

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for January 12, 2021

Note: Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however YouTube links may change. Links will not be updated. Please refer to time notation on each agenda item.

1. Call to Order

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

Members Present: Anne Deacon, Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: None

King welcomed new member, Blaine Police Chief Donnell Tanksley.

2. [Pretrial services in the small cities \(15:57\)](#)

Angela Anderson, Lynden Public Defense Attorney, reported:

- The small cities use District Court Probation for pretrial monitoring
- Everson, Sumas, Blaine and Bellingham use Friendship Diversion Services
- The Lummi Nation also have a bracelet monitoring program
- Superior Court has felony pretrial monitoring
- In general, the District Court and Friendship Diversion models have more contact with clients.
- Superior Court monitoring doesn't have as much client contact
- Pretrial monitoring is an incentive for clients to resolve their cases sooner
- They need to make better use of Friendship Diversion Services
- The most effective thing to get people to come to court is wearing an ankle bracelet
- Alcohol monitoring bracelets are better at keeping people out of jail, and should be paid for by the government, not the clients
- New technology is available and achieves compliance better. Cases resolve faster.

The committee members discussed giving defendants credit if they wear electronic home monitoring during pretrial, a proposed rule change that limits the need for defendants to appear at pretrial hearings, funding levels for District Court Probation electronic monitoring, the work involved in pretrial and post-conviction monitoring, and an increase in warrants for municipal court,

3. [Update on Pretrial Processes Workgroup \(05:45\)](#)

Gockley reported for the workgroup. Judge Garrett retired, and the role of leader will transition to Judge David Freeman. Implementation of the risk assessment has been delayed due to the Covid pandemic. Pretrial services are still offered. Data scientists and professionals nationwide disagree on whether risk assessments have embedded racial and ethnic bias. The local officials considered whether or not to use the public safety assessment (PSA) as a pretrial risk assessment. Staffing for the

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for January 12, 2021

Pretrial Services Unit has been limited due to Covid pandemic restrictions on trials and funding. In the near future, expansion of services won't happen. At this time, the workgroup does not have a recommendation to the judicial officers on the PSA. The workgroup has and will continue to engage the community on racial and ethnic data issues. They continue to monitor statistics on failure to appear and new crimes.

4. [Training of law enforcement officers, including the small cities, for new Crisis Stabilization Center \(12:12\)](#)

The committee members discussed opportunities for training law enforcement officers on using the new Crisis Stabilization Center when it opens.

[\(38:17\)](#)

Deacon reported that they are behind on the goal to establish the mental health stabilization program criteria, including involuntary treatment. The vendor has not yet gotten its certification for involuntary treatment. The program advisory committee includes law enforcement representatives from the Sheriff's Office and Bellingham Police Department, who are helping to develop protocols and practices. Once a draft of those proposals are available, they will engage all the law enforcement agencies for feedback. Four out of five managed care organizations (MCOs) so far have agreed to fund involuntary treatment. They hope to have training figured out in the next six weeks. They are providing as much information to the public as possible about the new programs. They need artists to paint murals on each individual patient room in the facility.

The committee discussed the issues with certification, which should be achieved by the end of the week, and recruiting artists.

5. [Other Business \(44:53\)](#)

The committee discussed individuals charged with misdemeanors and who are incarcerated, and the time they spend waiting for competency orders and restoration orders; the State's interest in triage instead of jail, and; the State's long-term plans to build competency centers.

King stated the committee can still make requests for data of the INDEX Committee, and reentry is still an issue for the committee.

6. **Public Comment**

No one spoke.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.