

Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Subcommittee

MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Subcommittee is to develop a data collection and reporting system that accurately informs policymakers when considering programmatic changes necessary to minimize jail use and improve efficiency in the criminal justice system.

GOALS:

To achieve the mission, the INDEX Committee will:

- Figure out the baseline statistics on jail use to determine whether or not programmatic changes will be successful.
- Identify how to assess performance and establish metrics that would determine the success of each new initiative.
- Identify where data is a barrier to implementing various initiatives.
- Identify data that can indicate the presence of racial, poverty, gender, and other social and economic disparities in the criminal justice system
- Maximize the accuracy of a data collection system by integrating the system across all jurisdictions.
- Establish a realistic and achievable percentage decrease in the jail population.
- Allow policymakers to refine processes, improve the way things work together, and then observing outcomes.

BEGINNING TASKS:

Achieving these goals will include the following tasks:

- Determine what data is collected currently, by whom, and when
- Identify the current data collection systems, including software, used by each agency and jurisdiction
- Identify data points not collected
- Identify baseline information across all data points
- Develop accurate definitions and a glossary of terms that includes national standards, which can be applied uniformly across all agencies and jurisdictions to create clarity in the data reports

STRUCTURE:

The INDEX Committee structure includes: 1. A technical workgroup, and 2. A policy workgroup. Within that structure, the policy workgroup would drive the process and guide the work of the technical workgroup in terms of objectives.

Policy Workgroup

The policy workgroup would be the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

- The policy group is comprised of policymakers who will determine the policy, goals, and outcomes of the INDEX Committee.

Technical Workgroup

The technical group includes the information technology, department, and agency staff who can identify the existing data collection systems and data that will conform to the outcomes.

- The technical workgroup would interact with the policy workgroup about the possible options to achieve those policies and outcomes.
- The technical workgroup would identify how best to track the data to achieve the policies and outcomes.

The technical workgroup would be representatives from the following agencies. The representatives selected should have detailed knowledge about the data collection and software systems used by and data collected from their agencies:

- Whatcom County Jail
- Whatcom County Prosecutor's Office
- Whatcom County Public Defender's Office
- Bellingham Municipal Court
- Small Cities municipal court(s)
- District Court
- Superior Court
- Whatcom County Health Department
- North Sound Behavioral Health Organization
- Law Enforcement: Cities, County, State
- City Attorney's Office: Bellingham, Small Cities
- Lummi Nation
- Information Technology Staff: Bellingham, County, and (if possible) small cities

INCARCERATION PREVENTION & REDUCTION TASK FORCE IDENTIFIED DATA, OUTCOMES, TRENDS, AND ISSUES FOR THE INDEX COMMITTEE

LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE:

Warrants: Data Points

- Define all categories of warrants: Is it an FTA warrant? An arrest warrant, reissued warrant?
- Newly issued versus re-issued warrants
- Number of active warrants
- The reason each warrant is issued.

Warrants: Suggestions regarding data collection system/reports:

- The ability to indicate if a person has warrants in multiple courts, both inside Whatcom County and outside Whatcom County. If so, what is the booked offense?
- The ability to run a report on whether warrants increased or decreased with the implementation of phone call reminder programs and other programs
- The ability to run a report on the number and scope/nature of warrants issued.
- The ability to run a report on how many people have warrants in multiple jurisdictions
- The ability to collect, sort, and report data by warrant

LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (CONT'D):

Recidivism: Data Points

- Define recidivism
- Recidivism rates
- how long after jail or court release until the person was booked on a new crime?
- The recidivism rate of each program
- Number of people on pretrial status who are later charged with a crime. If a crime was committed, what was the crime?

Charges: Data Points

- Filed charge(s) (from the Prosecutor)
- Booked citation charge(s)
- Indicate charges that come from the border
- Indicate the misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, and felony cases that are cited in the field or referred to Prosecuting Attorney for charging decision without a physical arrest.
- The ability to run a report on the number of people booked (probable cause) under each booked offense
- The ability to run a report on the number of people charged (prosecutorial) under each final charge

Jail Alternatives: Data Points

- Does the defendant have a history with one of the special courts?
- The number of people who are diverted from jail
- Identify the impact of a new program on jail population
- Number of persons screened for participation in Jail Alternative programs at a courthouse centric location
- number of persons who report for participation in Jail Alternative programs
- Number of persons connected to the appropriate electronic home monitoring device at the request of District Court for pre-trial or probation monitoring. Number of reported pretrial or probation violations referred to the District Court;
- Number of persons and bed days served through jail alternative programs by specific program

