

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 13, 2018

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Present: Angela Anderson, Jill Bernstein, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Dave McEachran, Lisa McShane, Darlene Peterson

Absent: Deborah Hawley, Moonwater

Review February 13, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

2. Discussion of committee work plan and ideal data needs

Work Plan

The committee members discussed each item on the merged project list as presented in the meeting packet.

- Items 1 and 2 in process: Pretrial programming is still the committee's top priority.
- Item 3 in process: The Sheriff updated and the committee discussed expanded book and release procedures. Some committee members would like to continue to discuss and encourage book and release.
- One additional task may be to get updated statistics, since they have changed since 2016.
- Items 4 and 5 in process: Committee members would like to continue to discuss these items. Start with conversations from the City of Bellingham and the small Cities about their practices. The term "parole" is antiquated. Committee members discussed a drug court consequence of spending time in jail or on work crew and how the work crew program works.
- Item 6 in process: The Committee may like to keep this on the work plan for review from time to time, but for now there are plenty of adequate opportunities, so it would be a low priority. The small cities are already working to help people pay off violations as much as possible. In the County, people are allowed to work off their fines through work crew. The City of Bellingham judge and commissioner will work with people to get their fines paid off if requested.
- Items 7 and 8 in process: Keep these items on the work plan as the committee is already working on them.
- Item 9 in process: This item can be done through the process of validating a risk assessment. It can also be done by the proposed Information Needs and Data

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 13, 2018***

Exchange (INDEX) Committee. Refer this item to the Pretrial Processes Workgroup and the INDEX Committee.

- Item 10 in process: This is not a work item for the Committee, but Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Service (DVSAS) would like support for an offender treatment program.
- Item 11 in process: Amend, “Further **consideration** implementation of restorative practices and their role in reducing and preventing incarceration.”
- Item 12 in process: This is the mission on a permanent basis, not a work item. Note that they all support the efforts of the jail. Exclude it from the work plan.
- Item 13 in process: Refer to the Pretrial Processes Workgroup. Judge Garrett to talk with Prosecutor McEachran.
- Item 14 in process: Refer to the full Task Force and invite Christopher Poulos, Executive Director, Washington Statewide Reentry Council. The Committee may consider any ideas Mr. Poulos presents.
- Items 15 and 16 in process: Committee members would like to continue to discuss these items.
- Items that have been discussed, but no action was taken:
 - This is a component of another item that is in process. Put transportation and other resources in a kiosk at the courthouse. The committee discussed the difficulty of people getting to jail alternatives at Division Street, and:
 - Whether it’s feasible for a non-commissioned jail alternative staff person to interview applicants at the courthouse, initially for one day per week, immediately after a plea
 - The possibility of having the defense counsel help defendants who plea to jail alternatives complete their jail alternatives paperwork
 - Supporting the Sheriff’s request for additional staff in the upcoming budget cycle to do this work.
- Items that have not been discussed:
 - Refer to the Behavioral Health Subcommittee the need for on-demand out of custody drug and alcohol evaluations.
 - Refer to the INDEX Committee the review of bail standards and amounts in terms of analyzing what is keeping people in custody. It’s not up to the committee to change bail standards and amounts.
 - Combine a review of portability court and community court with a review of the Spokane Mental Health Alliance (SMHA) justice program.

Gockley stated the work plan can be amended as needed. He will amend the draft work plan as discussed.

Data Needs

Data needs were not discussed.

3. Update from Judge Garrett and Stephen Gockley on the Pretrial Processes Workgroup

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 13, 2018

Garrett reported for the Pretrial Processes Workgroup. The group would like to contract with Jacqueline van Wormer to help move the group to the next step of making a recommendation to the County Council. She would do that by consulting with the group and answering their questions about a process they need to follow. It's important that the decision on a risk assessment has buy-in from those who will use it. It's also necessary to have an associated pretrial monitoring program. The goal is that the workgroup will bring specific recommendations about the risk assessment tool and a pretrial monitoring unit.

The committee members discussed data that measures how long it takes from case filed to disposition and shows how many people are on pretrial status currently. The Prosecutor's Office has that data. It includes the time a case is out on warrant. That information will be necessary when asking the County Council for money. The County administration and County Council expressed a concern during Steering Committee that the work is targeted to Superior Court and that District Court is already working with a risk assessment system. They do not want to fund different risk assessments for different courts.

4. Committee sub-report for the IPRTF Annual Report to the County Council

Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham, updated the Committee on the format and the due dates for completing the upcoming Task Force annual report.

Gockley stated he will write the first draft for Committee review at its April meeting, with final Committee review in May.

5. Update on Drug Court Improvements from Stephen Gockley

Gockley stated there is nothing new to report at this time.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

The following items will be scheduled on the next agenda:

- Gockley will provide an update of the Pretrial Processes Workgroup.
- Continue discussion of the data needs.
- Review the draft annual report.

8. Public Comment

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 13, 2018

Joy Gilfilen, Restorative Community Coalition, stated she would like to report to the committee on what happens to the clients who are going through the criminal justice system.

Irene Morgan spoke about what other states have done to change cash bail systems and prison programs and about the barriers in the criminal justice system that are traumatic and prevent people from successfully navigating through the system.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.