

# Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force / Law and Justice Council

## SPECIAL MEETING

Justice Project Implementation Planning

### Workshop #2: Services

#### Meeting Summary for Friday, March 17th, 2023

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*To view video recording, click on the link in the section heading.*

#### 1. [Call to Order](#)

Barry Buchanan, Councilmember and Chair of the Justice Project Planning Team, called the meeting to order at 9:02 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: Jack Hovenier (Co-chair), Stephen Gockley (Co-chair), Barry Buchanan, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Perry Mowery, Raylene King, Heather Flaherty, Darlene Peterson, Donnell Tanksley, Bruce Van Glubt, Scott Korthuis, Eric Petersen, Maialisa Vanyo, Mike Hilley, Deborah Hawley, Rebecca Mertzig, Satpal Sidhu

Additional Participants: Tyler Schroeder, Kayla Schott-Bressler, Brian Heinrich, Michael Lilliquist, Wendy Jones, Malora Christensen, Jed Holmes, Doug Chadwick, Caleb Erickson, Lacey McCarley, Melissa Keely, Thomas McAuliffe, Thomas Wynne, Julie Grendon, Louise Trapp

Members Absent: Daniel Hammill, Bill Elfo, Dave Reynolds, 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: Stephen Gockley, Jack Hovenier, and Tyler Schroeder, with support from Crossroads Consulting and Council Staff.

Jack Hovenier offered a **Land Acknowledgement:** 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.

#### 2. [Overview of Implementation Planning Process \(00:02:24\)](#)

Public comments are welcome at any time by emailing: [IPRTaskForce@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:IPRTaskForce@co.whatcom.wa.us).

Holly O'Neil reviewed the meeting agenda. She then provided a brief overview of the work that went into the [Justice Project Needs Assessment](#) and described the implementation planning process. The Needs and Recommendations in the Needs Assessment provide the foundational material upon which the implementation plan will be built.

The scope of work for the implementation planning process is to identify specific actions that will advance the recommendations over a 1-3 year timeframe. The implementation planning will involve an iterative process of gathering, reviewing, and refining implementation projects and action steps over the course of five weekly workshops.

Since last week's systems workshop, progress has been made to compile notes from the workshop discussion and worksheet input, clarify information with subject matter experts, and conceptualize the structure of the Implementation Plan. Today we will aim to identify individuals or groups who can help with refining the implementation steps for the systems recommendations, and begin discussion of the services recommendations.

### 3. [Follow-up from Last Workshop on Systems](#) (00:11:06)

In the first workshop, discussion focused on identifying appropriate groups and subject matter experts to help refine implementation steps for the Needs Assessment systems recommendations. The Planning Team and facilitators will provide written material and support in meetings to help move the plan forward.

Decisions about who will provide support:

- **A1:** Competency restoration, inpatient and outpatient: Competency Restoration Workgroup
- **A2:** Timely case resolution: Pretrial Processes Workgroup
- **A3:** Pretrial release and monitoring options in lieu of bail: Pretrial Processes Workgroup
- **A4:** Address disproportionate incarceration of BIPOC individuals: Caleb Erickson, Chair INDEX Committee
- **A5:** Involvement of BIPOC communities, victims of crime, and people with lived experience with criminal legal system in decision-making about policies & practices: Not yet assigned.
- **A6:** Build system for collecting data: Caleb Erickson, Chair INDEX Committee
- **A7:** Build data dashboard: Not yet assigned.

### 4. [Discuss actions and resources to improve Services](#) (00:36:03)

Mardi Solomon defined what we mean by "services": A continuum of behavioral and physical health care, housing, educational and vocational programs, and other social services from pre- through post-incarceration for those at-risk or currently involved with the criminal legal system.

The services section of the Needs Assessment has 5 needs and 11 corresponding recommendations which were the focus of this meeting. Worksheets completed by participants were compiled and analyzed for this discussion.

The 11 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.

- **B1:** [Increase MH & SUD Treatment Capacity \(5 recommendations\)](#) (00:37:53)
  - All 5 of these recommendations relate to increasing mental health and substance use disorder treatment capacity in the community to provide:
    - Community-based mental health and substance use disorder assessment

- Jail-based assessment for community re-entry
- Re-entry support to ensure continuity of services from jail to community
- [B2 & B3: Ensure stable funding to expand effective programs to divert people from incarceration \(3 recommendations\) \(01:14:50\)](#)
- [B4 & B5: Additional qualified, racially/ethnically diverse jail staff \(3 recommendations\) \(01:39:35\)](#)

#### 5. [Next Steps and Closing Comments \(02:09.22\)](#)

- Eleven people from Whatcom County went to Nashville this week to learn about criminal legal services, systems, and facilities that are being successfully implemented there. They returned with good ideas that are relevant for our work.
- If any participants in this workshop, observers, or the public at large would like to submit implementation ideas, send an email any time to [IPRTaskForce@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:IPRTaskForce@co.whatcom.wa.us).
- Encouragement for all participants to continue filling in their worksheets!
- The next meeting is about **community-based facilities**, Thurs. March 23, 9:30-12:00.

Meeting adjourned 11:24 a.m.