disparities still exist in criminal justice systems and negatively impact
20 individuals who are non-white; and
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22 **WHEREAS**, local community efforts that focus on improved population health across all
23 sectors to include families, businesses, schools, neighborhoods, and the criminal justice system
24 will prevent and reduce future incarceration of young adults.
25

26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Whatcom County Health Board that the
27 County will work collaboratively with organizations such as the Task Force/Law & Justice
28 Council, other Whatcom County jurisdictions, Law Enforcement, Prosecutors, Whatcom County
29 Health Department, and community organizations and leaders to:

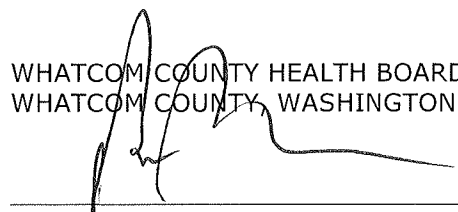
- 30 1. Identify the multiple efforts and initiatives currently in operation in the
31 community focused on reducing the exposure of youth and young adults to the
32 criminal justice system,
- 33 2. Coalesce these efforts along a continuum of Prevention, Intervention, Treatment
34 and Support, aligning with the Sequential Intercept Model as appropriate across
35 jurisdictions in Whatcom County including service and nonprofit sectors, Tribes,
36 education institutions, and foundations,
- 37 3. Create a system for improved data collection, analysis, reporting, and responsive
38 action across all sectors, to include fiscal and asset mapping and gap analyses,
- 39 4. Develop cultural competencies in staff and incorporate into processes throughout
40 the various criminal justice systems in an effort to eliminate racial disparities, and
41 5. Prioritize policy development and funding that invest in growing healthy and
42 resilient children, youth and young adults through prevention and early intervention
43 programs.

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45 APPROVED this 4th day of June, 2019.

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49 ATTEST:

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54 Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

55 WHATCOM COUNTY HEALTH BOARD
56 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

57 
58 Rud Browne, Council Chair

59 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

60 
61 Karen Frakes, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor