

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Joint Behavioral Health and Legal and Justice Systems Committees

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., September 19, 2023. Hybrid meeting

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the County Council Office at least 96 hours in advance.

To meet the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act, this meeting is also noticed as an IPRTF meeting, and the agenda is limited to committee business.

Meeting Participation Information

Meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend via Zoom webinar using the join link below or in person at the County Council office located at 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105. All committee members will participate remotely via Zoom. Zoom attendees will join the meeting without audio or video controls. The Webinar Host will invite attendees to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting.

[Link to join meeting](#)

Call in phone number: (253) 215-8782

Webinar ID: 853 2232 7286

Password: 17783

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement Statement: 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.

Packet Pages

There is no packet for this meeting.

1. Call to Order

2. Court Programs

Update/Jake Wiebusch and Bruce Van Glubt, District Court

Update/Perry Mowery, Health Department

3. Other Business

4. Public Comment: Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

1. If you would like to speak, virtually "raise your hand."
 - a. Online: select the Raise Hand icon
 - b. Phone: Press *9
2. When called upon to speak, unmute your microphone. Inform the Webinar Host if you would like to enable your video during your comments.
3. Please state your full name for the record.
4. Staff will disable your microphone when you are done speaking.

5. Adjourn

Meeting summary of the previous meeting is included at the end of the packet for information only. Committee members may suggest changes and/or corrections to the draft summary to jnixon@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio and video recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Visit the [Task Force website meeting calendar](#) for the most up-to-date meeting schedule

At this time, all meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend meetings via Zoom webinar or in person at the County Council office, 311 Grand Ave Suite 105, Bellingham.

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u> Monthly Various Mondays 9-11 AM	COMMITTEES				
	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u> Monthly 3 rd Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	<u>LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS</u> Monthly 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<u>CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY</u> Quarterly, 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	<u>INDEX</u> Bi-monthly 1 st Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	<u>STEERING</u> Monthly Various Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
October 23 November 13 December 18	October 17 November 14* December 19* (11:30-1:00)	October 10 November 14 December 19*	October 19	October 5 December 7	October 12 November 2 December 7

* Alternate meeting day

Meetings in bold are quarterly joint meetings of the Behavioral Health and Legal & Justice Systems Committees

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Behavioral Health & Legal and Justice Systems Committees

Meeting Summary for June 13, 2023

Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however, YouTube links may change. Links in this document will not be updated. Please refer to the time notation on each agenda item.

1. Call to Order

Dan Hammill called the meeting to order at 11:33 a.m. and shared a Land Acknowledgement Statement. 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.

Behavioral Health Committee Members Present: Arlene Feld, Brian Estes, Brien Thane, Courtney Taylor, Dan Hammill, Donnell Tanksley, Doug Chadwick, Heather Flaherty, Peter Frazier, Mike Parker, Perry Mowery, Stephen Gockley

Legal and Justice Systems Committee Members Present: Arlene Feld, Bill Elfo, Bruce Van Glubt, Deborah Hawley, Donnell Tanksley, Eric Richey, Maia Vanyo, Perry Mowery, Raylene King, Stephen Gockley

Additional Participants: Satpal Sidhu, Jill Nixon

Members Absent: Jenn Lockwood, Nathan Bajema, Mike Smith, Mike Hilley, Seth Fleetwood, David Freeman, Darlene Peterson, Jackie Mitchell

2. Juvenile Detention and Behavioral Health Services (01:19)

Raylene King explained that they planned to have a brief discussion about what is and is not available for juvenile detention and behavioral health services.

Arlene Feld shared that Touchstone Counseling Center in Blaine has plans to create a crisis center for juveniles. So far, they having funding for a property. It will start small and expand as possible.

Perry Mowery shared that Touchstone applied for a Department of Commerce grant for capital funding for the facility. He said Touchstone was in the process of obtaining certification to provide substance use disorder services through the Department of Health. He said he understood that the director's intent would be to use a recliner model, which would be incorporated into a 23-hour outpatient design.

