

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Meeting Summary February 5, 2018

1. Call to Order

Task Force Co-Chair Jack Hovenier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Angela Anderson, Anne Deacon, Todd Donovan, Heather Flaherty (proxy for Lisa McShane), Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Kate Hansen, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Kelli Linville, Moonwater, Jeff Parks (Proxy for Bill Elfo), Darlene Peterson, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder, Kathy Walker (proxy for Dave McEachran)

Absent: Jill Bernstein, Jerry DeBruin, Bill Elfo, Deborah Hawley, Nick Lewis, Betsy Kruse, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran, Lisa McShane, Greg Winter

Welcome New Task Force Members

Hovenier welcomed the new Task Force members and acknowledged Angela Anderson's new position as Chief Deputy of the Public Defender's Office and Moonwater's award of Whatcom County Business Woman of the Year.

Recent Task Force success: additional staff for Sheriffs' Office

Parks reported on the crisis intervention deputy in the Sheriff's Office, which will be focused on high users and repeat users of the system with a mental health focus.

The Task Force members discussed how the deputy position will integrate with the New Ground Level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program and the meeting to expand the crisis prevention and intervention team (CPIT) law enforcement liaison.

2. Committee Updates

Gockley, referenced packet page five on drug court improvements and gave an update on the Legal and Justice Systems Committee:

- Drug court staff added a .5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and intern
- All drug court personnel are attending national drug court training
- Funding is provided for drug court participant incentives, which is a best practice
- They are identifying future grant opportunities
- The County drug court must use best practices more to obtain funding for the program
- They have identified a location for housing for drug court participants.

The Task Force members discussed the gap in best practices that affects their ability to get outside funding.

Ken Mann, former County Councilmember, updated the Task Force on his exit interview with the Vera Institute of Justice contractors:

- There is no easy, low-hanging fruit, and an ongoing systematic effort is required
- Keep looking for policy changes
- They are encouraged that everyone is participating on the Task Force, particularly the Prosecutor
- Data collection is not robust enough
- They are positive about pretrial risk assessment and seem to prefer the Virginia Model

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Donovan reported on the Steering Committee:

- The Committee recommends forming an Information and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee
- The committee will make a recommendation on the role of Task Force member proxies
- The committee made minor edits to the January final report on creating a work plan for the Task Force and its committees.
- The future role of the Triage Facility Committee as the new facility develops

5. Amendment to Rules of Order

Hovenier reported for the Steering Committee on the proposed motion to amend the rules of order regarding the role of proxies. The amendment will make their representation more consistent and allow proxies as voting members on committees.

Donovan moved to approve the amendment to the rules of order to add a section, "Proxy Representatives. Task Force members are encouraged to designate proxies to attend and participate, with full voting rights, in any Task Force or committee meeting in their absence. Task Force members may request Task Force approval to permanently represent them, with full voting rights, on any subcommittee to which they are not assigned." The motion was seconded.

The Task Force members discussed the motion, the benefits of representation, concerns with the proxy not having enough background information, whether they are expanding the use of the proxies, whether a Task Force member can join more than one subcommittee instead of assigning a proxy, and how a proxy can continue to participate when the Task Force member arrives mid-meeting.

Deacon suggested an amendment "Proxy Representatives Proxies/Representatives. Task Force members are encouraged to designate proxies to attend and participate, with full voting rights, in any Task Force or committee meeting in their absence. Task Force members may request Task Force approval to permanently represent them, with full voting rights, on any subcommittee to which they are not assigned." The suggestion was approved by general consent.

Motion carried 14-1 with Hammill opposed and Peterson and Garrett abstaining.

3. Discussion of Task Force Committees

Hovenier reported for the Steering Committee recommendation to form a fourth subcommittee called the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee to include both Task Force and non-Task Force members.

Schroeder stated the purpose of the committee would include:

- Comprehensive data understanding
- Identify data needs
- Identify hardware and software needs
- Data validity
- Identifying the questions to ask and the information to offer
- Understand what information is available, beginning with the Vera Institute report
- Have the subcommittees would provide additional requests for information

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Hovenier moved to create the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee with the initial committee members consisting of the following designees: County Executive representative Tyler Schroeder as initial coordinator, Blaine Municipal Court Administrator Raylene King, Bellingham Municipal Court Administrator Darlene Peterson, District Court Administrator Bruce Van Glubt, Superior Court Administrator Dave Reynolds, Sheriff's Deputy Caleb Erickson, Prosecutor Dave McEachran, Public Defender Starck Follis, and Health Department supervisor Perry Mowery or their designees. The motion was seconded.

Task Force members discussed adding an information needs component to insure the subcommittees provide the information that needs to be collected, including community input to make sure they're asking the right questions for the long-term.

