

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for June 12, 2018

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Jill Bernstein, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Lisa McShane, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Peter Ruffatto

Also Present: Kathy Walker (proxy for Dave McEachran)

Members Absent: Angela Anderson, Deborah Hawley, Dave McEachran

Review May 8, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

2. Update on Update from Karen Burke on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Service (DVSAS) and domestic violence treatment services

Karen Burke submitted and read from a handout (on file) describing the Whatcom County Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Program and stated she requests the Committee recommend support of funding for three years, beginning January 2019.

- The program will reduce the jail population.
- Current treatment options in the community are inadequate and not working well
- The proposal is a 3-year pilot program to see how it works
- The Steering Committee membership includes two representatives from Western Washington University, Susan Marks, Ferndale Police Chief, Bellingham Court Administrator, and others.
- The program therapy includes several components: group therapy, a coordinated community response, motivational interviewing, trauma-informed dialectic behavioral therapy (DBT), and better communication between courts and therapy provider
- Court-ordered services available after conviction or as diversion, depending on the prosecutor and courts
- Drop-in classes will be available on healthy masculinity
- Treatment includes juveniles and female offenders

Committee members and Burke discussed:

- Releases of confidential information
- Whether they will prioritize who gets treatment
- Individuals with cultural and ethnic barriers
- Gathering recent baseline data
- Outcomes measured through contact with victims and victim reports
- The program also requires offenders to complete measurable tasks

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- Consideration of in-house versus contracted staff
- Locating the services away from Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) offices
- Treating offenders so they don't create more victims
- The Steering Committee will be separate from DVSAS
- Similar programs that the local tribes may have
- The possibility of allocating space in the program for each jurisdiction according to their funding
- Motivational interview training of probation staff
- Potential funding sources
- The program will include misdemeanants and felons

Bernstein moved to recommend to the full Task Force that the County, City of Bellingham, and small cities fully fund the Whatcom County Domestic Violence Offender Treatment Program for the years 2019-2021, at a cost of approximately \$221,750 per year. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Identify the ideal data needs of the committee for the INDEX Committee

The Committee discussed data needs for defining data outcomes, trends, and issues:

- Data that the current systems already collect
- Making information available to the community
- Each committee member is to come back to the committee with a list of its broad-based objectives
- The need to create baseline data
- The data necessary to inform their ongoing projects, including: electronic home monitoring, pretrial services, book-and-release, and other items on the work plan
- Include the data gaps that Task Force members identified through the Vera Institute report process
- Identify the data points that can be used to paint as accurate a picture as possible, regardless of what question is being asked of the data
- Create indicators of broad-based objectives, such as how many people are diverted to the triage center
- The committee reviewed and amended the February data list in the meeting packet

This item is held for further discussion to the next committee meeting.

4. Report on what other jurisdictions are doing

Bruce Van Glubt, District Court Administrator, referenced meeting packet page 16 and gave an update on the Virginia model risk assessment as used by Clark County.

- There isn't any cost to or official training for using the Virginia Model

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- Clark County doesn't have any statistics yet on the program

5. Update on Pretrial Processes Workgroup

Garrett updated the committee on the Pretrial Processes Workgroup. The Group has decided on using the Virginia model risk assessment. There is an upcoming conference call with Dr. Jacqueline van Wormer on June 18 at noon. Supplemental budget requests are being prepared to validate the risk assessment and to hire a project manager to begin structuring a pretrial services department. The assessment may be customized for the local jurisdictions.

The committee discussed the reason for choosing the Virginia model risk assessment tool.

- It's not completely static, but it's mostly static
- There are no hidden algorithms. The assessment and results are transparent.
- The judicial officers in Superior Court and Judge Elich like the assessment
- It has a reputation of being one of the best assessments

6. Other Business

7. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

The committee members discussed continuing its work regarding drug court best practices and working with the drug court team and drug court prosecutor. The committee members concurred to schedule a full discussion with on September 11, 2018 meeting.

The committee members discussed scheduling a meeting of the committee at the Lummi Administration Building, at the invitation of Task Force member and Lummi representative Nick Lewis.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.