

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for June 11, 2019

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, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Moonwater,

Also Present: Kristin Hanna (proxy for Deborah Hawley)

Members Absent: Deborra Garrett, Deborah Hawley, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey

2. National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) drug court evaluation report

Gockley introduced the NADCP review process for District Court, including the value of the process and report results.

Chris Furman, Drug Court Coordinator, described the review process:

- It was generally a good review
- The reviewers included priority recommendations
- The Drug Court team is beginning to address those recommendations

Committee members and presenters discussed:

- Alternatives to Narcotics Anonymous that encourage participants to engage socially in a positive way
- The possibility of shortening the first phase and other positive reinforcement
- Challenges with treatment services that don't follow evidence-based best practices
- The impact of consequences
- Legal eligibility and high risk-high need screening tool
- Needs assessment to develop an individual plan
- Increasing flexibility in the program to allow customized individual plans
- Streamlined entry process that is quicker
- More people are being approved
- Higher retention in the program
- Sheriff deputy buy-in on the District Court program
- Treatment capacity
- Offender fears of detoxing in jail
- Trauma-informed care improvements
- Future progress reports from NADCP
- Individualized sanctions
- Funding for a risk assessment and additional staff
- Grant writing needs

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- The national conference in Washington D.C. in July
- Clean and sober housing opening soon
- Concerns with funding from the new managed care organizations (MCOs)

The committee will schedule another meeting with the Drug Court team in early 2020 to check in on progress made with the report recommendations.

3. Update on in-custody evaluations

Perry Mowery, Health Department, reported on how the criminal justice treatment account (CJTA) works, including:

- Why there is a limit per month or quarter
- They have flexibility to move funds between contracts for inpatient, outpatient rental assistance, and jail assessments
- Evaluation staff availability
- The policy of making drug court a certification agency as an assessment center

4. Introduce the Strategic Plan & Inventory

Gockley introduced the strategic plan inventory as it's been developed by the Steering Committee, and asked committee members to submit information for the matrix to Jill Nixon.

Committee members discussed how pretrial inmates are not allowed to do in custody work crew because they have not been sentenced.

5. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

This item was not discussed.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Public Comment

Joy Gilfilen spoke on the possibility of connecting all the specialty courts and other programs.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.