

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force***  
***Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee***  
**Meeting Summary for July 14, 2020**

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**1. Call To Order**

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. This meeting was a remote-only virtual Zoom webinar.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: David Doll, Moonwater, Bruce Van Glubt

**2. Project and program updates from committee members**

Richey updated the committee on the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. The program is fully funded from State and federal grant funds. They hired a program supervisor, who has begun training and learning the program. They are currently hiring for case managers. They plan to follow Burien's LEAD program. In the future, they will begin talking about doing direct diversions 24/7. He hopes this will have a positive impact on racial equity.

The committee discussed an outreach coordinator that will work with law enforcement, LEAD is for municipalities as well. The capacity level is high. The budget is for 3 case managers, an outreach coordinator, and manager.

Garrett reported on the new Pretrial Processes Workgroup. They finalized the pretrial risk assessment questionnaire in March, but the coronavirus pandemic shutdown began the same week that they planned to implement it. Because of the court shutdown for most cases, their training, data collection, and program evaluation is delayed. During the shutdown, there has not been any pretrial incarceration for drug or property crimes, unless there was a concurrent assault or other threat. The jail population went down and remains low. The Prosecutor's Office is beginning to bring forward charges that were initially delayed. They have not required penalties for those who miss hearings. Many defendants are enrolled in the pretrial services unit, which are being handled remotely. As work resumes, they plan to meet again with community advocates for racial equity to discuss how it can be achieved in pretrial services and how the judges make decisions on pretrial services.

The committee discussed new, lower standards in the program that have been enacted because of the pandemic shutdown. They're still working with Dr. Peterson to determine the traits that are important to predict community safety issues and failures to appear, and will include the new information they've learned during the shutdown.

Mitchell reported on the Health Department's work with the managed care organizations (MCOs) on increasing resources for jail reentry.

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Elfo reported on the ongoing construction work in the jail. Due to unforeseen problems with the new door designs, all 80 doors have to be retrofitted, so the project is behind schedule. After meeting with medical staff, Coronavirus screening has been enacted throughout the jail facility for the protection of inmates and staff. They have adopted extraordinary booking restrictions and law enforcement guidance, with the concurrence of the Prosecutor and courts, which has reduced the jail population. They've eliminated reliance on other jails. He described the changed booking restrictions and recent jail population levels. The work center is also undergoing some remodeling that will increase distancing options and allow the work center to be used for higher offender classifications. The County has asked all departments to plan for a 20% cut in the budget for the next biennium, which will impact staffing and programs. Regarding the recent criticism of policing in the news, all the agencies in the county have worked to create a law enforcement culture that reflects professionalism, integrity, and accountability. He described the internal procedures in place for vetting and training deputies; the continual review of policies, standards, and best practices; the neighborhood policing program; commencing use of new body-worn cameras for deputies; procedures for investigating officer-involved shootings.

King reported on the status of the small cities' courts. All have resumed court hearings with protection measures and some remotely-held hearings. The court staff have also recently received training on implicit racial bias.

Peterson reported for the City of Bellingham on limited booking, the backlog of cases, putting a hold on warrants for failure to appear, and the impact and challenges with coronavirus protective measures enacted within the court system.

The committee discussed the staffing required to review body cam footage when a records request is received, needed improvements to the work center, and inviting a speaker to make a presentation on what needs to be done in the jail and court system to address racial bias.

**3. Discussion of jail population status and changes due to recent factors, who's being booked, and effects of changes on law enforcement and the courts**

*See the previous discussion.*

Peterson reported on the increasing use of alcohol monitoring bracelets.

The committee discussed continuing the restrictions for the foreseeable future, challenges with getting all the cases processed, and changes in crime patterns over the past few months.

**4. Next steps for the committee: review committee work plan and how to address racial equity**

The committee members discussed:

- Talking more about racial equity
- The status of reentry programs and staffing

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- The need for hiring a new reentry specialist and substance use disorder (SUD) treatment beds
- Expansion of behavioral health services
- Reentry during the coronavirus pandemic
- Gathering data from each jurisdiction on jail population and number of people in the criminal justice system compared to overall population, by race and ethnicity
- A new case management system for the Prosecutor's Office and Public Defender's Office

**5. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.