

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force  
Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee**

1:30 - 3:00 p.m., June 2, 2022. Hybrid meeting

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the County Council Office at least 96 hours in advance.

**Meeting Participation Information**

Attend in person at the County Council Office, 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105, Bellingham, or via Zoom Webinar. Attendees will join the Zoom Webinar without audio or video controls. Webinar Host will invite attendees to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting

- [Link to join meeting](#)
- Call in phone number: (253) 215-8782
- Webinar ID: 834 4666 6867
- Password: 17783

**AGENDA**

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Before we begin, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo People who have cared for and tended this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

**Packet Pages**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Data Dissemination** ..... 1 – 3  
*Review/Caleb Erickson*
- 3. 2022 Annual Report: INDEX Committee** ..... 4 – 5  
*Review and Approve*
- 4. Other Business**
- 5. Public Comment**
  1. If you would like to speak, virtually “raise your hand.”
    - a. Online: select the Raise Hand icon
    - b. Phone: Press \*9
  2. *When called upon to speak, unmute your microphone. Inform the Webinar Host if you would like to enable your video during your comments.*
  3. Please state your full name for the record.
  4. Staff will disable your microphone when you are done speaking.
- 6. Adjourn**

*Meeting summary of the previous meeting is included at the end of the packet for information only. Committee members may suggest changes and/or corrections to the draft summary to [jlassite@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:jlassite@co.whatcom.wa.us). Audio recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).*

## Upcoming Meetings

Visit the [Task Force website meeting calendar](#) for the most up-to-date meeting schedule

At this time, all meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend meetings via Zoom webinar or in person at the County Council office, 311 Grand Ave Suite 105, Bellingham.

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u>	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
Monthly 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday 9-11 AM	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u> Monthly 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	<u>LEGAL &amp; JUSTICE SYSTEMS</u> Monthly 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<u>CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY</u> Quarterly, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	<u>INDEX</u> Bi-monthly 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	<u>STEERING</u> Monthly Various Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
June 13 July 18 August 15 September 19 October 17 November 14 December 19	<b>June 14*(11:30-1:00)</b> July 19 August 16 <b>September 20 (11:30-1:00)</b> October 18 November 15 <b>December 13* (11:30-1:00)</b>	<b>June 14</b> July 12 August 9 <b>September 20*</b> October 11 November 8 <b>December 13</b>	July 21 October 20	August 4 October 6 December 1	July 7 August 4 September 8 October 6 November 3 December 8

## **IPRTF DATA DISSEMINATION PROPOSAL**

Recommended by the IPRTF Steering Committee, April 7, 2022

Recommended by the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, April 19, 2022

**Basis:** We have recognized the fact that data across the points of the Sequential Intercept Model and all criminal-system agencies is incomplete, poorly shared, and only intermittently relied on in setting policy and practices. In the past year, though, we have also become aware that we do have available a more substantial amount of data than we initially realized. For example, Chief Jones regularly distributes a detailed data report on the jail population. The GRACE and LEAD programs carefully track information on their clients and the services they receive. The Health Department recently began participating in a state-level collaborative sharing monthly data on local opioid use in Whatcom County. Drug court and mental health court maintain useful information on their services and outcomes. Bellingham Municipal Court has provided valuable documentation of their use of both pretrial and post-conviction electric home monitoring. The District Court probation office and the Superior Court's Pretrial Services Unit record their activities. Other examples abound.

The task force can start doing more right now to incorporate existing data into our reforms, while the beginning work of our INDEX committee, the upgrading of multiple data systems, and the promising efforts of the Justice Project's Stakeholder Advisory Committee continue. The task force needs to have available data on a regular basis and that data should be more directly accessible to the public as well. Dissemination of currently available data fulfills the task force's duty under its originating ordinance, WCC Chapter 2.46, furthers its commitment to expand public awareness of our work and the reasons for it, and provides a foundational element (Question 2) in utilizing the GARE Racial Equity Toolkit.