Task Force members suggested amendments...Committee **to obtain the information needed to effectively report on Task Force progress in areas of concern,** with the initial..." Hovenier accepted the suggested amendments to the motion. The amendments were seconded.

Task Force members discussed:

- Identifying the participants by organization only,
- Whether the participating Task Force members would still be allowed to be on the Legal and Justice Subcommittee
- The time commitment of creating another committee, a realistic assessment and evaluation of the complexity surrounding what will actually work given the existing resources and infrastructure
- Technical committee versus policy committee
- Allowing its INDEX Committee/Task Force members continue to be members if their regular subcommittee
- Including an information technology expert
- County funding for an integrated criminal justice technology project to consider how to implement Odyssey in the criminal justice departments of the County
- Recommendations on data needs Could come from:
 - Task Force members would consult the staff from their agencies to identify the data they have now and the data gaps that exist, and bring that information to their respective committees
 - Committees would gather the individual requests from the Task Force members and report to the full Task Force
 - The Task Force would review the committee reports and provide guidance to the INDEX Committee on focusing its work

Phillips suggested an amendment, "Ideally the INDEX committee should be comprised of appropriate policy-oriented and technical representatives from the following organizations..." and delete the specific names.

Linville suggested that the IPRTF subcommittees bring forward their data needs to the full Task Force for discussion, and the new INDEX Committee would be a technical committee that is guided by policy recommendations of the Task Force and its committees.

Hovenier withdrew his motion by general consent.

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Hovenier moved to create the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) committee or workgroup to obtain data information needed to effectively report on Task Force progress and areas of concern. Tyler Schroeder, representing the County Executive's Office, shall coordinate and recommend a list of initial representatives for Task Force approval after initially receiving information needs requests from the Task Force, Task Force subcommittees, City of Bellingham, the small cities in Whatcom County, County departments, and Whatcom County policy makers. The motion was seconded.

Schroeder suggested that the motion go to the Steering Committee.

Task Force members discussed developing a scope of work and work plan for the committee, leaving the process open to request information as needed, identifying whether they already have the data they need, whether the cost of getting certain data would exceed the value of the data, the potential for failure due to a project scope that continually enlarges, and the difference between identifying data that the Task Force wants versus the data on how the system is operating.

Hovenier withdrew his motion by general consent.

Hovenier moved that the Steering Committee explore creation of the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) committee or workgroup. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried unanimously.

Hovenier distributed the Task Force 2018 committee signup sheet.

4. Update by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs

Parks reported for the Sheriff's Office:

- Yakima jail contract
- Emergency repairs to the jail
- The primary focus of the crisis intervention deputy is diversion
- The success of the triage facility

The Task Force members discussed crisis intervention teams and electronic home monitoring in District Court.

Peterson reported for the City of Bellingham:

- She will provide the 2017 summary at the next meeting
- The success of the Friendship Diversion Services program
- Pretrial defendants are being sent to Yakima
- The Task Force will need to discuss how to handle the upcoming jail inmate reductions due to repair work on the jail

King reported for the Small Cities:

- Blaine is looking into video court appearances for defendants in Yakima
- The cities are struggling with competing with the City of Bellingham on transportation to and from Yakima
- The small cities need to consider whether a contract with Friendship Diversion Services would be feasible.

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- An October warrant amnesty day for driving while license suspended-3rd degree was successful, and they will implement twice per year.

6. Review and approval of IPR Task Force Planning Session Summary Report from Crossroads Consulting

Hovenier reported for the Steering Committee on its amendments to the report. No Task Force approval is necessary.

7. Other Business

Schroeder reported on the adoption of the State capital budget in Olympia, which includes \$7 million for the expansion of the Triage Facility. Next steps include work with the architect, Ron Wright.

Phillips and Deacon described the plans for the new Triage Facility:

- The facility includes acute detox, which is medically monitored
- They are considering expansion of the existing facility versus building a new facility at the same location.
- The facility will be used as a drop off for law enforcement and also a step-down facility from the hospital.
- The staffing level will allow the facility to operate as an alternative to the hospital emergency department
- First responders will be able to stop at the triage facility instead of the emergency room
- It will be Medicaid-reimbursable

The Task Force members discussed the total number of beds that will be available, how a step-down facility works, allowed length of stay, connecting people to services when they're released, whether the triage facility will relieve crowding at the hospital instead of the jail if it's operating as a hospital step-down facility, the Triage Facility as a regional facility, clinical decisions on who gets to use the triage facility, and the project manager for the City of Bellingham attending the subcommittee.

8. Next Steps: Ideas and Further Information

This item was not discussed.

9. Public Comment

Joy Gilfilen spoke about the Task Force becoming a bureaucracy, the need to listen to the inmates, and a behavioral health and jail needs assessment.

Irene Morgan spoke about the need to listen to the inmates, a behavioral health and jail needs assessment, funding, and keeping the current triage facility in addition to the new triage facility.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.