

Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force / Law & Justice Council
DRAFT Meeting Summary February 3, 2020

1. Call to Order

Task Force Co-Chairs Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Present: Barry Buchanan, Anne Deacon, Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Seth Fleetwood, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Mike Hilley, Jack Hovenier, Scott Korthuis, Darlene Peterson, Dave Reynolds, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo, Greg Winter, Flo Simon (Proxy for David Doll), Kristin Hanna (proxy for Deborah Hawley), Caryl Dunavan (proxy for Raylene King)

Absent: Travis Brockie, David Doll, Deborra Garrett, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Rachel Lucy, Byron Manering, Moonwater, Eric Petersen, Eric Richey, Tyler Schroeder, Kevin Turner

Hammill introduced Bellingham City Council Members Hollie Huthman and Hannah Stone.

2. 2020 Committee assignments

Committee signup sheets were distributed around the room, and Task Force members were asked to sign up themselves and/or a proxy to the committees for 2020.

3. Demonstration of new jail roster database and website

Caleb Erickson, Sherriff's Office, and Matt Shepherd, Whatcom County Information Services Division, gave a presentation on the new online jail roster database and website.

Task Force members and presenters discussed whether the public can access the database for the purpose of trend analysis; the next evolution to create a dashboard of data that allows trend analysis on a variety of factors; balancing transparency of inmate information with the need to delete information that is no longer relevant; the complexity of identifying specific analytical questions, and; the possibility of creating a more comprehensive database from which specific questions can be queried.

4. Committee Updates

Hammill reported for the Behavioral Health Committee on its focus on prevention efforts within the boundaries of those efforts that make an impact to the social determinants of health that affect criminogenic factors.

Buchanan reported for the Steering Committee that it discussed the 2020 priorities for the full Task Force, including:

- Communications planning and requesting funding through a budget supplemental request
- Reviewing Task Force progress on the Vera Report recommendations

Hammill moved that the Task Force support the budget supplemental request for IPR Task Force Communications Planning. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

5. IPR Task Force 2020 Priorities

Gockley reported on the proposed 2020 priorities for the full Task Force that include:

- Communications Planning
- Vera Report review
- Engaging more with State legislators and agencies on relevant issues, building relationships at the State level, and expanding the IPRTF scope to broader issues.

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The Task Force members discussed the County's receipt of a technical assistance grant from the National Association of Counties to reduce mental health incarceration, which will be used on data needs; County Emergency Management Division work on efforts to develop a system for information exchange among first responders and the need for a data analyst, and; determining the reasons for increased incidents of behavioral health problems in the criminal justice system.

6. Update on County Council's Public Health, Safety, and Justice Initiative Needs Assessment

Buchanan referenced the Task Force subcommittee assignments in the packet and reported on the appointment process to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Task Force members discussed the appointment process.

Peterson moved to allow the Steering Committee to ratify the subcommittee appointments on behalf of the Task Force. The motion was seconded.

Winter moved to amend the motion and to ratify the subcommittee appointments to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee:

- Representing the full Task Force: Co-Chairs Stephen Gockley and Jack Hovenier
- Representing the Behavioral Health Committee: Dan Hammill
- Representing the Crisis Stabilization Facility Committee: Anne Deacon

The motion to amend and ratify was seconded and carried unanimously (Hammill out of the room).

Hovenier moved to amend the original motion that the Steering Committee ratify the Legal and Justice Systems Committee appointment after the committee's February 11 meeting.

Peterson accepted the amendment to her motion. The amended motion carried unanimously (Hammill out of the room).

7. Update on the Crisis Stabilization Facility

Deacon referenced and read the update in the meeting packet.

Task Force members discussed the potential operating budget shortfall of approximately \$1.5 million per year; qualified and unqualified admissions, and; working with first responders on keeping the drop-off time as short as possible.

8. Confirm approval of the revised draft IPRTF Report to the County Council

Gockley reported on the Task Force's reporting requirements to the County Council.

Deacon stated she will submit one technical correction to the final report.

The Task Force members discussed its work in looking at best practices.

Hammill moved to approve the revised report with the technical correction. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously (Korthuis out of the room).

9. Update by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs

Peterson reported on the City of Bellingham gathering its final statistics for 2019, working with the new jail alternatives manager on new program, and sending inmates to Kittitas County instead of Yakima County.

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Elfo reported on the current number of people participating in sentenced electronic home detention and in electronic monitoring for pretrial defendants, the number of inmates housed now in Kittitas County, and jail structural problems and updates.

10. Other Business

Gockley reported on the Steering Committee discussion about further engaging with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and Health Care Authority at future meetings, potentially at special Task Force meetings.

11. Public Comment

Hollie Huthman spoke on using Western Washington University resources for data and research.

12. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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