

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Committee Meeting**

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., October 8, 2019

Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham WA

AGENDA

If you plan to bring handouts to this meeting, bring at least 15 for committee members and the file

Meeting summary of the previous meeting is included at the end of the packet for information only. Committee members may suggest changes and/or corrections to the draft summary to jnixon@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).

Topic	Requested Action	Presenter	No Packet Page(s)
1. Call to Order			
2. Jail Reentry 11:30-12:45 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations from David Goldman, jail educator (<i>tentative</i>), and Benita Bowen, Goodwill Industries 	Presentation and Discussion	N/A	No Packet
3. Update on improvements to case processing 12:45-1:00	Update	Angela Anderson	
4. November Joint meeting with Behavioral Health Committee: Agenda items to discuss 1:00-1:20	Discussion	N/A	
5. Other Business 1:20-1:25			
6. Public Comment 1:25-1:30			
7. Adjourn			

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

IPR TASK FORCE	COMMITTEES				
Bi-monthly on various Mondays 9-11 a.m. Courthouse Rooms 513/514 311 Grand Ave., Bellingham	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH various Mondays 2:30-3:30 Health Department Creekside Room 509 Girard, B'ham	INDEX First Thursday 1:30-3:00 Courthouse Rooms 513/514, 311 Grand Avenue, B'ham	LEGAL & JUSTICE SYS. 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 am-1:30 pm Courthouse Room 514 311 Grand Ave., Bham	TRIAGE FACILITY Bi-monthly 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 a.m. Courthouse Room 513 311 Grand Avenue, B'ham	STEERING As needed 9:30-11:00 a.m. Courthouse Room 513 311 Grand Ave., Bham
October 14 December 16	October 14 November 12 (<i>Joint mtg. with Legal & Justice</i>) December 16	October 3 <i>Tentative:</i> November 7 December 5	October 8 November 12 (<i>Joint mtg. with Behavioral Health</i>) December 10	November 21	October 3 December 5

The most up-to-date meeting schedule can be found online at:

<http://wa-whatcomcounty.civicplus.com/calendar.aspx?CID=40>,

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
DRAFT Meeting Summary for September 10, 2019

1. Call To Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Peter Ruffatto

Also Present: Sheriff Deputy Jamie Collins, Bellingham Police Officer Zach Serad, Blaine Police Officer Keith Olson

Members Absent: Angela Anderson, Deborra Garrett, Deborah Hawley, Eric Peterson

2. Discussion with behavioral health-specialized law enforcement officers in the county

Serad described the behavioral health officer program for the City of Bellingham. The program is new, and the goals are to reduce the number of 911 calls to which officers have to respond; to be a point of communication for community stakeholders, and; to get folks into the care they need. He monitors a caseload of about 30 people. He works closely with the Ground-level Response And Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program.

Olson stated the Blaine program is brand new. They're still developing program, but their goals are the same as Bellingham.

Collins described the Sheriff's Office program, which will soon deploy a second behavioral health officer. He focuses on mental health calls. His role is to identify whether there are mental health issues impacting a situation and help citizens access available resources.

Committee members and presenters discussed:

- Caseload limits and caps
- Training
- Gaps in the system, including: housing, mental health facilities, communications among agencies, the need to restart the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) with designated crisis responders (DCRs)
- Facilities that are often full and can't be accessed, including detox and the Specialized Emergency Care Unit (SECU) at St. Joseph Hospital
- The need for more housing like 22 North and Francis Place
- Using data to identify gaps, trends such as the escalating number of calls, and statistics on the hospital and triage facility not accepting people due to capacity issues
- Coordination between the behavioral health officers and probation officers

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- Developing relationships in the community to create more treatment and support pathways, including temporary nursing home stay for the elderly and strengthening family resources and relationships through Dispute Resolution Center, Brigid Collins, and other services
- The need for urgent mental health care and separate spaces for children and the elderly
- Developing a care plan for families
- Flagging certain people through the 911 system who have case managers
- The possibility of working with Northwest Youth Services
- The Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) team program, which is the Lake Whatcom Treatment Center intensive case management for mental health services, taking on their clients with insurance
- Identifying what type of housing is needed most
- Working with autistic individuals
- The Children's Long-term Inpatient Program (CLIP)

When asked how the committee can help the behavioral health officers:

- More space to take someone with who needs an evaluation: SECU and detox are often full
- Reinstate the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)
- Supported housing like 22 North and Francis Place
- Help educate parents and people on how to get better
- A communication system where all the officers can coordinate

3. Caseloads

This item was not discussed.

4. Next Steps: Ideas & Further Information

The committee members discussed:

- Reentry: have a discussion with David Goldman
- Reentry: how to connect people to services when they are released from incarceration in locations other than the County jail
- Reentry: discuss at a joint meeting with the Behavioral Health Committee
- Reentry: have a discussion with representatives from Goodwill
- The committee's role in 1. connecting people who can share information and affect change independent of the committee, and 2. working more directly on program

5. Other Business

Ruffatto described the City Council resolution regarding House Bill (HB) 1406, a sales tax rebate from the State.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

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