

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Information Needs and Data Exchange Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for December 6, 2018***

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Tyler Schroeder called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Rooms 513/514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Ryan Anderson, Amy Ebenal, Caleb Erickson, Darrin Hall, Erin Herschlip, Amy Hockenberry, Wendy Jones, Marty Mulholland, Christine Paulson, Darlene Peterson, Dave Reynolds, Perry Rice, Tyler Schroeder, Bruce Van Glubt

Members Absent: Doug Chadwick, Bob Crider, Allen Schubert, Kathy Walker

Also Present: Barry Buchanan

Schroeder reviewed the goals and beginning tasks for the committee and data sourced from court systems, attorneys, jail, and law enforcement.

Committee members discussed the need for data integration and appropriate data sharing, and agreed to schedule a full discussion at a future meeting.

2. Data list matrix: Review and discussion of the data lists and identification of software platforms

Reynolds described the Odyssey records management system and data gathered by Superior Court. They obtain offender-specific information, such as demographics, from other State databases, such as the Department of Licensing. Case specific information, such as type of charge, bail, release information, and multiple offenses, are collected by Superior Court staff. He is currently querying information on all first appearances for the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for the Pretrial Processes Workgroup.

Van Glubt described the data available to District Court, which is obtained from the Judicial Information System (JIS), which is the State Court AOC database and the jail's Spillman system. The JIS database and Spillman currently don't "talk" to each other, but ideally, they would.

Ebenal described the records management system (RMS) for the small city courts, which sources data from Access, the state patrol, or officers collecting data in the field. They manually enter the data into their RMS. They are currently transitioning to the Bellingham Longarm RMS.

Erickson stated the jail provides reports to small cities.

Committee members discussed statutes and a recent court audit that recommends jail reports to municipal jurisdictions upon an offender's release as a best practice. Municipal court access to Spillman would satisfy that audit recommendation.

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Reynolds described the Judicial Access Browser System (JABS), which is a State datamase that gathers information from all courts, including JIS, the Odyssey system, and Department of License. JABS is owned by the AOC. The information is limited in its demographic information, and is focused more on charges and other court information for all different case types.

Peterson described the Bellingham municipal court data systems, which are similar to the District Court. They lost access to reliable case history in JIS when Superior Court moved to Odyssey. They use JABS and individual lookups for each person. She is also manually compiling jail statistic information using daily jail notice of incarceration and another weekly jail report for information and for their diversion program. The Bellingham Municipal Court record management system is JABS, jail records, and manually created Excel spreadsheets. They court document management system is OnBase.

Committee members discussed the possibility of public officials sending letters to the State's consultant, once chosen, to request that the State allow courts of limited jurisdiction to have access to Odyssey.

Hall described the Public Defender's Use of ISeries. The Office of Public Defense, which is the screening mechanism for people to qualify for public defense, doesn't use the ISeries system.

Rice stated the County's Information Technology (IT) Division and Public Defender's Office has a workgroup that is in the process of looking for a new case management system. It should include one-way integration from Odyssey and other systems.

Hall stated all their systems are manual entry. There is limited cross-integration with one of the court systems, with which they can pull court docket information into the Public Defender system. The Public Defender's Office is limited in the information they can provide, even if it is already public information. They gather information, but may not be able to share it. They can provide information on charge outcomes. The Public Defender and Prosecutor Offices needs information from the jail, such as good time status and credits and how long someone has been in the jail. It could cut costs and reduce incarceration if they have that information.

Erickson described the jail's Spillman system and the two unique identifiers when someone is added to the system. Information is entered manually into the system. There is a difference between information that is entered into the Spillman system manually and unique identifier information that is generated by the Spillman system.

Committee members discussed the different types of charges, how charges may change between the original charge at arrest and sentencing, discrepancies in and lack of access to the necessary information to handle a case, looking at data from a policy standpoint versus its availability and use for each case, the need to integrate medical information, and how the systems identify gender.

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Hockenberry described the scope of the Health Department's jail contract with a mental health provider and reviewing population-level health in the jail. The data from the contractor is limited and aggregated.

Herschlip described the data collected from the Bellingham Police Department.

3. Other Business

This item was not discussed.

4. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

Committee members discussed:

- The need to identify data needs that are not included on the list
- How to define different charge types
- Identify the most reliable source of the data
- Refine the questions that need to be answered
- Policy questions versus Spillman data availability to all the criminal justice partners

Committee members should send additional information for the matrix to staff before the next meeting.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.