

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Meeting Summary May 14, 2018***

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**1. Call to Order**

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

**Present:** Angela Anderson, Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Todd Donovan, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Kate Hansen, Deborah Hawley, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Betsy Kruse, Kelli Linville, Dave McEachran, Lisa McShane, Moonwater, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder, Greg Winter

**Absent:** Jerry DeBruin, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Nick Lewis, Byron Manering, Darlene Peterson,

Review April 2, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

**2. Committee Updates**

Donovan referenced the summary in the packet and updated on the Steering Committee, including:

- The annual report timeline. The committee drafts are due May 24.
- Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee structure including a technical group

Barry Buchanan, Whatcom County Council, reported on an upcoming meeting with the administration to discuss a County 2018 supplemental budget request for pretrial risk assessment.

Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham, described the structure and planned content of the annual report.

The Task Force members discussed the potential pretrial services unit and pretrial risk assessment tool.

Phillips referenced the summary in the packet and updated on the Triage Facility Committee, including:

- Funding approval for a facility
- The County's contract with the architectural firm.
- Ground-breaking tentatively scheduled for the end of 2018
- Planned completion at 12 - 16 months after groundbreaking

The Task Force members discussed:

- Working with the architect to create exact timelines
- No potential delays due to permitting
- Awaiting final construction and design contract for services

Phillips continued the committee report on triage facility operations, including:

- Licensure
- The plan to increase the level of services for detox to further diver from the emergency room and jail

Deacon described the shift in policy to create an involuntary triage facility instead of a voluntary facility for mental health services and answered questions:

- The current provider is Compass Health
- The design would be modified to include a seclusion and restraint room

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- Law allows holds up to 12 hours and evaluation within three hours by independent designated crisis responders (DCRs)
- Who determines release at the triage facility
- Staff at the facility cannot overrule a 12-hour peace officer hold
- The entire unit would be certified as involuntary, but with only 1 added seclusion and restraint room.
- Operational financing comes from Medicaid
- Operational funding as cost-based reimbursement versus fee for service by the managed care organizations (MCOs)
- A secure detox involuntary hold may be an option in the future

Deacon referenced the summary in the packet and reported for the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, including:

- A presentation from Jeff Brubaker, Bellingham Fire Department, on their efforts to engage people in mental health services.
- The receipt of a technical assistance grant for \$25,000 to help collect and share data for the Ground level Response And Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program
- Negotiations with a treatment provider to be the hub provider for the GRACE Program
- A grant for technical assistance to reduce incarceration of youth and teens.
  - The City/County team will attend a conference in June
  - The grant program lasts a year
  - The grant is meant to support efforts to reduce incarceration for 18-24 year olds

The Task Force members discussed:

- The appropriate members for the technical assistance grant team
- Whether the technical assistance grant is to address prevention before incarceration
- Bellingham's GRACE-like program and federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) waivers
- The technology grant will help with the waiver issues
- The Crisis Prevention & Intervention Teams (CPIT) program's law enforcement position is not filled at this time
- Information exchange will always be a challenge
- Start the GRACE Program sooner with people who are willing to sign a waiver, and not wait for a waiver structure that will work for everyone
- Providing workforce training for CPIT
- The difficulty of getting qualified staff
- Union bargaining agreements are preventing a staff change or a salary increase that would attract a qualified DCR

Garrett referenced the summary in the packet and reported for the Legal and Justice Systems Committee, including:

- The committee's focus on the pretrial services and the Pretrial Processes Workgroup
- The half-day meeting with Dr. Jacqueline van Wormer on April 19
- Superior Court Administrator Dave Reynolds is collecting statistics necessary to develop a risk assessment tool for Whatcom County
- The committee's draft annual report and data needs

Bernstein continued the committee update on the necessity of reducing the pretrial population and the number of warrants that are issued.

The Task Force members discussed whether a pretrial risk assessment could be used across all jurisdictions.

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

Elfo reported for the Sheriff's Office and Jail, including:

- Law enforcement sends out a jail population notice three times per day and recommends law enforcement citations and prosecutor referral whenever possible. As a result, they are seeing fewer de minimis offenses being booked into the jail.
- Meeting with courts of limited jurisdiction, which have agreed to book-and-release and to reducing the number of warrants whenever possible
- They suggested that the courts allow clerks to quash warrants
- Installation of electronic home monitoring for District Court pretrial defendants at the request of the court. There is no defendant supervision.
- A higher level of supervision is given to post-convicted on electronic home monitoring
- Changes in procedures at Peace Health to prevent incarceration due to staff member assaults by people with severe mental health problems
- The crisis intervention deputy position
- Considering use of the juvenile detention center, with 48 beds, as a facility for people with profound behavioral health problems and moving the kids elsewhere, potentially to the existing triage facility location
- The fewer number of offenders who have served time in jail since the County Council approved fee waivers and a sliding scale for participation in various jail alternatives

King reported for the small cities, including:

- Cross-small cities warrant quash
- Meeting with small cities on electronic home monitoring with Friendship Diversion Services

Peter Ruffatto, City of Bellingham, reported for the City of Bellingham, on potential changes to electronic home monitoring resulting in more active monitoring and immediate response.

Bruce Van Glubt, District Court Administrator, reported on the District Court pilot program for electronic home monitoring.

**4. Review and discuss the proposed Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee**

Schroeder referenced the packet and described the background and proposed structure of the proposed new committee. The committees are still working to complete their data needs. The Task Force members discussed suggestions for changes:

- Include the Bellingham and County Information Technology (IT) departments
- Invite the Lummi Nation
- Include people who are consumers of the system
- Include in the goals or mission of the committee a consideration of racial, poverty, and gender disparities in the criminal justice system

Schroeder stated he will incorporate the suggestions into the draft INDEX Committee structure. Once the subcommittees have finished identifying their data needs, he will bring the proposed committee back to the Task Force.

Schroeder asked if the Task Force members approve of him reaching out to people from the jurisdictions and start to establish individual contacts, before the Task Force formally establishes the subcommittee.

The Task Force concurred by general consent.

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**5. IPRTF review of possible grant opportunity from the Urban Institute Safety + Justice Challenge**

Barry Buchanan, County Councilmember, submitted and reported on a potential grant opportunity. The County Council asked the Task Force to make a recommendation on whether such an opportunity could be useful for the Task Force.

Task Force members discussed:

- The short timeline for submitting an application
- Whether anyone has a project that could qualify
- Whether anyone has time to devote to developing an application or administering the grant requirements
- Whether they could add these grant funds to a recent \$25,000 Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) grant received for information exchange

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

This item was not discussed.

**7. Other Business**

This item was not discussed.

**8. Public Comment**

Irene Morgan reported on the work of the Restorative Community Coalition and spoke about the psychological and physical trauma her clients experience.

Joy Gilfilen spoke about someone applying for the MacArthur grant on behalf of the Restorative Community Coalition, their mapping process, and statistics on the number of people who have been arrested and incarceration.

Heather Flaherty spoke about the Prosecutor's Office's invitation for people to attend their weekly case meetings and the County Council's listening tour on jail issues.

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.