



# PARTNERS IN CRIME PREVENTION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

## INSIDE THIS IS-

<b>DIVERSION CENTER - A NEW TOOL TO FIGHT ADDICTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DIVERSION CENTER - HELPING CLIENTS OPIOIDS - POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SNOHOMISH COUNTY JAIL - HANDLING ADDICTED INMATES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY - COUNTY JAIL</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SNOHOMISH OVERDOSE PREVENTION -</b>	<b>4</b>

## DIVERSION CENTER - A NEW TOOL TO FIGHT ADDICTION

The Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Embedded Social Worker program consists of teams of deputies and social workers who make contact with homeless people to offer services to help them with drug addiction and/or mental health problems. The teams offer treatment, to those who are willing, for these problems in order to help them stay out of homeless camps.

As the teams worked to help their "clients" they found that there often was a gap between the time a client was willing to leave the street and receive treatment and when a bed would be available for treatment. If someone says they are ready for help, the teams would have to work to make sure the client has insurance, a government identification, receives a chemical dependency assessment, and then find a treatment bed according to the client's treatment plan. This can take time and required the teams to shuttle clients to and from appointments. And until the client could go to a treatment bed, he or she could opt out.

The Sheriff's Office identified the former work release building as a site that could be used to house homeless clients while social workers help them go through the steps needed to find a treat-

ment bed. The Sheriff's Office worked with Snohomish County Human Services to develop the concept that has become the Diversion Center.

The Diversion Center opened in June of this year. It has 44 beds. The county expects to help 300 or more clients in a year.

The mission of the Diversion Center is to reduce recidivism and criminal justice costs, increase participation in treatment services, and increase housing stability for homeless individuals with untreated mental illness and addiction.

The Washington State legislature awarded \$800,000 to partially cover the first year of operating costs of the Diversion Center.

The Diversion Center is operated by Pioneer Human Services which specializes in providing treatment, housing, job skills training and employment for individuals released from prison or jail and those who are in recovery.

Pioneer Human Services staffs the center 24 hours a day with Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's) and resident monitors.



**Ty Trenary- Sheriff  
Snohomish County  
Sheriff's Office**

3000 Rockefeller  
M/S 606  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-388-3393  
<http://sheriff.snoco.org>

## OPIOIDS- POINT-IN- TIME SURVEY

Earlier this year, the Snohomish Health District conducted a second annual Point-in-Time Opioid Survey for a week between July 9 through July 15.

- During the 7-day period, a total of 57 opioid related overdoses were reported, or 8 overdoses per day. This is up from 37 overdoses from a similar period last year.
- The youngest overdose was 17, the oldest was 73.
- Saturday had the highest number of overdoses.
- Most overdoses were men.

Naloxone/Narcan Use:

- During the 7 day period, 72% of the reported overdoses received Naloxone.
- 40 lives were saved.
- 33 patients received Naloxone from police or EMS.

## DIVERSION CENTER- HELPING CLIENTS

People who are eligible to enter the Diversion Center include homeless individuals who may be chemically dependent or have mental issues and who have had law enforcement involvement.

Entry is through an Embedded Social Worker team. There are currently six teams in Snohomish County that can admit clients into the Diversion Center:

- Snohomish county Sheriff's Office – consists of 1 sergeant, 3 deputies, and 3 social workers (one of whom works with the city of Monroe).
- North Team– consists of representatives from the Arlington Police Department (1 Officer and 1 Social Worker) and the Marysville Police Department ( 1 Officer and 1 Social Worker).
- Monroe Police Department Community Outreach Team- consists of an embedded social worker who is shared with the Sheriff's Office.
- Everett Police Department Community Outreach and Enforcement Team– consisting of social workers and police officers who make contact with the homeless to offer assistance with finding treatment and other help from service organizations, faith-based groups, and local governments.

- Lynnwood Police Department Community Health and Safety Outreach Team– consists of two officers and a social worker.

The teams make contact with homeless people to offer help with drug addiction and/or mental health issues. When an individual voluntarily agrees to receive help, a team takes the individual to the Diversion Center in Everett.

At the Diversion Center, Pioneer Human Services then receives the client, screens him/her for health and safety concerns and then admits them into the facility.

While at the center, clients are assigned case managers who help coordinate the services for the client. The case managers take over some of the work that the embedded social workers used to do such as acquiring ID's and coordinating chemical dependency and mental health assessments.

While at the center, clients do not have to worry about where they are going to sleep next or where they will find their next meal. Meals are provided by the county Corrections food contractor.

There are also industrial washers and dryers on site to clean client's clothing.

Also, Pioneer Human Services operates a van to take clients to appointments.

## SNOHOMISH COUNTY JAIL- HANDLING ADDICTED INMATES

The Diversion Center's intent is to help people who are homeless and may have addiction or mental health issues. While clients may have had contact with local law enforcement agencies or even been in jail in the past, they are currently not incarcerated. Other than using the food services contractor, the Diversion Center does not interface with the county jail.

