

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

1. Call To Order

Committee Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Angela Anderson, Bill Elfo, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Moonwater, Peter Ruffatto

Also Present: Ryan King (proxy for Raylene King), Kristen Hannah (proxy for Deborah Hawley)

Members Absent: Jill Bernstein, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Dave McEachran, Darlene Peterson,

Review November 13, 2018 Meeting Summary

The summary was not discussed.

4. Planning for Eric Richey presentation at January 8, 2019 Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee meeting

Gockley reported on inviting Prosecutor-elect Eric Richey to the January Subcommittee meeting.

5. Planning for joint work between Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee and Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Gockley reported on the work plan items similar to both committees: youth incarceration and juvenile justice and on bringing Judge Cedric Kerns to the county to discuss a youth offender court. He will report back about planning for a joint meeting after the January Steering Committee.

2. Restorative Community Coalition presentation on research into the effects of incarceration

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3. Discussion of RCC presentation

Joy Gilfilen, Restorative Community Coalition, described her experiences interviewing members of the community who have gone through the criminal justice system and the trauma that results from entering into the criminal justice system. Calls for help to 9-1-1 for a family member often result in legal problems or worse. Families experience trauma because they didn't expect their loved one to be arrested and go into jail. First responders also experience trauma. She described the opportunities to change the system that occur between the call to 9-1-1 to arraignment.

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Chericka Ashmann described her educational and professional background in social services and submitted handouts (on file). She gave a presentation on her own experience in the criminal justice system.

Gilfilen described the potential resources in the community for healing trauma if they are engaged beyond the current limits.

Committee members and the presenters discussed how the threat of going to jail is no longer effective once someone has been in jail, the barriers to integrating back into society once released from jail, and how the jail can become the only alternative to homelessness and addiction if there aren't services.

Gilfilen and Ashlund stated their top priorities for the Task Force include:

- Trauma-trained first responders
- Creating a sobering center with counselors
- Holding only violent offenders in the main county jail, while making the Division Street facility a restorative center that includes rehabilitation, intervention, and other services.

Committee members and presenters continued to discuss law enforcement's crisis training, coordination between law enforcement and service providers, the need for more mental health providers in the community, eye movement desensitization and reprocessing (EMDR) trauma treatment, fiscal recalculation of system costs, and private versus public funding.

6. 2019 Work Plan

This item was held to the January meeting.

7. Other Business

This item was not discussed.

8. Public Comment

Mark Pearson, spoke on the potential of the Ground level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program, funding per Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 70.44, family trauma, and mapping the system.

9. Adjourn

The meeting lost its quorum at 1:20 p.m. Discussion and public comment continued.