

Skagit County Jail Finance Committee
November 18, 2022
Naphcare finance update meeting

The meeting was opened at 8:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams Virtual meeting. Chair Gregg Davidson called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. The Jail Finance Committee Board Members are as follows;

- 1) Chair Gregg Davidson
- 2) Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton
- 3) Anacortes Mayor Matt Miller
- 4) County- Melinda Miller
- 5) County- Trisha Logue
- 6) County- Sheriff Don McDermott
- 7) Sedro-Woolley Finance- Kelly Kohnken
- 8) Mount Vernon Finance- Doug Volasky- **not present**
- 9) County Commissioner Peter Browning – **not present**

Also present; Chief Don Marlow, Jamie Bredstrand, Elizabeth Christiansen, Amie Tidrington, Steve Hogle

Naphcare cost update: (Chief Marlow)- Naphcare has advised that there will be a \$650,000 increase to their overall costs for the next contract renewal. The counties current contract will expire at the end of this year. The cost increase is due to a nursing shortage and the greater usage of traveling nurses who are paid at a higher wage. Most Washington Counties are facing the same issue. If the decision was made to go with another healthcare provider, the healthcare system in the jail would have to be completely restructured. The current situation with Naphcare is an ideal one, despite the cost increase. **Amie Tidrington-** The cost increase was negotiated from a 3.283% increase down to a 3.10890% increase. Due to a jump in behavioral health issues post COVID a nursing manager was hired, and the psychiatrist nurse hours were increased from 4 to 16 hours per week. It has been determined that 95% of incarcerated persons have some type of behavioral health issues. Gregg Davidson added to this, advising that there is a shortage of psychiatrists which could also be contributing to this issue.

Comments/Questions- Mayor Sexton wanted to know if there is any kind of continuum of care after inmates are released. Amie advised that they are doing their best to connect people with services as they are being released from jail.

Chief Marlow advised that the severe staffing issue in the jail is putting a strain on all resources (they are currently 17 deputies short), but they are doing their best to serve every jurisdiction.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 AM.

