

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for March 4, 2021**

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Caleb Erickson, Anne Deacon, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Mike Parker, Tyler Schroeder

Members Absent: Barry Buchanan,

2. [Annual report to County Council and Executive \(00:01:37\)](#)

The committee concurred to follow the schedule in developing the report and to post final report on the Whatcom Responds County website:

JUNE BI-ANNUAL WRITTEN REPORT SCHEDULE:

March/April:	Steering Committee suggests content and structure of annual report
March/April Committees:	Develop content for annual report
April/May Committees:	Final approval of committee report
June 3:	Steering Committee final review and edits
June 14:	IPRTF final approval
June 30:	Submit to County

Parker stated he would work on a section regarding the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

The committee members discussed including:

- A report from each committee, including impacts to programs, staff, and funding due to Covid, which may be causing delays in past goals, such as impacts to Health Department staff, availability of treatment services, and changes to data points.
- New members in the Behavioral Health Committee
- Long term goals from the Steering Committee
- A new phase for the Task Force
- Recognize the number of new partnerships that have flowed through work of the Task Force

A discussion of report content will be added to the agendas for the Legal and Justice Systems, Behavioral Health, and Crisis Stabilization March meetings

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for March 4, 2021***

3. [How to quantify the reduction of prevention and incarceration from new programs \(00:26:16\)](#)

Gockley reported on a discussion in the Legal and Justice Systems Committee regarding electronic home monitoring and diversion programs. They need to create reports for programs, similar to the reports from Bellingham Court Administrator Darlene Peterson, to quantify all the changes made over the years. Also, they need to communicate better about accomplishments to the broader community.

The committee discussed formally requesting that the County tracks racial and ethnicity attributes of individuals in the criminal justice system; data sources throughout the entire criminal justice system, not just the jail; make INDEX Committee be a starting point and keeper of information across the entire criminal justice system; information systems that can pull together information from different sources; detailed data for system users vs general data for the public; data accuracy; list of priority groups and agencies that the IPRTF reports to about its work; creating a steering committee workgroup to develop action items for better communication; partnering with Western Washington University to study the data; using national data when appropriate; using existing contractors to enhance communication; identifying outputs of prevention efforts, not outcomes; professional consultation on the level of information to collect and platforms to distribute the information; create a list of programs and their purpose; using Health Department prevention specialists to help consult on communication; in addition to data, communicate anecdotes from program successes; identify who to inform about what the IPRTF is doing the message the IPRTF wants to convey, and; engaging advocates for change located in Whatcom County.

4. [Reviewing Proposed State Legislation \(01:06:00\)](#)

Hammill reported that its still early in the legislative session. When bills are through the committees, he will review the successful bills and bring them to Steering Committee to discuss advocating.

The committee discussed creating a process for discussing legislation, working on getting operational funding for the Crisis Stabilization Center, and the process for the IPRTF to make policy recommendations to various officials.

This item will be scheduled at the next meeting.

5. [Agenda Items Scheduled for upcoming Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force \(01:18:16\)](#)

The committee members discussed agenda items. Include a tentative agenda item for Anne Deacon if needed, to present a motion that the IPRTF will work with Council on submitting a letter of support for the legislative proviso to fund operations at the Crisis Stabilization Center.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for March 4, 2021***

6. Other Business (00:49:34)

The committee discussed operationalizing implementation of the GARE toolkit:

1. Look at who is at the table. They have more work to do on inclusion, including communication.
2. Have someone on each committee be a point person to take on GARE for the committee.

(01:27:31) Future changes due to Covid, such as continuing Zoom meetings for IPRTF and courts. Ask the committees and, if warranted, the full Task Force.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for February 16, 2021

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Dan Hammill / Mike Parker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The remote-only virtual meeting was held via Zoom webinar.

Members Present: Megan Ballew, Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Britta Johnson, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Donnell Tanksley, Brien Thane

Members Absent: Seth Fleetwood, Byron Manering

Committee members introduced themselves.

2. [City of Bellingham electronic home monitoring \(00:06:06\)](#)

Darlene Peterson, City of Bellingham, reported and read from a presentation on reduced incarceration at the City using electronic home monitoring through Friendship Diversion Services, including the history of the program, GPS devices and secure continuous remote alcohol monitoring (SCRAM) devices; program fees, and; enrollment statistics.

