

From: dbobena@yahoo.com
To: [SAC](#)
Cc: [Jill Nixon](#)
Subject: Regarding issues related to the March 15, 2022 IPRTF joint committee meeting
Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 7:12:40 PM

Dear Justice Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee:

I copied Jill Nixon on this email, since her email is the one given to contact the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force. I am hoping she can forward this email to task force members. Thank you.

I was able to watch yesterday's 3/15/22 joint meeting of the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Behavioral Health Committee and the IPRTF Legal and Justice Systems Committee. I appreciated hearing the discussion of matters related to Sell vs. United States, and procedures and approaches for medically restoring competency to people awaiting trial.

I also appreciated the comments at the end of the meeting offered by members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. It was unfortunate that the Whatcom County Prosecutor, in effect, sidestepped Brel Froebe's question (if I understood it correctly) about whether restoring competency to people who had committed crimes because of mental illness could/should be considered an action to resolve their particular charges.

I hope that SAC members will pursue eventually receiving a robust response to or discussion of that question from Prosecutor Richey and/or other members of the IPRTF. When our community expresses that they desire treatment over punishment, the circumstances that Brel Froebe was questioning would be critical ones related to decisions of what kinds of justice facilities will ultimately serve our community.

Additionally, while I was waiting for the meeting to start, I was again reading and reflecting on the Land Acknowledgement Statement in the IPRTF committee(s) meeting agenda.

I am really hoping that the SAC will ground their work in that statement, especially in the sentence that reads, "Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today." I hope it is obvious that more than a moment will be needed to use such weighty - and usually dismissed - considerations as a foundation for providing justice to our community through the project you are working on.

Currently, our government and justice systems are far-removed from those that would address the results of those legacies of violence,

displacement, migration, and settlement. It will take very deliberate concentration on them to fend off the systemic tendency to ignore them.

What, in the actions you are taking, and systems you are envisioning, will help restore justice to those who have historically been violently displaced? What actions will restore justice to those who are currently being violently displaced?

I believe openly identifying additional questions, and their answers related to the entirety of the Land Acknowledgement Statement will be vital to conducting this Justice Project. I look forward to continuing to follow your process.

Sincerely,
Dena Jensen
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