

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for September 11, 2018***

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Jill Bernstein, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Dave McEachran, Lisa McShane, Darlene Peterson, Peter Ruffatto, Jeff Parks (proxy for Bill Elfo)

Members Absent: Angela Anderson, Bill Elfo, Deborah Hawley, Moonwater

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Chris Furman, Dave Graham, Dan Hammill, Raquel Montoya-Lewis, Soshana Paige

Review July 10, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

2. Presentation on Drug Court Best Practices

Gockley reported on recent efforts regarding drug court best practices.

Greg Winter, Opportunity Council and Task Force Member, reported on the status of designated housing for drug court participants.

Raquel Montoya-Lewis, Superior Court Judge, reported on the drug court team's training with the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP).

Dr. Shannon Carey, NADCP, gave a presentation (on file) and answered questions:

- Promising practices include team engagement, including treatment and law enforcement
- The benefits of full team participation
- The positive influence from interactions with and a stable presence of the judges
- Defining risk in terms of how likely a person is to reoffend or engage in poor behavior
- Risk factors and the importance of not mixing people with different risk levels
- Treatment courts that allow non-drug charges
- Keeping the caseload small to preserve best practices
- Keep the time between arrest and program entry short
- The success of treatment that allows email communication between sessions
- Gender specific services
- Exceptions in the Code of Judicial Conduct regarding ex parte communication
- Wraparound services as part of the drug court program versus community programs
- Outcomes research on wraparound services
- Trauma training for drug court staff
- Including transportation as a wraparound service

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- Drug court staff training frequency
- Minimum length of drug court and reinforcing that recovery is lifelong and doesn't end with the end of drug court
- Other wraparound services that include work, school, sober living, and support system
- The frequency of drug testing
- Incentives and sanctions for behavior modification
- Keeping data on results and outcomes

The committee members, presenter, and attendees discussed:

- The different types of drug court screening eligibility, including legal screening, high risk/high need screening, and clinical needs assessment
- Best practices regarding 18-24 year old offenders in terms of brain development in which modalities focus on learning over punishment
- Timing of sanctions, the perception of individualized sanctions versus what is considered fair among all drug court participants, and transparent explanations during drug court
- The next steps for NADCP review of the Whatcom County Drug Court

3. Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

This item was not discussed.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.