

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Meeting Summary February 4, 2019***

1. Call to Order

Task Force Member Jack Hovenier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Barry Buchanan, Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Chris Phillips, Dave Reynolds, Eric Richey, Tyler Schroeder

Also Present: Jackie Mitchell (proxy for Anne Deacon)

Absent: Angela Anderson, Travis Brockie, Anne Deacon, Jerry DeBruin, Deborah Hawley, Kelli Linville, Byron Manering, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Greg Winter

Review November 26, 2018 Meeting Summary

There were no changes.

Review Open Government Training

See agenda item 2.

2. Election of Task Force chair and vice-chair, and committee sign-up

King nominated Stephen Gockley as Chair.

Buchanan nominated Jack Hovenier as Chair.

Schroeder moved to maintain the current co-chair system and appoint Mr. Gockley and Mr. Hovenier as Task Force Co-Chairs. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Jill Nixon, Task Force Clerk, distributed a signup sheet for committees and for members to indicate whether they had completed Open Government Training Act requirements.

3. Report on the reformation of the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force and integration with the Law and Justice Council

Buchanan reported on the amended ordinance that changes the Task Force's membership and integrates the duties of the Law and Justice Council as required by the State Revised Code of Washington (RCW).

4. Funding for new crisis stabilization facility

Schroeder reported on plans for ongoing operational funding of a new facility through the State and the transition in the funding structure from the Behavioral Health Organization to managed care organizations (MCOs). The MCOs should be obligated to commit to annual funding for three to five years, so they can demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of a facility over emergency departments.

Task Force members discussed lobbying the State for stable funding and oversight of the MCOs.

Hammill moved for consent from the Task Force to allow the Steering Committee to draft a letter in support of a reliable funding mechanism for fully funding the crisis stabilization facility. The motion was seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Committee Updates

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Meeting Summary February 4, 2019

Steering Subcommittee

Buchanan reported on committee discussion on crisis stabilization funding, the ordinance assigning the Task Force the responsibilities of the Law and Justice Council, a request for funding for Las Vegas Judge Cedric Kerns for consulting services regarding youth offenders and James Austen for consulting services related to data systems, and the Task Force's 2019 annual report to the County Council.

Crisis Recovery Facility Subcommittee

Phillips and Schroeder reported on committee discussion on capital funding, operational funding, design of the crisis stabilization facility project, and the request for proposals/qualifications for service providers.

Behavioral Health Subcommittee

Gockley referenced the committee meeting summary in the packet and reported on committee discussion on mental health court.

Pretrial Processes Workgroup

Garrett reported on the workgroup efforts to refine the job description for the unit director and validating the pretrial risk assessment tool.

Task Force members discussed concerns about racial bias in a pretrial risk assessment tool. Concerns include:

- Whether race and ethnicity biases are baked into the data
- People who are convicted because their neighborhood is over-patrolled
- Court rule 3.2 is not being used

Legal and Justice Systems Subcommittee

Gockley reported on committee discussion on a review of the County's drug court program and a 2019 work plan.

INDEX Subcommittee

Schroeder reported on committee discussion on compiling a data matrix, next steps on how best to query the information so it's more available to stakeholders, and minimizing lengths of stay for young adults aged 18 to 24. The next meeting includes a presentation from the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) on their records management system for courts of limited jurisdiction. The committee members are concerned about weighing in on the policy discussion, and would like to engage James Austen to help the Task Force focus policy discussions.

Task Force members discussed the need to collect data from all agencies, not just the jail.

6. Other Business

Buchanan and Jackie Mitchell, Health Department, reported on a criminal justice treatment account plan and funding for substance use treatment and housing for certain individuals.

Task Force members discussed the possibility of directing to individuals who need help before they get into the criminal justice system, such as juveniles and the need for a social services intervention and prevention system for children and young adults.

State legislation regarding driving while license suspended, 3rd (DWLS3) charges

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Meeting Summary February 4, 2019***

Hovenier reported on proposed State legislation and that according to the VERA report, Whatcom County in 2016 had 275 charges for DWLS3, and many of those have other charges also.

Elfo stated most, if not all, of those are on warrants.

Hovenier asked for consent of the Task Force to allow the Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee to approve a very short letter to the local legislative representatives on behalf of the full Task Force in support of the bills.

Elfo stated that he would like to read the letter first.

Hovenier stated sending the letters assumes the Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee determines the bills are worth supporting.

Gockley stated that in consideration of the legislative process, the letter could be directed not only to local representatives, but also to committee chairs in the House and Senate that process these bills.

The Task Force concurred by general consent on the request to send a letter supporting HB 1282 and SB 5328 on behalf of the Task Force, with approval of the Legal and Justice Systems Subcommittee.

The Task Force members discussed how the legislation addresses those instances in which habitual traffic offenders are putting people in more danger than a burglar, for example.

Phillips announced his upcoming retirement. Task Force members thanked him for his service.

Buchanan and Hammill reported on the Policy Group's recent trip to Washington D.C. for the intergovernmental policy academy and its work on minimizing incarceration of young adults aged 18 to 24.

7. Public Comment

Joy Gilfilen, Restorative Community Coalition, submitted handouts on a trauma chart and spoke about intervention and prevention and about case analyses of people who have experience in the criminal justice system.

(Unidentified speaker) spoke about a House Bill for funding for law enforcement for pre-arrest diversion and inviting State representatives to local meetings.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.