

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Meeting Summary October 15, 2018**

---

**1. Call to Order**

Task Force Co-Chair Jack Hovenier began meeting discussion at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was officially called to order at 9:15 a.m. when a quorum of members arrived.

**Present:** Angela Anderson, Jill Bernstein, Anne Deacon, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Kelli Linville, Byron Manering, Darlene Peterson, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder

Mike Parker (proxy for Greg Winter), Kathy Walker (proxy for Dave McEachran)

**Absent:** Jerry DeBruin, Todd Donovan, Bill Elfo, Deborah Hawley, Betsy Kruse, Dave McEachran, Moonwater, Greg Winter

Review September 17, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

Recent Task Force Successes

Bernstein reported on the success of the Task Force itself, and referenced packet pages 12-14 regarding the Sheriff Office's efforts with the County Council and administration to make changes in the jail facility.

**2. The future of the Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force**

Hovenier and Bernstein reported on a Task Force membership and a meeting with County Councilmember Donovan and Deputy Executive Schroeder on the future of the Task Force, including possible integration with or transition to the Law and Justice Council. The original goals of the Task Force have been achieved. The Task Force Steering Committee will discuss options at its meeting on October 25.

Task Force members discussed the Law and Justice Council membership requirements and history.

**3. Update on major changes coming to the Medicaid behavioral health**

Deacon reported on major changes regarding behavioral health coverage by Medicaid:

- The State is ensuring all counties will have all Medicaid services managed by the five new managed care organizations (MCOs).
- As of January 2019, the work of the North Sound Behavioral Health Organization will transition to the five MCOs.
- At this time, the impacts of the transition is unknown. They will work through any glitches during the 2019 transition.

Task Force members discussed the need for full payment from the MCOs for operational costs for the triage facility, how the restructuring impacts the Ground-level Response and

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Meeting Summary October 15, 2018***

---

Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program, whether funds saved by the State will come to local communities, whether all the MCO plans are unified, challenges of providing care to people with complex health issues, and the benefits of integrating medical care with behavioral health services.

**4. Committee Updates**

Phillips referenced the summary in the packet and reported for the Crisis Recovery Facility Subcommittee on the name of the facility, voluntary versus involuntary status, plans for groundbreaking, and the October subcommittee agenda.

The Task Force members discussed what to do with the current triage facility, the 12-hour peace officer hold versus the 72-hour evaluation and treatment (E&T) hold, requirements of Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 10.31, transfers to St. Joseph Hospital to extend involuntary placement if necessary, and maintaining the recovery culture.

Phillips moved to recommend that the crisis stabilization facility has the ability to provide up to a 12-hour involuntary law enforcement placement hold. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Schroeder reported on the first meeting of the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Subcommittee on the data lists from the Vera Institute and from James Austen and on municipal court data access to the Spillman software system.

Bernstein reported on the State's Pretrial Task Force regarding data integration, which may soon benefit and inform the INDEX Committee's work.

Task Force members discussed the policy versus the technical aspects of the INDEX Subcommittee.

Hammill reported for the Behavioral Health Subcommittee regarding its discussion of funding options, including Engrossed Substitute House Bill (ESHB) 2263; House Bill 2437, other funding options, getting more information on the Community Health Assessment relating to the Behavioral Health Subcommittee, the proposal for a private mental health proposal, the County Council jail listening tour, and SeaMar's hiring for staff for the GRACE program.

Task Force members discussed legal release of private information, which is still a challenge; more people will need the GRACE service than will be available; tracking information; the number of high users of first response and hospital services; and guiding principles for a screening system.

Garrett reported for the Pretrial Processes Workgroup and stated the workgroup has chosen the Virginia model risk assessment, locally validating the risk assessment, keeping District Court and Superior Court services separate at this time, and that services are meant to assure return to court and public safety. Superior Court has developed a proposal to take to the County Council that includes a budget and staff for a pretrial services officers, to be run in conjunction with assigned council. The proposal will gradually phase in the new service by the middle of 2019, with a staff of four people, including a director, two pretrial services officers, and an administrative support person.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Meeting Summary October 15, 2018***

---

Hovenier moved to support, in principle, the recommendations of the Pretrial Processes Workgroup to fund and implement the pretrial processes the workgroup proposes. The motion was seconded. The motion carried 14-0 with Walker abstaining.

Task Force members discussed opposition to the use of pretrial risk assessment tools and alleviating concerns by using the tool with appropriate judicial judgment and care and with ongoing statistical assessment.

**5. Updates by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs**

King reported for the small cities on their use of the Friendship Diversion Services (FDS) electronic monitoring and participating in the What-Comm service, which will result in better data.

Task Force members discussed reductions in jail bed days and costs to the small cities.

Peterson reported for the City of Bellingham on text message reminder program for criminal hearings, and posting the calendar at the Lighthouse Mission drop-in center. She described the City's use of the different types of electronic monitoring.

**6. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**7. Public Comment**

John Campbell spoke about his hopes for a new prosecutor better using drug court.

Joy Gilfilen spoke about pretrial case studies and savings to families from electronic home monitoring in lieu of jail.

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.