

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Meeting Summary for November 7, 2016***

1. Call to Order

Task Force Chair Jill Bernstein called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Angela Anderson, Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Bill Elfo, Stephen Gockley, Susan Gribbin, Daniel Hammill, Fred Heydrich, Jack Hovenier, Betsy Kruse, Kelli Linville, Byron Manering, Ken Mann, Moonwater, Irene Morgan, Darlene Peterson, Randy Polidan, Tyler Schroeder, Greg Winter

Also Present: Leslie Finch for Chris Phillips, Kathy Walker for Dave McEachran

Absent: Jeff Brubaker, Julie Finkbonner, Mike Knapp, Dave McEachran, Chris Phillips

Review October 17, 2016 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

2. Final Phase 2 Report to County Council

Mann reported on the presentation of the report to the full County Council. The County Council voted unanimously to accept the report. The Council wants the County administration to begin working with the City of Bellingham to engage the Division Street neighborhood about permanently locating the triage facility.

Hovenier stated the report to the Council went well. The information flowing to and from the Jail Stakeholder Workgroup very well.

Bernstein stated they explained to the Council that it's time for the Council to move forward on the recommendations for a triage facility. The Task Force and subcommittees aren't doing anything further until the Council agrees on a site and size, which impacts the Phase 3 deliverables.

Deacon stated the Health Department is meeting with the regional project manager on the next steps for the triage facility. She anticipates that the Task Force will be able to meet the Phase 3 deadline in March, depending on when they get information from the architect.

Hovenier thanked the Task Force members who went to the Council meeting for the presentation.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Meeting Summary for November 7, 2016

3. Executive's Proposed 2017-2018 County Budget

Schroeder reported on the County's budget process. Only those items ready for implementation are included in the budget. The budget includes items related to the Task Force, including:

- Electronic home monitoring in District Court
- Behavioral Health Specialist embedded in the Public Defender's Office
- A mental health specialist position to increase the use of the mental health court
- Additional monies to the Jail for increased medical and domestic violence advocate services

The County Executive was unable to recommend other additional services requests at this time, including a 3-deputy crisis intervention team in the Sheriff's Office with the goal of keeping people out of the criminal justice system. There is a commitment to add programs as the Task Force makes recommendations.

The Task Force members discussed a program to have service providers available in the same location as court, the Sheriff's Office use of Friendship Services, barriers to increasing the work release or work crew programs for misdemeanants, and the case management services provided by the new mental health specialist position in mental health court.

4. VERA Institute Introduction and Mapping Exercise Overview

Liz Swavola, Vera Institute Senior Program Associate, introduced Program Associates Kristi Riley and Vedan Anthony-North. The consultants submitted and read from a presentation (*on file*). They answered questions on factors that impact jail populations, including changes to State legislation, population, whether there are city jails in the jurisdiction, proximity to the international border, long-term incarceration of inmates under tribal jurisdiction, sending inmates out of the county because of limited jail space, and multiple law enforcement agencies and court systems with different programs using the jail. Swavola explained the mapping exercise process, compiling and analyzing data and statistics, the role of prevention and reentry programs in the mapping exercise, and the timing and sequence of the decision to build a new jail.

Mann encouraged all the Task Force members to fully engage in the system mapping exercise.

5. Jail Stakeholder Workgroup Update

Hovenier reported for the Jail Stakeholder Workgroup on the recent meeting:

- Correspondence between Mayor Linville and Executive Louws,
- Funding information
- The tone of the meeting was very optimistic

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
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- Good input from the Sheriff about how the proposals might work
- The Workgroup is looking for information at the next meeting on the areas of agreement and disagreement between the City and County
- Size was discussed only in the contest of reducing costs

Sheriff stated the gap between the City of Bellingham and the County is narrowing.

6. Committee Report: Behavioral Health Committee Update

Deacon stated the meeting summary is a good update. She thanked the Lummi Tribal community for hosting the last meeting.

Other Business

Elfo submitted a handout (*on file*) and reported on the jail population control measure.

7. Public Comment

Ray Baribeau spoke about the border rebound issue in Whatcom County. The international border in Whatcom County is unique because many people want to travel through Canada to Alaska.

Joy Gilfilen spoke about integrating a public comment process into the system mapping process.

Other Business

Forrest Longman, County Council Legislative Analyst, spoke on the time and location of the system mapping exercise tomorrow.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.