

Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force / Law & Justice Council Meeting Summary January 4, 2021

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1. Call to Order

Task Force Co-Chairs Jack Hovenier / Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The meeting was a remote-only virtual Zoom Webinar.

Present: Anne Deacon, Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Deborra Garrett, Stephen Gockley, Daniel Hammill, Deborah Hawley, Mike Hilley, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Scott Korthuis, Seth Fleetwood, Byron Manering, Dave Reynolds, Eric Richey, Tyler Schroeder, Flo Simon, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo, Greg Winter

Absent: Barry Buchanan, Moonwater, Eric Petersen, Darlene Peterson, Donnell Tanksley

2. [Election of Task Force chair and vice-chair and committee sign-up \(00:02:02\)](#)

Hammill moved to nominate and appoint Stephen Gockley and Jack Hovenier as Co-Chairs. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously (Schroeder absent).

Hovenier referenced the 2021 committee signup sheet and stated Judge David Freeman will take over for retiring Judge Garrett.

Judge Garrett thanked everyone for their hard work and progress on the Task Force. She will continue to participate on the Pretrial Processes Workgroup. Judge Freeman will be her official replacement on the Pretrial Processes Workgroup and with the Task Force.

King described the small cities police position on the Task Force, which will be taken over by Blaine Chief Donnell Tanksley instead of Ferndale Chief Kevin Turner.

Deacon referenced the proposed new member on the Behavioral Health Committee for a Health Department staff person with behavioral health and substance use disorder should not be included on the list as Perry Mowery already serves on the committee with those qualifications. The Task Force members concurred.

Hammill moved to approve the 2021 committee assignments as revised with the noted changes. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously (Schroeder absent).

3. [2021 IPRTF and Committee Regular Meeting Schedule \(00:12:51\)](#)

Peterson moved to approve the annual regular meeting schedule as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously (Schroeder absent).

4. County Council Resolution Affirming that Racism is a Public Health Crisis

This item was not discussed.

5. [Crisis Stabilization Center Opening \(00:14:29\)](#)

***Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force / Law & Justice Council
Meeting Summary January 4, 2021***

Deacon reported that the Crisis Stabilization Center opening is delayed, likely to next week. They are in the process of producing a video tour and a virtual ribbon cutting event. They are also working with State legislators to secure operational costs. The facility is intended as a stabilization facility and to connect people with services. It's not yet confirmed that they can open as an involuntary treatment facility, but they're working toward that program with law enforcement.

6. [Behavioral Health Crisis Response Expansion \(00:18:48\)](#)

Deacon stated the intent of the expansion to provide emergency behavioral health crisis response that doesn't require law enforcement:

- Purpose is to safely reduce unnecessary law enforcement responses to people in behavioral health crisis; improve behavioral health response, services, and support to people in crisis; improve the systems of care and coordination.
- People are meeting weekly to develop the program expansion
- It may be another program under the umbrella of the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program
- Law enforcement, behavioral health providers, and the current mobile crisis outreach team are participating in developing a program
- They are developing a general proposal to expand the services and hold stakeholder and community meetings to get input in the process before finalizing the plan for the program and funding
- They've researched similar programs around the nation and the needs of this community
- First draft of the proposal should be ready to share to the community in the Spring

The Task Force members discussed the need to connect all the different programs they're developing, the need to ensure safety of social workers who respond to emergency calls.

7. [Committee Updates \(00:31:22\)](#)

Deacon reported for the Crisis Stabilization Facility Committee and referenced the report in the packet. The Covid pandemic has made delivery of materials difficult. Once they open, they will need to make sure programs are running as expected.

Gockley referenced the meeting summary and reported for the Steering Committee.

Feld, Hammill, and Mike Parker, Behavioral Health Committee Co-Chair, referenced the meeting summary and reported for the Joint Behavioral Health and Legal and Justice Systems Committee on items discussed at the joint meeting.

The Task Force members discussed the jail data versus data on people involved in the entire criminal justice system; reentry services funded by the managed care organizations (MCOs); small cities' charges of driving without a license, 3rd (DWLS3), and; small cities jury trials, warrants, and electronic home monitoring.

***Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force / Law & Justice Council
Meeting Summary January 4, 2021***

Hammill referenced the meeting summary and reported on the December Behavioral Health Committee meeting.

Caleb Erickson, INDEX Committee Chair, referenced the meeting summary and reported for the INDEX Committee.

The Task Force members discussed the data collection points throughout the system; whether the new case management tools will provide a clear picture on race and ethnicity; how responsive the new systems will be to handle data requests; whether there are opportunities for better data collection, and; how to consolidate the data across all the systems.

Erickson stated he will take the question of how the IPRTF members and others can request data from these systems.

8. [Update by Jurisdictions on Jail Diversion Programs \(01:13:17\)](#)

King stated the next Legal and Justice Systems Committee will have an update from jurisdictions on electronic home monitoring.

Elfo reported that they were able to keep the mental health deputy position intact for the next biennium, but the current deputy retired. They are recruiting for a new hire.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Public Comment

No one spoke.

11. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.