

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Meeting Summary for July 10, 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, John Billester, Jeff Brubaker, Anne Deacon, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Fred Heydrich, Jack Hovenier, Kelli Linville, Byron Manering, Ken Mann, Dave McEachran, Moonwater, Irene Morgan, Darlene Peterson, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder, Greg Winter, Jeff Parks (Proxy for Bill Elfo)

Absent: Bill Elfo, Nick Lewis, Susan Gribbin, Betsy Kruse, Randy Polidan,

Announcements

Bernstein reported on recent outreach efforts by Task Force members regarding the GRACE Program and the work of the Task Force; a State task force working on pretrial supervision in the State of Washington; and the July 11 schedule for the Phase III Interim report and VERA Institute presentations at the County Council and Legal and Justice Systems Subcommittee meetings.

Linville reported on a recent community solutions workgroup to get people off the street and keep them out of jail.

Review May 22, 2017 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

2. Phase Three Interim Report

Schroeder reported on the status of the State budget as it relates to the triage facility. The House capital budget includes a \$7 million line item for the triage facility. The Senate budget includes funds for the region. The deadline for capital budget approval is July 20. The Triage Facility Committee next steps is public outreach.

The Task Force members discussed who to contact in Olympia about the importance of passing the budget.

Deacon moved to approve the report. The motion was seconded.

Linville referenced the a paragraph regarding the triage facility location and suggested alternative language, "The second issue is the assurances given...Work Center was closed. ~~The City, through representatives on the Task Force, has confirmed that the assurances given to the City when the Work Center was built are non-binding. Additionally, the City does not intend to hold the County to those agreements.~~ **It is anticipated that the County and City will work together toward ensuring that this location remains a viable location.** Assurances to the neighborhood will be addressed during the public outreach process."

The Task Force members discussed agreements made at the time the work center was created, whether there are legal or other barriers to the County moving forward with the triage center, and minor scrivener's errors.

Deacon moved to amend to add language in the first paragraph regarding the triage center, "The Phase II Report quoted an estimate of...is \$9 million **to account also for relocation of programming during the construction process.** Significant headway...."

The amendment passed by general consent.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Meeting Summary for July 10, 2016

McEachran moved to amend language, "The second issue is the assurances given...Work Center was closed. ~~The City, through representatives on the Task Force, has confirmed that the assurances given to the City when the Work Center was built are non-binding. Additionally, the City does not intend to hold the County to those agreements.~~ It is anticipated that the County and City will work together toward ensuring that this location remains a viable location. Additionally, the City agrees that the utilization of this facility for the purposes of a triage center would not be violative of the agreements. Assurances to the neighborhood will be addressed during the public outreach process."

The amendment passed by general consent.

The motion to approve the report as amended carried unanimously.

3. VERA Institute Preliminary Data Analysis and Recommendations

Liz Swavola, Kristi Riley, and Stephen Roberts, VERA Institute Consultants, submitted and read from a presentation (*on file*). The presenters and Task Force members discussed:

- The difference between admission ratio versus percentages
- The data includes information on the work center
- How they define holds from other jurisdictions
- How they worked with the data as it was provided by the jail system
- Whether they analyzed repeat offenders
- Including the Bellingham population
- Worse outcomes for people who spend more than a day in jail
- VERA taking a closer look at the charges and associated their length of stay
- Charges don't equal risk
- Considering failures to appear and potential risk to the community in the judicial decision
- Whether there is data to identify the warrant types
- Creating an analysis of why people are booked: to serve a sentence, probation violation, failure to appear, probable cause, or other arrest warrant
- Analyzing why court hearings are not held
- Case processing time and cases that are often continued
- Analyzing the pre-trial versus post-sentencing data
- Whether law enforcement is adequately using citations versus booking
- Identifying repeat bookings of the same individual instead of just total bookings when providing data on racial and ethnic disparities
- Assignment of public defender and probation in the small city jurisdictions
- Clearly identifying the prosecutor's determination of probable cause within 24 hours
- Correcting assumptions about resources spent on folks in terms of length of stay or mental illness
- The number of people going to jail due to felony assaults at the emergency room
- Point-in-time counts of people who could be diverted to an involuntary triage facility
- The schedule and agenda of the next VERA Institute consultant visit

4. Next Steps: Ideas and Further Information

This item was not discussed.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Meeting Summary for July 10, 2016***

6. Public Comment

Ray Baribeau stated the criminal justice system and behavioral health system are complex with unpredictable outcomes. There will not be simple solutions.

Amy Malone stated look at all integrated systems and think about these numbers when considering a new jail facility use agreement and ballot measure.

Tim Johnson, Cascadia Weekly, asked how Whatcom County compares to other communities. Roberts stated the trend and data information by county is available on the VERA Institute data.

Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham, asked if the Lummi data would be included. Swavola stated they have made attempts to get Lummi data. So far, they have not received any data. When looking at admissions data, the Lummi police only contributed less than five percent.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.