

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Legal and Justice Systems Committee

Meeting Summary for November 8, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Donnell Tanksley, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Bill Elfo, Deborah Hawley

2. [Next steps for reentry \(01:03\)](#)

Mitchell reported that she had created an inventory of re-entry programs offered by community-based treatment agencies in our area. There are also re-entry services offered in the jail. She and Malora Christensen have convened a group in order to create a coordinated system for all those programs so that services are streamlined on a systems level.

Members discussed the availability of the programs offered. Mitchell stated that there are case management programs that could connect individuals with treatment or behavioral health services. She gave the example of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program, Ground-Level Response And Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program, and the Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT). Mitchell clarified that treatment services are not offered in the jail, but case managers can help individuals connect with services as they are released. Vanyo stated that PACT is very limited in the people that they serve and all of those services miss a large population of individuals in need.

Feld stated that there was a need for education services in the jail to prepare individuals for release, such as training on how to find a job.

Mitchel continued with her presentation. Main points included:

- Individuals in the jail have the opportunity to self-determine what their needs are.
- Her group is focused on the clinical aspects of re-entry and system coordination can help to address some of the needs and gaps identified by the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team.
- The Summary of Needs and Resources document and how she hopes this project could be helpful in fulfilling some of those needs

Members discussed and asked questions. Topics included:

- The limitation of PACT, since there are only two programs that will go into the jail to offer services. This makes it difficult or impossible to create a treatment plan, as required by the mental health sentencing alternative.
- Space limitation in the current jail is an issue, especially since a new facility is years away.
 - Mitchell acknowledged the lack of confidential meeting space. She said that there was an idea of having a behavioral health corrections officer who could accompany inmates

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to confidential meetings, however it is difficult to hire any corrections staff at this time. Members discussed what rooms in the jail could be used for confidential meeting space.

- Feld emphasized that we need space for incarcerated people to receive services in the interim between now and when a new jail may be built.
- Staffing issues and possible ways to increase engagement with incarcerated people.
- The possibility of legislative solutions to the issue of individuals losing Medicaid while they are in jail. Gockley responded that this is a matter of Federal Law since Medicaid will not pay for care in a public facility that has a responsibility to provide care itself. Members discussed the viability of changing this at the federal level and the impact it might have.
- The level of involvement of the Department of Corrections in the conversation of behavioral health services and re-entry.

3. [Draft Committee year-end report for 2022 and priorities for 2023 \(36:50\)](#)

King asked if there were any items they wanted to add for the “what’s next” section of the report. Ideas generated included:

- Re-entry services
- Creating temporary space in the jail for services until a new facility is built
- Addressing the lack of competency restoration services
- Childcare services in the court systems

4. [Agenda Items for December Joint Meeting with Behavioral Health Committee \(41:08\)](#)

Gockley suggested adding a discussion on competency restoration. There were no other suggestions.

5. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

6. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

7. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:13 P.M.