Mowery clarified that he is not positive Touchstone will use a recliner model. He said that legislation this year went through to establish 23-hour crisis relief centers, which are outpatient centers that are not limited to 16. He said that these centers intend to provide individuals with immediate services for up to 23 hours and 59 minutes.

Mowery provided some general info about 23- hour centers. He said that 23-hour centers have a no-refusal policy as long as there is space available. 23-hour facilities also have to have the ability to address basic healthcare issues and have prescriber abilities.

Mike Parker shared some information he found on recliner models, which he said seem to try to create a communal environment that is relaxing and calming and oriented around the individual being made

comfortable in a recliner chair where they meet with providers (rather than being placed in an individual room).

Mowery said there is a 23-hour crisis relief center being established in King County, which is part of a larger building with multiple types of services. He added that Connections is a national company providing services in some of these 23-hour crisis relief centers in various states. Mowery said he is trying to learn from their models and their approach.

King shared examples of parents having to send their children out of the area to receive care. To keep teens and young adults out of jail, King said it is important to find ways to provide treatment and prevention in the area.

Peter Frazier clarified that the facility they were discussing is entirely separate from the one that just received \$9 million in state funding: one is for adults and one is for youth.

Feld stressed the importance of removing barriers to admission and cutting down on the wait time for treatment.

Mike Parker asked about the Task Force's role in supporting youth behavioral health services.

Heather Flaherty said she wanted to know more about the success the County has seen in reducing juvenile detention so it's possible to see what's working. She also requested a presentation on Teen Court. She also asked about the possibility of having a joint meeting in the future with the children's task force.

Feld suggested sending a letter of support for Touchstone in order to help them secure grants.

Satpal Sidhu said that Whatcom County is investing in school programs to help prevent youth and young adults from incarceration through programs like Teen Court.

Dan Hammill said that there was a presentation at the last Behavioral Health Committee meeting from Bonnie Schultz-Lorentzen about Teen Court.

Bill Elfo shared that Touchstone requested letters from law enforcement to support their grant application.

Maia Vanyo said that there are currently 10 youths in juvenile detention. She shared that she is going to meet with Northwest Youth Services and others to discuss the possibility of creating a youthful adult offender court that is peer-based like Teen Court. She stressed that this is just an idea, but any support would be appreciated.

3. Special Legislative Session on 2E2SSB 5536 on Controlled Substances, Possession, Treatment (33:46)

Hammill began a discussion on the new law making possession a gross misdemeanor.

Eric Richey clarified that the difference between a misdemeanor and a gross misdemeanor is the amount of time an individual might spend in jail. A misdemeanor is 90 days and a gross misdemeanor is 364 days (plus potential probation of up to 2 years).

Elfo said the Blake Decision reversed a previous Supreme Court decision that required an intent or knowledge requirement to convict someone of drug possession. The legislature changed the controlled substance classification from felonies to simple misdemeanors and required that individuals be referred to treatment twice prior to bringing charges, but there was no way to verify/track treatment. During the special legislative session, possession changed to a gross misdemeanor and referral requirements were removed (though they are still encouraged). Whatcom County is not booking anyone charged with misdemeanors or gross misdemeanors unless they are DUI or domestic violence related.

The committee discussed the potential impact of this law on the courts.

Richey said District Court could see a significant uptick in their caseload, but it's not guaranteed. He asked for clarification about enforcement. Elfo said their office is focused on violent crime. Donnell Tanksley said it's unclear how the law will affect things.

Raylene King said that there has been an uptick in no-contact order violations. Now that possession is a gross misdemeanor, there could be an increase in calls up to the Port. Elfo said that he doesn't see the County taking on that role, as it's something that can be handled by the federal law enforcement if it's a priority for them. Doug Chadwick said the legislation encourages treatment and diversion, which is something that will need to be emphasized going forward. He mentioned the LEAD program will need to be highlighted because of this, as well as the crisis stabilization center. Capacity will need to be increased in these areas, he said.

4. Public Comment (45:10)

Joy Gilfilen, Executive Director of the Restorative Community Coalition, spoke about concerns she has regarding the jail and the criminal legal system and the need for a community-wide solution to problems.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:23 p.m.