

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force / Law and Justice Council

SPECIAL MEETING

Justice Project Implementation Planning

Workshop #1: Systems

Meeting Summary for Thursday, March 9th, 2023

1. [Call to Order](#)

Barry Buchanan, Councilmember and Justice Project Planning Team Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. The meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and in person at the Whatcom County Council Conference Room, 311 Grand Ave., Suite 105, Bellingham, Washington.

Members Present: Jack Hovenier (Co-chair), Stephen Gockley (Co-chair), Barry Buchanan, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Perry Mowery, Dave Reynolds, Raylene King, Heather Flaherty, Darlene Peterson, Rebecca Mertzig, Donnell Tanksley, Bruce Van Glubt, Scott Korthuis, Eric Petersen, Bill Elfo, Maialisa Vanyo, Satpal Sidhu, Mike Hilley, Daniel Hammill, Deborah Hawley

Additional Participants: Tyler Schroeder, David Crass, Kayla Schott-Bressler, Brian Heinrich, Michael Lilliquist, Wendy Jones, Jay Hart, Michael Smith, Mike Parker, Malora Christensen, Jed Holmes, Louise Trapp, Doug Chadwick, Caleb Erickson

Members Absent: Greg Winter, Jenn Lockwood, Jason McGill, Eric Richey, Seth Fleetwood

Council Staff: Cathy Halka and Jill Nixon, Whatcom County.

Facilitators: Holly O'Neil and Mardi Solomon, Crossroads Consulting

Barry welcomed everyone and introduced the Justice Project Planning Team: Jack Hovenier, Stephen Gockley, and Tyler Schroeder, with support from Council Staff, Cathy Halka and Jill Nixon, and facilitation by Holly O'Neil and Mardi Solomon of Crossroads Consulting.

2. [Overview of Implementation Planning Process \(00:01:00\)](#)

Holly O'Neil reviewed the meeting agenda. She then provided an orientation to the implementation planning process. This included a review of the development of the [Justice Project Needs Assessment](#). The Needs and Recommendations in the Needs Assessment provide the foundational material upon which the implementation plan will be built.

The scope of work is to identify specific actions that will advance the recommendations over a 1-3 year timeframe, as well as identification of leaders/organizations to guide implementation, locations for proposed facilities, costs estimates, and a funding approach.

The planning process will involve 5 weekly workshops, focus groups with priority audiences in April, and a public Town Hall in May 24. There will be regular check-ins with the IPRTF/Law & Justice Council and County Council April – June.

3. [This Workshop Focuses on Systems \(00:12:00\)](#)

Mardi Solomon defined what we mean by “systems”: The practices, policies, structures, and funding related to the functioning of the criminal legal system and the behavioral healthcare system. The systems section of the needs assessment has 7 needs and 12 corresponding recommendations which

were the focus of this meeting. Worksheets completed by participants in the implementation planning process were compiled and analyzed for this discussion.

The recommendations were grouped into three clusters for discussion, taking into account overlaps between recommendations. The remainder of the workshop involved interactive discussion of work currently in process, what is needed for successful implementation, questions that need to be answered, and next steps related to these three topics. See links to those discussions, below:

- [Increasing access to competency restoration – inpatient and outpatient \(00:17:39\)](#)
- [Reducing number of people held in jail pretrial – expand use of diversion services and reduce use of bail \(01:19:07\)](#)
- [Data gathering and monitoring to track progress toward intended outcomes \(01:49:49\)](#)

4. [Next Steps and Closing Comments \(2:21:58\)](#)