

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Meeting Summary March 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, Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Jerry DeBruin, Todd Donovan, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Deborah Hawley, Jack Hovenier, Lisa McShane, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder, Greg Winter

Also Present: Caryl Dunavan (proxy for Raylene King), Ralph Long (proxy for Nick Lewis), Peter Ruffatto (proxy for Kelli Linville), Kathy Walker (proxy for Dave McEachran)

Absent: Kate Hansen, Raylene King, Betsy Kruse, Nick Lewis, Kelli Linville, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran

Hovenier introduced new Task Force members Jerry DeBruin and Lisa McShane.

Bernstein introduced Caryl Dunavan, who will be the proxy for new member Raylene King. Bernstein also introduced new member Deborah Hawley.

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There were no changes.

2. Committee Updates and Draft Work Plans

Schroeder referenced packet page 22 and the Triage Facility Committee summary and reported for the Committee. He updated the Task Force on the triage facility development and on the neighborhood meeting.

Deacon reported on the Triage Facility Committee's input on the ongoing operational cost for the facility and the funding transition from the Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) to managed care organizations (MCOs). She asked to send a letter of support on behalf of the Task Force to the State Health Care Authority (HCA) to ensure the facility is fully-funded at all times. She will prepare a draft letter, and the Task Force can approve it via the Steering Committee. The Task Force agreed by general consent.

The Task Force members discussed other letters of support from the Fire Chiefs Association and Police Chiefs Association and gathering data on use of the triage facility and the Snohomish County program that collects diversion data.

Schroeder submitted handouts (on file) and described the two design options: the remodel and expansion of the current triage facility (option 1) and a completely new stand-alone facility (option 2). The meeting fulfills the County's commitment to the community to inform them of an extended and permanent use. The County Executive will likely recommend choosing a stand-alone facility.

The Task Force members discussed the possibilities for using the current triage facility space as a local, not regional, facility;

Deacon referenced and read from the Behavioral Health Committee summary and updated the Task Force on the Committee's work.

The Task Force members discussed sharing patient information among agencies, funding options, and coordinating funding requests from the taxpayers:

- ESHB 2263, regarding sales tax increase for mental health and cultural activity funding.

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- The pending approval in the State legislature of an increase in recording fees for behavioral health services
- HB 2437, a sales tax rebate dedicated to housing, which is pending approval in the State legislature

Gockley reported for the Legal and Justice Systems Committee. He referenced and read from the summary and reported on the Pretrial Processes Workgroup.

3. Update by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs

Elfo reported for the Sheriff's Office:

- Waive fees for jail alternatives
- Increase in out-of-custody work crew and work release
- Decrease in electronic home detention
- Book and release
- Quashed warrants
- Working with the Prosecutor and District Court on pretrial release
- Data on jail bed use
- A new crisis intervention deputy
- A Snohomish County diversion center program

The Task Force members discussed the Cities' version of book and release efforts, the reason for increases in work crew and work release,

Long reported for the Lummi Nation and stated they are working on their service house.

Peterson reported for the City of Bellingham and submitted and read from a handout with updated information on Friendship Diversion Services (on file). They hope to get to a place where pretrial defendants aren't sent to Yakima.

Task Force members discussed upcoming construction on the County jail, the County's plans to send its inmates to Yakima, the static operating costs, keeping in mind the experiences of those inmates who are removed from Bellingham and tracking data on unintended consequences, and alternative facilities to Yakima.

4. District Court and District Court Probation

Bruce Van Glubt, District Court Probation Administrator, submitted handouts (on file) and reported on the warrant reduction initiative (WRI) and the electronic monitoring pilot project. The WRI reduces the burden on the system that results when people don't show up for various appointments. The ideas for the WRI components came from various local and state court judges and staff. When the court performs these tasks, it's still the defendant's responsibility to show up to court. Components include a phone call reminder program and a new case management database that allows text message reminders. The County has \$15,000 to pay for electronic monitoring devices that measure location and alcohol use. The devices could be used for several different purposes. This is a limited pilot program designed for pretrial release conditions or as a post-conviction accountability option.

Task Force members discussed low cost phones through the Opportunity Council, text message reminder technology, data on the success of the Bellingham electronic home monitoring program, the cost per day per defendant, the violation report process if someone violates the location restrictions,

5. Update on planned neighborhood meeting to discuss plans for the remodeled or new crisis triage facility

See Agenda Item 2, Committee Reports.

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6. Updates on other committees:

Pretrial Processes Workgroup

Garrett reported on the Pretrial Processes Workgroup:

- The purpose is to come up with specific recommendations for the Task Force and County Council for a risk assessment tool and pretrial processes mechanism would look like for the County.
- They hope all the judicial officers will commit to using the risk assessment tool
- They need to know how to locally validate a risk assessment tool and the options for a pretrial processes unit.

County Council Criminal Justice Committee work plan

Buchanan reported on the County Council's new Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee to work on next steps regarding the County jail. They have developed a draft work plan that includes three phases:

- Community outreach via a listening tour
- Needs assessment
- Planning for next steps

The Committee plans to integrate its work with the Task Force.

7. Next Steps: Ideas and Further Information

Winter reported on a recent meeting that included Christopher Poulos, Executive Director of the Washington Reentry Council. Schedule him for a presentation in April.

8. Other Business

Eric Richey, Prosecutor's Office, invited certain Task Force members to attend the Prosecutor's Office weekly meeting regarding serious cases they are handling.

9. Public Comment

Joy Gilfilen encouraged the Task Force to schedule a presentation from Mr. Poulos from the Washington Reentry Council. The Task Force must also hear from her clients, who have gone through the criminal justice system.

Irene Morgan spoke about the judges being open to alternative sentences and the trauma of being in the criminal justice system.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.