

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Meeting Summary June 11, 2018**

1. Call to Order

Task Force Co-Chair Jill Bernstein called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Present: Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Jerry DeBruin, Todd Donovan, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Kate Hansen, Raylene King, Betsy Kruse, Kelli Linville, Dave McEachran, Lisa McShane, Darlene Peterson, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder, Greg Winter

Absent: Angela Anderson, Deborah Hawley, Jack Hovenier, Nick Lewis, Byron Manering, Moonwater

Review May 14, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

Recent Task Force Successes

Bernstein spoke about progress regarding drug court housing.

2. Review and approve Annual Report to the County Council

Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham, presented the IPR Task Force Annual Report.

The Task Force made several amendments to the draft report:

(Clerk's Note: Deborra Garrett was not at the first have of the meeting, and not present for the following votes.)

Elfo moved to amend report page six, "Crisis Prevention, De-escalation...extent possible. **The Sheriff's Office has added a crisis intervention deputy to work closely with the behavioral health community to divert offenders from the criminal justice system to treatment.**" The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Elfo submitted a handout (on file) and moved to amend report page 17, "Issues and Opportunities...in the near future. **A reason why "book and release" warrants are not being encountered may be that the jail is frequently on population control measures that restrict the booking of persons on warrants for minor offenses.**" The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernstein moved to amend report page 6, "~~Expansion of Book and Release Practices.~~ **Reduce Number of Jail Admissions for New Charges.** For low level..." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernstein moved to amend report page 6, and the similar language in the body of the report, "Warrant Reduction Efforts. Warrants are...Whatcom County District Court **and Bellingham Municipal Court** administrators have initiated new practices to clear invalid charges that might otherwise result in warrants, and implemented a phone call reminder program for **most** court hearings." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Hammill moved to amend report page 6, "Crisis Prevention, De-Escalation, and Behavioral Health Response. The Sheriff and local **Bellingham** police departments ~~are working to ensure....~~" The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Schroeder moved to include language in the body of the report that indicates the small Cities are likely completing crisis intervention training as required by law. There was discussion on the requirement to complete training by 2020. Schroeder withdrew his motion.

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The Task Force members discussed renaming the Triage Facility to the Crisis Recovery Facility, due to new state definitions for a triage facility that conflict with the purpose of the County's new facility.

Deacon moved to add a bullet point that explains the name change of the triage facility to a crisis recovery facility. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Gockley moved to amend report page 8, "Drug court supports. Additional funds...permanent County funding for a ~~part-time~~ certified chemical dependency ~~case manager~~ **services** will help...." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Phillips stated that all references to the hospital should be "Peace Health St. Joseph Medical Center."

Bernstein moved to amend report page 11, "**Context:** Federal and state law require...capital crimes ~~or who pose an extreme safety or flight risk~~. Bail is a lawful condition...." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernstein moved to amend report page 12, "Progress: Warrants for FTAs can be reduced most directly by reducing...to reduce ~~mistaken~~ warrant activity." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Elfo moved to amend report page 14, "EHM is used by area jurisdictions for both pretrial and post-conviction monitoring. The District Court ~~and small city municipal courts~~ may order EHM...." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernstein moved to amend report page 14, the paragraph beginning, "EHM is used by area...." regarding electronic home monitoring to include language identifying it as a limited pilot project funded by the County Council. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Hammill moved to strike language in the table on report page 14, the Post-Conviction column, "Cost ~~to small cities:~~ \$73 per day." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Elfo referenced the table on report page 14, the Pretrial column, and stated the pretrial program is administered by District Court, not the Sheriff's Office.

Peterson moved to amend the table on report page 14, the first column, "Whatcom County (misdemeanants ~~in District/small cities municipal court~~)." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernstein moved to amend the table on report page 14, the Pretrial column, "Cost ~~to individual~~ **paid by County:** ...~~May be waived~~." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Task Force members discussed costs or fees that can be assessed to pretrial defendants and ...

Bernstein moved to amend report page 16, "Issues and opportunities: The Work Release and...would require additional ~~staff~~ **resources**." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernstein moved to amend report page 17, "Issues and Opportunities: Despite these attempts to prevent and reduce...encounter ~~more of~~ these warrants, and be able to...." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Task Force members discussed the City of Bellingham's plans to add funding for a behavioral health specialist in the police department.

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(Clerk's Note: Deborra Garrett arrived to the meeting and present for the following votes. Greg Winter left the meeting and was not present for the following votes.)

McEachran moved to amend report page 19 to delete the first paragraph, "Issues and Opportunities: ~~National Standards call for...not in full compliance with Best Practices Standards.~~"

Dave Graham, Prosecutor's Office, and the Task Force members discussed Drug Court best practices.

McEachran accepted a friendly amendment to amend report page 19, to replace the first paragraph, "Issues and Opportunities: ~~National Standards call for...not in full compliance with Best Practices Standards.~~ **The Drug Court team will work with the Committee to make certain that the County is using a validated tool necessary to qualify the County for federal grants and ensure the County is in compliance with National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) best practices, if the County is not already in compliance.**" The motion as amended was seconded and carried unanimously.

Gockley moved to amend report page 19, "National standards also encourage...In 2018, **some but not all** local team members will attend a national drug court training conference, ~~with the exception of the assigned drug court prosecutor.~~ The committee acknowledges...." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Bernstein moved to amend report page 24, "The County Council approved the Task Force-recommended plan to construct a free-standing building that will house two 16 bed units, for a total of 32 beds. **Sixteen beds is the maximum allowed for each unit to qualify for Medicaid funding.**" The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Hammill moved to approve the annual report as amended. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Committee Updates

Phillips reported for the Triage Facility Committee that the committee moved and approved a motion to include capacity for involuntary holds in the facility design, however the committee has not yet agreed to involuntary capacity.

4. Update by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs

This item was not discussed.

5. Update of 2018 Committee Assignments

This item was held to the next meeting.

6. Next Steps: Ideas and Further Information

This item was not discussed.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

No one spoke.

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9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.