

TOWN HALL LISTENING SESSION

JUSTICE PROJECT

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 6:00 – 8:00 pm

www.whatcomcounty.us/justice

AGENDA

Welcome

Purpose and Process (Holly O'Neil, facilitator, Crossroads Consulting)

Project Overview

- Executive Priority (Satpal Sidhu, County Executive)
- History (Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive)
- Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force (Stephen Gockley, Co-chair)
- Stakeholder Advisory Committee (Councilmember Buchanan)

Listening Session

- In person or online
- Email SAC@co.whatcom.wa.us with comments

Adjourn at 8:00 pm

Purpose and Process

- The purpose of this Town Hall is to ask the community for input on incarceration change in Whatcom County, and gather feedback on the Vision, Values, Goals, Needs and Gaps that have been developed so far by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

Purpose and Process

- SAC members are here listening tonight.
- The session is being recorded, and a written report will be provided to the SAC for their December meeting.
- The SAC will then discuss what needs to be incorporated into the Needs Assessment Report that will go to County Council early next year.

Executive Sidhu

WELCOMING REMARKS & EXECUTIVE PRIORITIES

Recent History

2011	2012	2013	2014 - 15
Jail Planning Task Force is developed to address overcrowding and increased need for behavioral health and other services.	Task Force recommends building a new, expanded jail facility.	Whatcom County purchases land in Ferndale for \$6.1 million for a new jail facility.	Voters reject proposition No. 2015-1 to fund a new, expanded jail with a 0.2% sales tax increase. Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (IPRTF) is established 2015

Deputy Executive Schroeder

Recent History

2017	2018	2020	Early 2023
Voters reject proposition No. 2017-6 to fund a new, expanded jail with a 0.2% sales and use tax.	County conducts a Listening Tour and an online survey. Participants ask the County to prioritize rehabilitation over punishment and address the root causes of incarceration.	County forms a committee to develop a Justice Project Needs Assessment and engages diverse communities to provide feedback and help guide recommendations. SAC convenes Jan. 2022	Justice Project Needs Assessment available for public viewing.

Deputy Executive Schroeder

What is the Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force (IPRTF)?

- Created 2015 by county ordinance
- Mixed membership: governmental representatives and community stakeholders
- Functions: advises council and executive; shares information across organizations
- Subsequently also designated to serve as county's Law and Justice Council

Stephen Gockley

How does the IPRTF work?

- Committees and work groups
- Consensus decision-making
- Effectively engenders collaboration among public entities and community interests
- Widely acknowledged as model effort for positive change

Stephen Gockley

What has the IPRTF helped accomplish?

- Building new 32-bed Crisis Stabilization Center (officially, the Anne Deacon Center for Hope)
- Implementing GRACE and LEAD diversion programs
- Adopting commitment to reducing racial disparities
- Creating Superior Court's Pretrial Services Unit and beginning use of a pretrial risk assessment tool
- Developing Recovery House to support drug court participants
- Promoting WCSO co-responder program and BPD Alternative Response Team

Stephen Gockley

What will IPRTF's on-going work involve?

- Using best practices, evidence-based approaches, and expert advice
- Improving data collection, data sharing, data systems, and data transparency
- Emphasizing steps toward advancing racial equity throughout the systems
- Exploring ways to expand capacity for diversion, treatment and support services
- Reinforcing the Justice Project's Stakeholder Advisory Committee work

Stephen Gockley

Stakeholder Advisory Committee

Council Resolution 2019-036:

- Adopting a statement of public health, safety and justice facility planning principles

38 Member Committee established in 2020

- Citizen members and agency designees
- COVID pause
- Started work in Jan. 2022

Purpose: To guide the development of the Justice Project Needs Assessment

All SAC meeting recordings and documents are available online at www.whatcomcounty.us/justice

Councilmember Buchanan

SAC Members

Teresa Bosteter

Barry Buchanan

Chad Butenschoen

Kendra Cook

Atul Deshmane

Bill Elfo / Doug Chadwick

Brooke Eolande

Arlene Feld

Heather Flaherty

Seth Fleetwood/Brian
Heinrich

Stark Follis/Maialisa Vanyo

Peter Frazier

Brel Froebe

Stephen Gockley

David Goldman

Daniel Hammill

Kristin Hanna

Deborah Hawley

Anthony Hillaire

Jack Hovenier

Scott Korthuis

Cliff Langley

Erika Lautenbach

Michael Lilliquist

Harriet Markell

Rebecca Mertzig/David Crass

Kara Mitchell

Perry Mowery

John Mutchler

Darlene Peterson

Eric Richey

Mary Lou Steward

Eve Smason -Marcus

Daron Smith

Roman Swanaset-Simmonds

RB Tewksbury

Satpal Sidhu/Tyler Schroeder

Eli Wainman

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Meeting	Dates (Tentative)	Focus Topic
1	January 20, 2022	Foundation
2	April 7, 2022	Criminal Justice Data
3	June 8, 2022	Behavioral Health Services
4	July 14, 2022	Work Session, Needs & Recs.
5	Sept 15, 2022	Facilities
6	Oct 13, 2022	Preliminary Needs Assessment
7	Nov. 17, 2022	Draft Needs Assessment
8	Dec 15, 2022	Discuss Public Input
9	Jan 19, 2023	Final Needs Assessment

Councilmember Buchanan

Feedback

- DRAFT VISION, VALUES, GOALS
- DRAFT NEEDS/GAPS

In your agenda packet and posted online

Listening Session

Key Questions

- What do you think is important for our community to help improve public safety, and prevent and avoid incarceration?
- What do you think is important to consider for a new jail facility?

Process for this evening

- Each person will have 2 or 3 minutes to speak (depending on number of people in attendance who wish to speak, so that we can hear from everyone)
- **In Person: Line up at the microphones, 4 people in line at a time**, so that we don't have gaps in time.
- **On Zoom:** raise hands, we will put you on the “stack”
- We will hear from 4 people in Chamber, followed by 4 people on zoom (then repeat...)

Process for this evening

- If we run out of time, send your comments to:
- **SAC@co.whatcom.wa.us**
- No, you cannot assign your time to another person 😊
- **Each person has a right to speak. No one's voice is more valuable than another's.**
- **You don't have to say anything perfectly. But it makes a difference when you speak respectfully.**

Wrap up

- Take the online survey (deadline Nov 18th)
 - Go to: [WhatcomJusticeProject.org](https://www.whatcomjusticeproject.org)
- View meeting materials and additional information online at:
www.whatcomcounty.us/justice
- Email additional comments to:
SAC@co.whatcom.wa.us