Misc Other: Data Points

- All the data points used for the Vera Institute report
- Number of people in jail
- Bond amount by prosecutorial charge
- The length of time it takes to process each case
- The number of people who are being held pretrial
- Number of persons for whom probable cause exists for arrest, who are diverted to a) Mental Health Triage and/or b) Substance Abuse treatment at the new Triage Center;
- Number of persons for whom probable cause exists for arrest, who are diverted to other mental health facilities (St. Joseph's, etc.);
- FTA history, including the date of the FTA and age of defendant at the time the FTA was issued (distinguish between adults and juveniles)
- Identify how many people with minor misdemeanors and no warrants are due to the officers choosing to either not book, divert, or refer to the Prosecutor

LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (CONT'D):

Suggestions regarding data collection system:

- Collect and distinguish between booking, court, and jail information/data
- The ability to collect, sort, and report data by person
- The ability to collect, sort, and report data by booked offense and final charge (felony) and by booked citation charge (gross misdemeanor)
- Data on failures to appear
- Inform the criminal justice system with the data necessary to develop agreements that would allow multi-jurisdictional court dates for people with concurrent warrants or different charges in more than one jurisdiction. Allow data to be shared across jurisdictions to help people navigate through the court system efficiently and resolve warrants in any jurisdiction. People have different charges in different courts. How do they know if they are talking about the same person, and do those multiple charges in multiple jurisdictions by the same person inflate the data somehow?
- In all systems, including the Judicial Access Browser System (JABS), warrants issued in error need to be deleted or indicated the warrant was issued in error
- Need the data necessary to inform their ongoing projects, including: electronic home monitoring, pretrial services, book-and-release, and other items on the work plan

Suggestions regarding data interpretation and processes:

- Consider a combined multi-jurisdictional court dates for people with concurrent warrants in more than one jurisdiction.
- Enhanced data sharing: The systems of all jurisdictions must communicate. Provide access for each jurisdiction to easily access data from other jurisdictions.
- Create baseline information and benchmarks that can be monitored to track success of programs and processes.
- Distinguish between the data points/categories and the algorithms of the report to produce correct interpretations of the data
- Create accurate and consistent definitions
- People entering data need to be adequately trained to enter consistent information correctly
- Algorithms must be accurate
- Take advantage of new technology for efficiency in data entering and reporting.
- Be as transparent as possible for the community about who is in the jail and why
- Allow the City of Bellingham, all the small cities, and all the tribes to have complete (read-only) access to the Sheriff's records in the Spillman system
- Reach out to and include Tribes when incorporating data.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE:

- Who is in jail
- What are the behavioral health disorders identified for each inmate
- What programs exist to address behavioral health disorders of jail inmates
- Is there potential for an involuntary facility
- Does the inmate have serious and persistent mental illness, which is defined as very symptomatic and chronic
- What are the legal charges that allows them to divert from jail
- Whether the person has had services previously, and if so, what were those services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE (CONT'D):

- Behavioral health issues that are not serious and/or persistent
- What is the social metadata: social, legal, family
- A confidential interviewer
- What kind of substance use disorder
- Information on people in jail versus out of jail
- An assessment at point of release
- Interview people who have been in jail in the last six months
- Offer an incentive to participate in an interview
- GRACE cohort to provide data

TRIAGE FACILITY COMMITTEE:

Goals of Facility (outcome measures):

- Diversion from criminal justice and/or hospital
- Maximum utilization of facility
- Improved health and wellness of individuals who receive services

Data Points (Interoperability Issues/Trends):

1. Daily census
2. # of Admissions per unit
 - A. Referral source
 - 1) Hospital Psych unit step-down
 - 2) Emergency Department
 - 3) EMS drop-off
 - 4) Law Enforcement drop-off
 - 5) Treatment provider
 - 6) Social Service provider (i.e., housing)
 - 7) Self
3. # of Denials
 - A. Reason for denial
 - 1) No bed capacity
 - 2) Inappropriate referral
 - a. level of care not required (not acute enough)
 - b. higher level of care required
 - c. inability of unit to manage behaviors that pose a significant risk of harm to others
4. Length of Stay (and specify program)

TRIAGE FACILITY COMMITTEE (CONT'D):

5. Discharge disposition
 - A. Transferred
 - 1) to in-patient treatment setting (MH or SUD)
 - 2) to out-patient treatment provider (MH or SUD)
 - 3) back to community treatment provider
 - 4) to higher level of medical care
 - B. Left against clinical/medical advice
 - C. Medication Assisted Treatment initiated and connected to ongoing provider
 - D. Housing status upon discharge
 - 1) Return to homelessness
 - 2) Return to home with no further treatment

Also:

- Connect the intake data from the triage center, social services, emergency department and other medical sources, law enforcement, possibly via claims data
- Consider whether the County, in concert with the managed care organizations (MCOs), could pay the regional Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) to collect all the data as a central repository
- Can law enforcement bill for, and consequently report on, transport data