



# Whatcom County Triage Center

The Whatcom County Crisis Triage has the over-arching goal of decreasing the use of jails and hospital emergency departments, acting as a diversion resource for people experiencing a behavioral health crisis.

Established as a result of the passage of the 0.1% Sales Tax in Whatcom County in 2009, an Advisory Board was created to provide direct feedback to County officials from the community regarding the status of crisis care in Whatcom County. Simultaneously, a region-wide Crisis System Review, initiated by the North Sound Mental Health Association (NSMHA) brought together representatives from across the region to take a long-term look at the Crisis System. The Whatcom County Crisis Triage will be adding 24/7 Nursing staff in 2015.



It is the hope of all involved that not only will participants be assisted in their path of recovery, but that we will be in a better position to match our intervention to the crisis at hand.

## PROCESS

Law enforcement officers throughout Whatcom County are able to make referrals and transport people to the Whatcom County Crisis Triage. This facility offers an option other than booking or a trip to an Emergency Department.

- The Whatcom County Crisis Triage maintains a direct phone referral process for professionals in the community (Clinicians, ED Social Workers, CDPs, DMHPs, etc.) who may have people that they wish to refer.
- Other members of the Whatcom County community should call the **Care Crisis Line** at **800-584-3578** as these professional staff are in the best position to see that the help offered is appropriate for the crisis that someone is experiencing.

## PROGRAM

This is an active Triage program with a Recovery Model philosophy. From the moment that Whatcom County Crisis Triage becomes involved, the individual is engaged in a process of evaluation and planning which involves all available formal and natural supports.

5 beds offer short-term (up to 5 days) crisis stabilization.



## ACCESS / REFERRALS

### Law Enforcement

Access via the Crisis Line  
1-800-747-8654

### Community Professionals

Call Directly 360-676-2020

### General Public

Call the Care Crisis Line  
1-800-584-3578

### Address

2030 Division Street  
Bellingham, WA 98226

Phone 360-676-2020

Fax 360-676-2210

*This is a voluntary program, so participants must be able and willing to engage with Compass Health staff.*



## PERTINENT REFERRAL INFORMATION

- Basic demographic information
- Symptoms and behaviors necessitating the referral
- Current cognitive functioning including disorientation, memory impairment, problems with judgment
- Current risk factors including suicidal and homicidal ideation and/or risk of elopement and/or criminal history
- History of drug/alcohol and/or mental health concerns and treatment
- Contact person and phone number if follow up is desired
- Names and phone numbers of any relevant family or friends who should be involved (if available)

## EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA

- Anyone under 18 years of age
- Anyone with a blood alcohol level greater than 0.25
- Anyone who cannot attend to their own activities of daily living, including medical/medication needs
- Anyone with acute medical needs, ie: wounds, possible head injury, possible severe drug/alcohol intoxication, etc.
- Anyone with behavior problems that require hands-on or any type of restraint
- Anyone in a wheelchair or who uses other adaptive equipment and cannot self-transfer and self-evacuate the building in an emergency

**2030 Division Street  
Bellingham, WA 98226**

### DIRECTIONS

From I-5 North or South

Take exit 255 for Sunset Dr toward  
WA-542 E/Mt Baker

Turn left onto Sunset Dr

Turn left onto Hannegan Rd

Turn left onto Division St

Destination will be on the left

