

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***DRAFT Meeting Summary for December 18, 2017***

**1. Call to Order**

Task Force Co-Chair Jack Hovenier called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Civic Center Garden Room, 322 N. Commercial, Bellingham.

**Present:** Angela Anderson, Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Bill Elfo, Stephen Gockley, Susan Gribbin, Fred Heydrich, Jack Hovenier, Kelli Linville, Byron Manering, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Chris Phillips, Michael Lilliquist (proxy for Dan Hammill), Todd Donovan (proxy for Ken Mann), Kathy Walker (proxy for Dave McEachran), Joy Gilfilen (proxy for Irene Morgan)

**Absent:** John Billester, Jeff Brubaker, Daniel Hammill, Betsy Kruse, Nick Lewis, Ken Mann, Dave McEachran, Irene Morgan, Tyler Schroeder, Greg Winter

Bernstein reported on the Phase 3 presentation to the County Council.

**2. January 8 IPRTF meeting and facilitation**

Bernstein introduced Holly O'Neil, who will be the facilitator for the January planning strategy retreat.

Holly O'Neil, Crossroads Consulting, submitted a handout (on file) and described her background; the process she will use to help the Task Force sort through the potential future work items; the timeline; and allowing citizens to complete and submit the survey.

O'Neil and the Task Force members discussed how to include projects already in progress, the difficult timeline due to the holidays, the objective of the work plan, prioritization of the Vera Institute strategies, the Phase III report and the County's budget process, and other possible outcomes. There are three outcomes:

1. Rank the Vera Institute strategy items
2. Affirm clear direction already established
3. Identify emerging areas for further exploration

Other priorities that come up are not precluded from action by the Task Force and its committees. Her report will be a fluid document that can be updated.

**3. Committee Updates**

Bernstein reported for the Steering Committee about data collection, the Phase III Report presentation to the County Council, creating proposals for the next budget cycle, and amending the Task Force committee structure if necessary going forward.

Phillips referenced the handout of committee notes (on file) and reported for the Triage Facility Committee on the capital budget and other funding sources, the phase one architectural design, and the public involvement plan. The Task Force members discussed engaging a City of Bellingham project manager right away.

Deacon reported for the Behavioral Health Committee, which has not met since the last full Task Force meeting. Their focus going forward is to review the efficacy of programs and services and to look at revenue sources for additional programs. The Task Force members discussed coordinating funding opportunities.

Gockley reported for the Legal and Justice Systems Committee on an introduction from Moonwater on restorative practices and the continued discussion of developing a pretrial risk assessment

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tool and monitoring unit. The judges are interested in engaging the services of Dr. Jacqueline van Wormer to help them through the process. The Task Force members discussed engaging a victim advocate in the pretrial risk assessment discussion.

Bernstein reported for the State's pretrial task force and its review of pretrial services that reduces failures to appear and helps people moderate their behavior. The Task Force members discussed the goal of the State Task Force.

**4. Update by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs**

Elfo stated the current small cities representative on the Task Force, can no longer participate, so the Small Cities Caucus will appoint someone else. He reported for the Sheriff's Office and Jail on:

- Jail restrictions
- A program to enable court clerks to quash warrants
- Increased use of book and release
- Additional deputy for crisis intervention in 2018, budgeted as a pilot project
- Paying offenders on out of custody work crews minimum wage to pay off fines
- Using out of custody work crews for additional violations
- Pretrial electronic home monitoring for misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor
- Contracting with Yakima to use their jail for inmates as necessary
- The need for funding for a kiosk in the courthouse for a deputy or other para professional to connect people to the work center

Peterson reported for the City of Bellingham and stated she will provide an expanded report in February. In the meantime:

- Warrants served in municipal court aren't first time offenders.
- During the warrant hearing, they are issued a new date and let go rather than sent to jail.
- More than 30 defendants, who in the past would have been in jail, are on electronic home monitoring alcohol detection bracelets, most of which are pretrial cases.
- The City is open to expand and create new programs.
- The City would like a program that helps defendants take care of all their issues in multiple jurisdictions at the same time and in the same place.

**5. IPRTF fund expenditure process**

Hovenier referenced the packet and reported for the Steering Committee on the proposed process to approve expenditures of funds budgeted for the Task Force. There is a proposed amendment to add language, "The Task Force staff, with approval from the Task Force Chair(s), Clerk of the Council, and County Council Chair, is authorized to submit requests for expenditures up to \$250 to provide necessary materials and supplies for Task Force meetings. Requests will be submitted in writing to the Deputy Clerk of the Council through the Legislative Coordinator." Hovenier moved to approve the proposed process as amended. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Task Force members discussed these procedures and the County's purchasing rules.

Deacon noted that \$50,000 of the Task Force funds are from the Behavioral Health fund, and must be spent accordingly.

**6. Next Steps: Ideas and Information**

This item was not discussed.

**7. Other Business**

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Heydrich stated he will be leaving the Task Force and Judge Garrett will take his place in representing the Superior Court on the Task Force.

The Task Force members discussed upcoming repairs to the jail.

**8. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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