

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Meeting of the Behavioral Health Committee and the Legal and Justice Committee

Meeting Summary for April 19, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Dan Hammill called the meeting to order at 11:32 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Chris Cochran, Bill Elfo, Brian Estes, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Heather Flaherty, Dan Hammill, Deborah Hawley, Mike Hilley, Raylene King, Rhyan Lopez, Jackie Mitchell, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Darlene Peterson, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley, Courtney Taylor, Brien Thane, Louise Trapp (for Eric Richey), Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Doug Chadwick, Seth Fleetwood, David Freeman, Michael G. Smith

Members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee were invited to attend and participate in this meeting

2. [2022 Annual Report to County Council & County Executive \(00:01:38\)](#)

Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator, told committee members that the list of topics to be included in the report is available to them in their packet. She instructed them to send any additions or changes to her.

3. [Update on the Sequential Intercept Service Inventory and Reentry Services \(held from March meeting\) \(00:04:20\)](#)

Items three and four on the agenda were combined into one discussion.

Parker gave an overview of what the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) is and what the update process is looking like. Mowery provided an explanation of the work his Behavioral Health Gap Analysis group is doing to update the SIM as well as a timeline of expected completion.

Committee members added additional background information about how the SIM is formulated and what services are included for the benefit of Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) members who were in attendance.

Discussion ensued between committee members and SAC members. Participants spoke on topics including:

- Estes said that his organization, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Washington, is working to form a Clubhouse International model in the area, which might help to address some of the programs that are identified as needed but not yet in existence.
- Brel Froebe, SAC member, asked if the SIM would be available for review before the update is complete. Mowery said that he could make the current version available with the understanding that it is a working document.
- The definition of re-entry services, when those services might be offered, and the importance of those services to prevent recidivism.
- Where programs are or should be physically located. Members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of housing services within a justice center compared to elsewhere in the community.

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- What treatments are currently provided at the jail. Mitchell reported that they are very limited in terms of space and are not able to provide as much as they would like.
- Re-entry protocols for treatment centers, including admittance to treatment for competency restoration and the next steps after restoration is complete.
 - Jason Smith, SAC member and public defense contractor, described the difference between substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and competency restoration. Vanyo and Jones expanded on the competency restoration process and the delays that often occur.
- Jones stated that expediting the steps post-competency restoration would be very beneficial so that individuals don't decompensate and have to start the process again. King pointed out the hinderances to this, which had previously been identified by Vanyo.
- Individuals charged with a misdemeanor are not subject to the Trueblood decision so competency restoration takes longer. They are also more likely to be in the community instead of in jail awaiting trial. Due to the extended timeline and other factors, King described the creation of a revolving door effect that often ends in individuals committing higher level crimes and ending up in jail or Western State Hospital.
- The restoration process is extremely confusing, overwhelming, and traumatizing for those in the system, especially if they are experiencing mental health issues.
- Mowery and Mitchell summarized the new Response Systems Division and the work that the Recovery Navigators will be doing.

Gaps in services identified included:

- Navigators who work between systems and can identify gaps.
- Smith said that he would see a benefit in having an on staff social worker on his team in the offices of public defenders. These employees would be able to coordinate with clients and guide them to available services. Taylor agreed that the public defense system needs more social workers and mental health professionals.
- Options to pursue recovery outside of incarceration systems.
- Inequalities regarding gender and justice. King reported that the Administrative Office of the Courts had a lot of information and resources on this subject.
 - Accurate and complete data collection is key
 - There is a need for childcare for justice-involved individuals
 - Civil attorneys need to be available for those without access to one, for example domestic violence victims with children
- Barriers to free services. Not all individuals may know what services are available to them, whether they are incarcerated or not. They also may not have transportation to access those services.
- Navigators to provide a warm hand-off during re-entry. These are needed for both those with mental health issues and those without.

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- Skill development. Job training for incarcerated individuals. Lopez brought up the Sustainability in Prisons program.
- Delayed treatment is poor treatment. We need more staff and beds should be available at all times.

Suggested action proposed included:

- Surveying the national landscape of re-entry navigation to see what program models have shown to be effective elsewhere. Members discussed how programs from other jurisdictions across the country are researched and the usefulness of basing local programs on other successful models.
- Research on efficacy of mandated programming. SAC member Brel Froebe asked if requiring participation in services as a condition of sentencing or release would be effective. Committee members discussed this in terms of effectiveness and legality.
- Looking at diversity, equity, and inclusion issues currently effecting systems of incarceration. Progress already made and in process were discussed.
- Improving food at the jail which could have an impact on overall health of incarcerated people.
- Looking into “jail without walls” model, such as an outpatient boot camp-type program as an option for some offenders.
- Presentations to the SAC are needed to further explain the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. [Public Comment \(01:26:43\)](#)

Joy Gilfilen of the Restorative Community Coalition spoke on the importance of prevention and the work her coalition has been doing to study issues related to incarceration prevention and reduction. She also spoke to the need for community input especially from those who interact with the system. She encouraged committee members to look at the documents she recently submitted to the Task Force.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 P.M.