

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

Meeting Summary for February 14, 2023

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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 and in person at the Whatcom County Council Conference Room, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 105, Bellingham, Washington

Members Present: Arlene Feld, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo, Perry Mowery, Raylene King, Stephen Gockley, David Freeman

Members Absent: Darlene Peterson, Donnell Tanksley, Eric Richey, Jackie Mitchell

2. Family Court [\(00:01:00\)](#)

Angela Anderson, District Court Judge and Jake Wiebusch, District Court Probation spoke about Family Justice Court. Family Justice Court is a program with 18 individuals with charges of domestic violence, who check in every 3 weeks with the judge. This is an informal check-in, which empowers the clients to be held accountable for their progress. Individuals are in the program until they show compliance.

3. Jail release and reentry coordination with behavioral health services [\(00:19:40\)](#)

Caleb Erickson and Wendy Jones with the Sheriff's Office spoke on the coordination with behavioral health services and some challenges they have.

- Shortage of re-entry specialists
- Lack of Behavioral Health specialists
- Lack of communication which results in people sitting in jail for longer than needed, while waiting for services.

4. Workgroup Reports [\(00:59:00\)](#)

Deborah Garrett, Retired Superior Court Judge, gave an update on the pre-trial process workgroup. The pre-trial process has changed since COVID and the workgroup has some goals for change to the process.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.