

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 10, 2020

1. Call To Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Moonwater, Eric Richey, Kristin Hanna (proxy for Deborah Hawley)

Members Absent: David Doll, Deborra Garrett, Jackie Mitchell, Darlene Peterson, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

2. Report on the Washington State Patrol presentation to INDEX Committee on Live Scan Fingerprinting

King reported on the INDEX Committee presentation, including:

- The current fingerprinting process
- No fingerprinting for misdemeanors or gross misdemeanors
- 100 percent compliance by Juvenile Court
- 80 percent compliance by all other courts; 100 percent compliance as a goal
- the need to create more accurate data and reporting
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) not recognizing Hispanic ethnicity
- Instant Livescan results
- Grant funds from the Washington State Patrol

The committee members discussed reasons for noncompliance; the Washington State Patrol's more complete racial and ethnicity data; whether it's appropriate to ask about race and ethnicity; the difficulty of creating accurate racial data in the field; arrests and bookings versus citations; asking the INDEX Committee how best to gather racial data in the system; how to message the inconsistency and fallibility of data collection, giving feedback to the FBI about the problem with their race and ethnicity reporting standards, and; how demographics are reported within the system.

The committee members also discussed:

- Officer training on acceptable ways to ask about race, ethnicity, and gender
- Accepting that they may get false or differing answers when a person self-identifies in the field
- Creating accurate data via fingerprinting rather than manual entry of data provided in the field
- Creating a snapshot of data from the jail
- Creating a pilot project on a small scale or work with a research student on how to build data

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 10, 2020

Refer to INDEX Committee to determine the specific question they need to answer, the reason for tracking racial and ethnic data, making sure they aren't treating people with bias in the criminal justice system, and figure out the appropriate time and mechanism to collect the data. Possibly have a joint meeting with INDEX Committee, and invite Task Force members.

3. Report on December 19 Juvenile Justice Roundtable programs

Richey reported on the event. People are generally happy with the juvenile justice system right now. Available mental health services in the schools are good. Lengths of stay are shorter. Probation officers and others in the juvenile justice system are trauma-informed, sensitive to implicit bias, and better at respect and compassion. Improvements could include:

- Getting parents more skills and support
- Better trauma-informed court
- Better wrap-around services for families
- More substance use disorder (SUD) treatment
- Fewer expulsions and punitive measures
- More restorative justice
- Help on how to deal with perpetual runaways
- The Prosecutor can have more preventative programs in place
- All police agencies should have standardized treatment
- Don't automatically book for certain charges

In general, school districts are sending fewer kids to the juvenile justice system, and are handling more things in-house. Juveniles are booked for theft II, which is more than \$750. Unfortunately, some bookings occur because it is more protective than leaving a juvenile in a bad family situation. There are class and race equity issues.

The committee members discussed a racial study or audit of the Prosecutor's Office and implicit bias testing, the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI), changes to the juvenile justice system, better integration with the community, funding needs, the need for parental support, and the lack of behavioral health and substance use disorder services for youth.

4. Brainstorming session to incorporate prevention into the committee's work

The committee members discussed limiting the scope to focused prevention on preventing recidivism, reentry, beginning reentry services at the point of entry into the criminal justice system, and possible referral to the Behavioral Health Committee.

The committee concurred to schedule reentry and juvenile justice and prevention efforts with youth at the next meeting in April, and schedule reentry on the agenda for the joint meeting with the Behavioral Health Committee in May.

5. Other Business

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 10, 2020***

There was no other business.

6. Public Comment

Madeline Perrish asked questions on recent measures to reduce jail population due to jail repairs and on the Pretrial Processes Workgroup.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

DRAFT