

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Meeting Summary November 26, 2018

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, Jerry DeBruin, Todd Donovan, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Kelli Linville, Moonwater, Chris Phillips, Tyler Schroeder, Greg Winter

Absent: Nick Lewis, Betsy Kruse, Byron Manering, Dave McEachran, Darlene Peterson

Review October 15, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

2. Discussion of Task Force membership and function purpose: IPRTF as Law & Justice Council

Donovan described the draft ordinance amending the Task Force so it can also serve as the Law and Justice Council as mandated by RCW 72.09.300.

The Task Force members discussed adding positions for Bellingham Municipal Court, small cities police, and the Bellingham Police Department, domestic violence services; adding specialty representation to the subcommittees; representation from both the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe; justice reform through public health reform; and focusing on youth offenders.

3. 2019 Task Force meeting calendar

Schroeder moved to approve the 2019 meeting calendar. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

4. Updates

Status of North Sound Behavioral Health Organization (BHO)

Deacon reported on the transition to managed care organizations (MCOs) for Medicaid behavioral health services, the role of the BHO, and impacts to the new crisis stabilization facility from the transition. A regional workgroup begins meeting in January to discuss the process for reimbursement for services.

Ground level response and coordinated engagement (GRACE) program

Deacon reported on developing the contract for SeaMar and the program manager and on coordination with the Sheriff and Bellingham Police Department. The program can serve up to 80 people now.

The Task Force members discussed the software systems used to coordinate and space for the hub agency and for intake.

Crisis Stabilization Facility

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Schroeder reported on funding, including grant funds; construction and operations; and the anticipated timeframe for ground-breaking.

Boston Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program

Elfo reported on MAT programs in the County jail for opioids.

Caleb Erickson, Sheriff's Office, submitted a handout (on file) and gave a presentation on the structure of the Middlesex County Medication Assisted Treatment and Directed Opioid Recovery (MATADOR) Program. He described Whatcom County's current MAT program, including plans to develop a counseling location, staffing levels, and space constraints.

Task Force members discussed providing services to people who are then handed off to another agency that doesn't provide services, the need for community-based treatment options, funding, current practices, assessing people for Medicaid eligibility, MATADOR navigator caseload, and potential funding from the State to Yakima for programs.

Pretrial Processes Workgroup

Garrett reported on 2019-2020 funding, creating a pretrial services unit in Superior Court, mostly under Assigned Counsel, hiring a coordinator, initial services, and the risk assessment tool validation.

Sheriff Elfo update on new jail space and Letter from Judge Lev

Elfo reported on the efforts to reduce jail population and reduce the need to transport people to Yakima and other jurisdictions; safety and security system upgrades; Bellingham judicial sentencing practices; space in Skagit County Jail for pretrial defendants; electronic home monitoring services for District Court pretrial defendants; and the new crisis intervention deputy.

The Task Force members discussed whether good time credit can be given to defendants who volunteer to serve time in Yakima, multi-jurisdictional sentencing, and billing.

Committee Update: Legal & Justice Systems Committee

Gockley reported on the committee's 2019 work plan and on the upcoming meeting of the Pretrial Processes Workgroup meeting with individuals concerned with systemic bias in the criminal justice system and use of risk assessment tools.

5. Other Business

The Task Force decided by general consent to cancel the December regular meeting.

Task Force members thanked Jill Bernstein for her service and leadership on the Task Force.

6. Public Comment

Irene Morgan spoke about the MATADOR program, the Sheriff's Office MAT services, and membership and focus of the IPRTF/Law and Justice Council.

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Mark Pearson spoke about the value of the GRACE program and expanding it over time.

Joy Gilfilen spoke about expanding the justice system to include prevention and early intervention.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.