

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
 Justice Systems Ad Hoc Committee
 Meeting Summary, January 25, 2016
 Bellingham Municipal Court, Fireplace Room, 2014 C Street,
 Bellingham WA
 9:00 – 11:00am

Attendance

Present	Representing
Anderson, Angela	Whatcom County Public Defender's Office
Bernstein, Jill	Citizen Representative
Elfo, Bill	Whatcom County Sheriff
Gockley, Stephen	WAHA
Heydrich, Fred - Chair	Whatcom County Superior Court
Lewis, Nickolaus	Lummi Nation
Long, Ralph (proxy for J. Finkbonner)	Lummi Nation
McEachran, Dave	Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office
Moonwater	Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center
Morgan, Irene	Restorative Community Coalition
Peterson, Darlene	City of Bellingham, Municipal Court
Ruffatto, Peter (proxy for Kelli Linville)	City of Bellingham, Mayor's office
Walker, Kathy	Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office
Absent	
Garrett, Deborra	Whatcom County Superior Court
Hammill, Daniel	City of Bellingham, City Council
Knapp, Michael	Ferndale PD
Guests	
Stark Follis	
Dave Graham	
Charles Snyder	
Staff	
Wight, Dean	WAHA Lead Facilitator

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. City of Bellingham Update

Peter Ruffatto informed the group that the City of Bellingham is exploring a contract for electronic home monitoring with a private vendor for pre-trial defendants and post-conviction. Cost is \$15-\$17/day, real-time GPS monitoring with the ability to individualize the restrictions.

3. Drug Court/FasTrack (panel discussion with Dave McEachran, Dave Graham, Charles Snyder and Stark Follis)

- The history of Drug Court and current screening processes reviewed, discussion points included:
 - Tension between Drug Court and FasTrack enrollment
 - 'Target audiences' for Drug Court
 - First time offenders (high success rate)
 - Older (late 30's or 40's) user (ready for a change)
 - Person that just wants out of jail (avoiding serving time)

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- Changes that would allow Drug Court to run at full capacity
 - Accelerated enrollment process
 - Clearly define eligibility criteria
 - Access to inpatient treatment within Whatcom County
 - Bussing people to facilities is problematic
- FasTrack Program, 20 day average turnaround time
 - Potential to cycle people in and out of jail rather than seeking treatment (shorter duration sentence vs. long term commitment to Drug Court)
 - 25% of total cases move through FasTrack (roughly 60% of this figure move through this program)
 - Excludes clients with mental health issues
 - What can be done to expand FasTrack?
 - Offers are easier to manage with people that are in-custody
 - Move cases to district court by dropping felonies to misdemeanors
- The need to balance community safety with accelerated enrollment in programs
- Needs noted include:
 - Clean and sober housing
 - Longer inpatient treatment programs (6 months)
 - Need for inpatient treatment in-custody coordinator at the jail
 - Incentives for the Drug Court participants
 - Bus passes
 - YMCA passes
 - Gift cards

4. Review Draft Phase One Report

- DWLS 3rd Proposal discussed
- Jill Bernstein's draft and Judge Garrett's proposed revisions discussed
 - Executive Summary needed (with action items)
 - Include grid that was created by the Ad Hoc Committee

5. Next Steps

- Timeline for Phase One Report delivery reviewed – need for final draft at the February 01, 2016 Task Force Meeting
- June, 2016 and November 2016 Reports to County Council
- Broader influences on criminal behavior may be the work of a different Committee
- Need to focus the work of the group; identify best practices

6. Meeting Schedule

- Meeting of the Task Force is February 01, 2016 from 9 – 11am, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham WA Rooms 513/514