

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee***  
**Meeting Summary for May 8, 2018**

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**1. Call To Order**

Committee Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Angela Anderson, Jill Bernstein, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Peter Ruffatto

Also Present: Kathy Walker (proxy for Dave McEachran), Heather Flaherty (proxy for Lisa McShane)

Members Absent: Deborah Hawley, Dave McEachran, Lisa McShane

Review March 13, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes

**2. Annual Report**

Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham Legislative Policy Analyst, and the committee members discussed the annual report, including:

- The audiences are the County Council and public
- Make the report content and format as easy to read as possible
- Include information about book-and-release efforts of other jurisdictions besides the County
- Reframe the section on barriers and challenges to include opportunities
- Include next steps and additional context of how they plan to move forward
- How to include the Committee's work plan in the annual report
- The process for the Committee's review, making amendments, and approval of the Committee's section of the annual report
- Several changes to the section on the proposed pretrial processes risk assessment and program
- How much cost detail should be in the report for pretrial services

The Committee also discussed:

- The status of the book-and-release program
- Real-time response capabilities of GPS electronic monitoring hardware
- How monitoring tools can be used differently by different jurisdictions
- The possibility of assigning GPS monitoring to certain pretrial defendants
- Prosecutorial discretion and best practices for drug court

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The committee members can email proposed updates to Stephen Gockley by end-of-day on Friday, May 11.

**5. Update on Pretrial Processes Workgroup**

Garrett described and the Committee discussed two upcoming grant opportunities:

1. MacArthur Foundation Grant, which may not work for pretrial services, but could be an option for another program (*handout on file*)
2. Arnold Foundation's upcoming expansion of its risk assessment program, which could be an option for Whatcom County's pretrial services unit for Superior Court.

Garrett also updated the Committee on the status of the Pretrial Processes Workgroup:

- The workgroup, and Dave Reynolds especially, is working to provide Dr. van Wormer statistics she needs to help identify a potential consultant for the County

The Committee discussed the grant opportunities and the timeline for submitting an 2018 budget supplemental request to hire a project manager to begin building the pretrial services program.

**3. Draft Priorities and Work Plan**

This item was not discussed.

**4. Identify the ideal data needs of the committee for the INDEX Committee**

Committee members described various data on which they would like more information:

- The number of Assault 3 cases happening in the hospital emergency department
- Make sure law enforcement can use the system effectively
- Average length of stay in the jail
- How long it takes to process a case through the system
- Collect data from the courts of limited jurisdiction, including tribal court
- Track the amount of work being done currently to divert misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor offenders from arrest and booking into jail to determine whether diversion efforts are improving
- Track the success of the various diversion and release programs, such as electronic home monitoring, drug court, and others
- Provide the INDEX Committee the comments from the Sheriff and District Court regarding the Vera Institute final report
- Establish baseline data

*(Due to audio recorder malfunction, the remainder of the meeting, 1:10 p.m. to adjourn, was not recorded.)*

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The Committee agreed to schedule this item for discussion during the majority of the June committee meeting.

**6. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information**

This item was not discussed.

**7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.