However, the jail does receive people who may be intoxicated or high on drugs. While in custody, the county is responsible for the health of jail inmates.

Part of the process of accepting new inmates is a medical screening to determine the health needs of the new inmate. During one week in June of this year, 321 of 399 new bookings were placed on 72-hour withdrawal watches. Most of the watches were for opiates, or a combination of meth and opiates, alcohol or other drugs.

The Snohomish County Jail is among the first in the state to introduce medication-assisted detox for a select group of inmates who are addicted to opioids. The jail uses Suboxone and other buprenorphine-based compounds that reduce cravings, nausea and other symptoms that make withdrawal particularly tough.

The medication-assisted detox is offered to inmates who live in the county, who likely will be at the jail for at least six weeks, and who are not expected to go to the state prison system.

Inmates who are on the medication-assisted detox are offered counseling

while in jail and are connected with treatment providers and social service agencies that can help them maintain their sobriety when they are released from jail.

The motivation for the county to offer medication-assisted detox is to try to reduce the number of returning inmates. Those inmates who accept treatment and counseling are more likely to return to the community as law abiding citizens than if the county merely warehoused them in the jail.

Also, people in opioid withdrawal need to be monitored closely. This causes a management and resource problem for the jail staff. Medication-assisted detox can reduce the time that an inmate experiences withdrawal symptoms and therefore the inmate can be placed in the jail's general population more quickly.

As Corrections Major Jamie Kane told The Herald earlier this year,

"While we will never be able to arrest or incarcerate our way out of the opioid epidemic, we have an obligation to provide safe and secure housing for those who are arrested and brought to our jail. Conversely, incarceration can be an opportunity to detox and provide some clarity for those suffering from addiction. In some cases, it can be the catalyst for them to seek help to break the cycle of addiction."

## POINT-IN-TIME SURVEY - COUNTY JAIL

*The Point-in-Time survey also measured opioid use by jail inmates:*

- *Just under 32% of new bookings were placed under opioid withdrawal watches.*
- *That amounted to 119 individuals placed on opioid withdrawal watches.*
- *111 individuals were placed on withdrawal watches for methamphetamine.*
- *8 individuals were sent to the emergency room for medical clearance prior to booking.*
- *11 bookings were refused because of heroin or medication withdrawals.*

## SNOHOMISH OVERDOSE PREVENTION –

The county's efforts to help the homeless and certain jail inmates with receiving treatment for addiction and mental health issues addresses only part of the opioid/heroin problem.

While suspects to various crimes often say that they are addicted to drugs, not all people who are addicted commit crimes. People who need help with addiction can be from any economic strata or any race. Who becomes addicted to opioids or heroin depends on how opioids/heroin act in the brain, an individual's history of emotional or physical trauma, and an individual's genetics. Scientists cannot predict who will become addicted and who will not.

Health professionals consistently emphasize that addiction to opioids is not a matter of character. It's a matter of how opioid chemicals change the brain as well as an individual's susceptibility to the chemicals. A person cannot will their way out of addiction.

Health professionals currently encourage medication assisted treatment (MAT) as the best way to stop addiction, or at least control an individual's addiction. MAT consists of the use of drugs such as suboxone, buprenorphine, or methadone plus

behavioral therapy.

People addicted to opioids need help from their friends, family, and professionals. The challenge is finding professional help.

The Snohomish Health District has a web site, "Snohomish Overdose Prevention," that discusses the opioid epidemic, explains opioids, and how to prevent addiction, and where to get help. You can find that web site at:

<http://snohomishoverdoseprevention.com/>

Also, the health district, Snohomish County, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office, and members of the Multi-Agency Coordination Group have recently published a resource guide that explains opioids, prevention steps and where you can go to find treatment. To find that guide, go to:

<http://snohomishoverdoseprevention.com/treatment-and-support/>

You can also follow the latest information on Facebook,

<https://www.facebook.com/NoOverdoseSnoCo/>, or Twitter,

<https://twitter.com/NoOverdoseSnoCo>

## OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOODS

### MAKING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFER

#### Homeless Outreach-

Sgt. Ryan Boyer

Phone: (425) 308-0037

Email: [neighborhood-watch@snoco.org](mailto:neighborhood-watch@snoco.org)

#### Community Outreach-

Sgt. Rebecca Lewis

Phone: (425) 388-5250

Email:

[Rebecca.Lewis@snoco.org](mailto:Rebecca.Lewis@snoco.org)

#### SHERIFF'S OFFICE CRIME PREVENTION WEB PAGE:

<http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/289/Crime-Prevention>

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### EDITOR

Steve Moller

If you have questions regarding this newsletter or any articles that appear in it, please contact the editor at [neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org](mailto:neighborhoodwatch@snoco.org)

### TIP



Snohomish County Sheriff's Office: 425-388-3845

<http://snohomishcountywa.gov/303/Anonymous-Tips>

Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound: 1-800-222-8477