**PROPOSAL:** *The Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force will receive periodic data collection reports from any point within the multi-jurisdictional criminal-legal system, along with similar data reports from related service/treatment/support systems within the task force's scope of interest, such as from the Health Department, the North Sound Administrative Services Organization, the state Health Care Authority and DSHS, the Healthy Whatcom collaborative, school districts, and others. Such reports will also be made readily accessible to community members, to the extent allowed by the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, and will be posted and clearly identified on the task force homepage on the County website.*

### **Implementation Steps:**

The Task Force will approve this proposal and charge the Steering Committee and INDEX Committee with jointly coordinating this effort and keeping available data sets current.

1. The INDEX Committee will compile a comprehensive list of regular data reports and will request distribution of all such reports to support staff for the task force.
2. The INDEX Committee will evaluate the formatting of data in all reports and will recommend changes in formatting that make the data more user-friendly and uniform in presentation.

3. Support staff for the task force will distribute all reports to members of the task force Steering Committee, and to any other task force member who requests receipt of such reports.
4. The Steering Committee will initiate steps to work with County IT staff to create access to data reports on the task force homepage as quickly as possible.
5. The Steering Committee will coordinate regular exchanges of data between the task force and the Justice Project's Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

**Racial Equity Toolkit Assessment:** The following points reflect consideration of factors included in the GARE Racial Equity Toolkit:

1. **Proposal:** This proposal will require the gathering and publication of Sequential Intercept data. In turn, those results will promote (a) the use of criminal-legal system and diversion/treatment services data in support of recommendations by the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, (b) the identification of needs for additional relevant data and additional services, and (c) the means for reducing racial inequities throughout law enforcement, local judicial systems, jail operations, pre- and post-adjudication programs, and involved diversion/treatment/support services. Its intended outcomes include strengthening data-informed analysis of practices affecting public safety and potential incarceration, and remediation of racial disparities in those practices.
2. **Data:** This proposal would be the first step in collecting data necessary for informed analysis and remediation of racial disparities referred to above.
3. **Community Engagement:** At least four (4) IPRTF members (including two members of color) are also members of the Stakeholders Group, a diverse selection of community members working with Chuckanut Health Foundation to develop a proposed ordinance to create a Whatcom Racial Equity Commission. One of the primary functions being proposed for a WREC is to collect and analyze public data on racial equity issues of public importance. That group's engagement and the focus it has placed on increasing transparency of racial equity data, including criminal-legal system data, is in alignment with this IPRTF proposal. If established, a new WREC will provide an opportunity to enhance engagement with the community in general and specifically community members of color. Also, the Pretrial Processes Work Group, led by the Superior Court but working closely with the IPRTF's Legal and Justice Systems committee, will be gathering data on use of the Public Safety Assessment for pretrial release decisions, with a particular focus on reducing racial disparities in those decisions. The PPWG has recruited two community members of color, along with the state Administrative Office of the Courts, to analyze PSA data over time, which will be subject to this proposal. That engagement is another form of community involvement. Lastly, the public posting of regular data reports, as recommended here, would also invite additional community

feedback and engagement.

4. **Analysis and Strategies:** Advancing best practices to prevent and reduce incarceration, where possible and appropriate, have been widely embraced as local public policy goals since 2015. Elected officials, public employees in Whatcom County, and the entire community will benefit from policies and actions that are based on a rigorous assessment of data showing the effectiveness of current and proposed approaches. Burdens of this proposal should be minimal since it does not contemplate the creation of new data-gathering or data-reporting responsibilities, although eventually new responsibilities may be called for because of it. Some strategies for reducing racial inequities are embedded in this proposal. The deliberative process of the IPRTF, its reliance on evidence-based practices, review of its recommendations by the County Council, and the County's commitment to GARE principles are all likely to serve to mitigate unintended consequences that might arise.
5. **Implementation:** Initial steps for implementing this proposal are listed in the prior section.
6. **Accountability and Communication:** The IPRTF is already accountable directly to the County Council and more broadly to community members. The collection, development, and open dissemination of data will increase both the transparency and effectiveness of the task force's work. Posting of data compilations, added to the task force's mandated regular reports, will expand communication and improve the public's understanding of ongoing reform work. Finally, seeing accumulated data on a regular basis will, really for the first time, allow the task force, the Council, and the public to more clearly evaluate whether the task force is adequately accomplishing the goals it has been charged with.