Kathy Smith, City of Bellingham, continued the presentation:

- Changes and challenges due to Covid-19
- The drop in GPS device use and increase in SCRAM device use in 2020
- Conditions in which the City uses GPS and SCRAM devices
- Program statistics on: enrollment, number of days on electronic home monitoring, overall compliance, and percentage of sober days

Committee members and the presenters discussed diversion options; the need for more in-patient treatment centers in the community; charges that allow pretrial GPS in lieu of bail, including domestic violence; how to examine and expand resource inventory, such as unarmed response to behavioral health calls; whether participation in the City's monitoring program impacts recidivism; race and ethnic statistics for the program; and how the court supports offenders who are wearing a bracelet to access mental health services.

3. [Shelter+Care vouchers and housing for LEAD and GRACE Members \(01:01:52\)](#)

Parker and Gockley reported on the possibility of targeted housing interventions for individuals in the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) program, using housing vouchers. Additional case managers would be required to provide behavioral health services. A small core team of stakeholders are working on whether this would be feasible.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Behavioral Health Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for February 16, 2021

The committee discussed whether the vacancy rate in Bellingham impacts the program, the need to attract more specialized case managers to the area, and pending State legislation that may provide funding for behavioral health services.

4. [House Bill \(HB\) 1590, a new 1/10 of 1% sales tax to provide up to \\$5 million per year for mental health services, 60% of which must include housing \(00:53:57\)](#)

Hammill reported that he would like to table this item until jurisdictions have signaled their intentions to move forward. He moved to table to the next meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously with members present at the time of the vote: Stephen Gockley, Brien Thane, Britta Johnson, Perry Mowery, Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Mike Hilley, Arlene Feld, Dan Hammill, and Heather Flaherty.

5. [How to use the Government Alliance on Race and Equity \(GARE\) Toolkit in decision-making \(01:18:00\)](#)

Parker reported on the IPRTF history of adopting the GARE Toolkit, figuring out how it would work operationally, the benefits of GARE membership,

6. [Next Meeting \(01:21:00\)](#)

Hammill listed the items scheduled for the next meeting as shown on the meeting agenda.

7. [Other Business \(00:58:17\)](#)

Jackie Mitchell, Health Department, reported on two items:

- The application to the Health Care Authority for a new opiate treatment program from Acadia Health Services
- The new recovery house from Lifeline Connections upcoming fundraiser on April 27

[\(01:21:55\)](#)

Flaherty spoke about SCRAM monitoring tool, diversion, and focusing on incarceration reduction and prevention. She also spoke about the GARE toolkit, the County's plan to join GARE, the Racial Equity Commission, and gathering racial equity data on the SCRAM program.

8. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

9. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

MOTION:

Move to affirm the updated Behavioral Health Committee member list to include a representative from the Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE: 3rd Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.

- Megan Ballew (Lummi)
- Nathan Bajema (proxy for Public Defender's Office)
- Doug Chadwick (Proxy for Sheriff)
- Arlene Feld
- Seth Fleetwood
- Heather Flaherty
- Stephen Gockley
- Dan Hammill
- Mike Hilley
- Byron Manering
- Perry Mowery (proxy for Health Dept.)
- Mike Parker (proxy for Opportunity Council)
- Donnell Tanksley (Proxy for Small Cities Municipal Court)
- Chris Cochran, Bellingham School District Chris.Cochran@bellingshamschools.org
- Brien Thane, Bellingham/Whatcom Housing Authority Executive Director
- Britta Johnson, Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for February 9, 2021***

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. This meeting was a remote-only virtual Zoom webinar.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Flo Simon, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo, Kristin Hanna (proxy for Deborah Hawley)

Members Absent: David Freeman, Deborah Hawley, Donnell Tanksley

2. [Update from Darlene Peterson on Electronic Home Monitoring in Municipal Court \(00:01:05\)](#)

Peterson reported and read from a presentation on the history of the City of Bellingham's use of electronic home monitoring through Friendship Diversion Services, including GPS devices and secure continuous remote alcohol monitoring (SCRAM) devices; program fees, and; enrollment statistics.

