

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for February 9, 2021***

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, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Flo Simon, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo, Kristin Hanna (proxy for Deborah Hawley)

Members Absent: David Freeman, Deborah Hawley, Donnell Tanksley

2. [Update from Darlene Peterson on Electronic Home Monitoring in Municipal Court \(00:01:05\)](#)

Peterson reported and read from a presentation on the history of the City of Bellingham's use of electronic home monitoring through Friendship Diversion Services, including GPS devices and secure continuous remote alcohol monitoring (SCRAM) devices; program fees, and; enrollment statistics.

Kathy Smith, City of Bellingham, continued the presentation:

- Changes and challenges due to Covid-19
- The drop in GPS device use and increase in SCRAM device use in 2020
- Conditions in which the City uses GPS and SCRAM devices
- Program statistics on: enrollment, number of days on electronic home monitoring, overall compliance, and percentage of sober days

The committee members discussed sanctions for non-compliance and no cost for pretrial defendants.

3. [Update from Bruce Van Glubt on District Court Programs \(00:21:41\)](#)

Van Glubt and Jake Wiebusch, District Court Probation Manager, gave a presentation on the District Court electronic equipment program:

- History of the program
- Differences from the program at the City of Bellingham
- District Court services don't include jail sentencing alternatives, which is done through the Sheriff's Office
- Inadequate program funding in 2020, which halted the program in May
- Working with the Sheriff's Office electronic monitoring program
- Use for pretrial monitoring and by probation officers
- Number of defendants
- Types of devices used
- Working with Friendship Diversion Services and the small cities

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King reported on the statistics of use by the Cities of Blaine, Everson, and Sumas through Friendship Diversion Services.

The committee discussed the need to evaluate accomplishments made to reduce incarceration and how to quantify the reduction and prevention of incarceration out of criminal justice programs.

4. [Presentation from Ronnie Wuest on Friendship Diversion Services \(00:46:02\)](#)

Ronnie Wuest, Friendship Diversion Services, gave a presentation:

- History of Friendship Diversion Services
- The features of the GPS and SCRAM devices and how they are used
- Benefits of transdermal testing with the SCRAM devices

The presenters and committee members discussed the process for communicating with law enforcement and the possibility of false positives.

5. [Update from Jackie Mitchell on new opiate treatment program \(01:20:45\)](#)

Mitchell reported on two items:

- The new recovery house from Lifeline Connections upcoming fundraiser on April 12
- The application to the Health Care Authority for a new opiate treatment program from Acadia Health Services

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.