## **D. Progress Report: INDEX Committee**

The Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee was formed to allow County and municipal jurisdictions to collaborate on improving access to accurate and timely data. Such data is necessary to measure progress in reducing incarceration and the effectiveness of programs that divert individuals from incarceration. The Committee initially facilitated information-sharing across agencies to de-silo data and to support improved program operation and cross-jurisdictional system improvements.

The INDEX Committee structure includes a technical subcommittee and a policy subcommittee. The policy subcommittee drives the process and guides the work of the technical subcommittee. The Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force serves as the policy subcommittee and determines the policies and outcomes of the INDEX Committee.

The Technical Subcommittee includes the information technology, department, and agency staff who work with the systems and data to measure outcomes. The Technical Subcommittee interacts with the policy subcommittee to identify options to achieve those outcomes, and identifies existing data or develops improved data practices to monitor progress. The technical subcommittee includes representatives from law enforcement, behavioral health organizations and agencies, local courts, prosecutors/city attorneys, and public defenders.

### **Resume meeting schedule**

The INDEX Technical Committee accomplished many of its initial goals and tasks in its first two and a half years. The technical subcommittee went on hiatus and the Task Force, serving as the policy advisor for INDEX, began to review the role and capabilities of the technical subcommittee. The INDEX Committee ended its hiatus in February 2022 to recap past work and identify next steps. The Task Force and Steering Committee continue to refine expectations for the INDEX Committee and identify reasonable objectives.

### **Committee Leadership working with Dr. Harris to identify data**

The INDEX Committee leadership has been tasked with responding to data requests from the Justice Project Needs Assessment process and its Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Committee Chair Lt. Caleb Erickson works collaboratively with Dr. Alexis Harris, University of Washington Sociology Professor, and Whatcom County Systems Administrator Jeremy Morton to gain perspective on the complexities of the criminal justice system by understanding the data available through the jail, emergency medical services (EMS), courts, and other sources, and to identify where there are gaps in available data. One clear theme throughout the criminal justice system is the community wants transparency in our numbers. Jeremy was able to show in a recent presentation that we have access to some of the data that will help, but the design of our systems was never intended to report the kinds of things the community wants to see. The challenge will be using existing infrastructure to get information that is useful and instructive in the Justice Initiative.

### **Next Steps for Committee**

Data Dissemination. The Task Force recognizes that a substantial amount of data already exists. Agencies and programs within the multi-jurisdictional criminal-legal system and community

service systems already regularly generate and distribute periodic data reports. The Task Force and INDEX Committee will inventory and begin to collect the available reports from agencies such as the Health Department, the North Sound Administrative Services Organization, the state Health Care Authority and DSHS, the Healthy Whatcom collaborative, school districts, and others. Such reports can be made readily accessible to community members to the extent allowed by the Public Records Act, RCW Chapter 42.56.

With approval from the County Administration, the INDEX Committee will begin to work with the County's Information Technology Division on a project to develop a dashboard of interactive charts and data for the County website that is based on existing regular reports that already circulate.

Monitor System Upgrades. The INDEX Committee was presented with a timeline of major planned system upgrades by the County and State that will upgrade caseload programs in the Courts, Public Defender's Office, Prosecutor's Office, and Sheriff's Office over the next several years. The Committee will continue to monitor those upgrades.

Update Data Matrix. As these systems come online, the Committee will update and enhance its data matrix to include additional agencies, such as What-Comm, EMS, CaseLoadPRO, and the Health Department. This data matrix could form the foundation of a database repository as the basis for the Committee's work.

Focus on Priority Questions. The INDEX Committee will focus on answering the most commonly asked data questions, including information on:

- Calls for service across law enforcement agencies
- Number of warrants and diversion outcomes
- Demographics of incarcerated individuals
- Statistical analysis of incarcerated young adults aged 18 to 24