Kathy Smith, City of Bellingham, continued the presentation:

- Changes and challenges due to Covid-19
- The drop in GPS device use and increase in SCRAM device use in 2020
- Conditions in which the City uses GPS and SCRAM devices
- Program statistics on: enrollment, number of days on electronic home monitoring, overall compliance, and percentage of sober days

The committee members discussed sanctions for non-compliance and no cost for pretrial defendants.

3. [Update from Bruce Van Glubt on District Court Programs \(00:21:41\)](#)

Van Glubt and Jake Wiebusch, District Court Probation Manager, gave a presentation on the District Court electronic equipment program:

- History of the program
- Differences from the program at the City of Bellingham
- District Court services don't include jail sentencing alternatives, which is done through the Sheriff's Office
- Inadequate program funding in 2020, which halted the program in May
- Working with the Sheriff's Office electronic monitoring program
- Use for pretrial monitoring and by probation officers
- Number of defendants
- Types of devices used
- Working with Friendship Diversion Services and the small cities

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for February 9, 2021***

King reported on the statistics of use by the Cities of Blaine, Everson, and Sumas through Friendship Diversion Services.

The committee discussed the need to evaluate accomplishments made to reduce incarceration and how to quantify the reduction and prevention of incarceration out of criminal justice programs.

4. [Presentation from Ronnie Wuest on Friendship Diversion Services \(00:46:02\)](#)

Ronnie Wuest, Friendship Diversion Services, gave a presentation:

- History of Friendship Diversion Services
- The features of the GPS and SCRAM devices and how they are used
- Benefits of transdermal testing with the SCRAM devices

The presenters and committee members discussed the process for communicating with law enforcement and the possibility of false positives.

5. [Update from Jackie Mitchell on new opiate treatment program \(01:20:45\)](#)

Mitchell reported on two items:

- The new recovery house from Lifeline Connections upcoming fundraiser on April 12
- The application to the Health Care Authority for a new opiate treatment program from Acadia Health Services

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 9, 2021**

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Moonwater, Eric Richey, Donnell Tanksley, Maia Vanyo, Kristin Hannah (Proxy for Deborah Hawley)

Members Absent: Deborah Hawley, Darlene Peterson, Flo Simon, Bruce Van Glubt

2. Raylene King and Judge Mark Kaiman on [Senate Bill \(SB\) 5226 \(2020-2021\) concerning the suspension of licenses for traffic infractions and concerns about the current law of DWLS 3rd RCW 46.20.342.1C](#) [\(00:01:14\)](#)

King reported on the history of the Committee's review of statutes around Driving While License Suspended 3rd Degree (DWLS3) introduced Judge Mark Kaiman, presiding judge for the City of Ferndale.

Kaiman reported on the extraordinary amount of court resources taken up by the DWLS3 charge, which is a relatively minor charge and the need for a different approach that's more effective at modifying people's behavior. A proposed Senate Bill may reduce the impact on courts, but may also create other problems because there is no disincentive to driving without a license.

The committee members and Judge Kaiman discussed the status of the bill, amendments to the bill, possible repercussion of policy changes, refocusing on traffic safety instead of fines, transportation issues for people who live in more remote areas, the cost of getting a license reinstated, child support and license suspension, finding positive reinforcements to incentivize compliance, and creating amnesty days to set up payment plans.

3. Washington State [Supreme Court ruling on State v. Blake](#) on RCW 69.50.4013 (1), Washington's simple possession of controlled substance statute [\(00:32:52\)](#)

The Committee members discussed the specifics of the decision and its overall impact, cost impacts, reduced incentive to get into treatment, impacts to the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program and drug court, recalculating sentences and sentencing alternatives that rely on prior conviction of simple possession in the sentencing scheme, releasing inmates who are incarcerated solely on simple possession conviction, dismissing 200 cases locally, communicating the change to the public, tracking treatment and other statistics as a result of the decision, Drug Offender Sentencing

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 9, 2021***

Alternative (DOSAs), the possibility of transitioning from sentenced treatment to volunteering treatment, and the community safety net for individuals who will be leaving the system and need resources.

4. [Discuss content to be included in the committee report for the IPRTF Annual Report \(01:21:26\)](#)

The committee discussed the content for the annual report, to include: reentry, impacts from legislative action and Supreme Court rulings, bringing in speakers to provide information to committee members this past year, and next year think about how to convert information into action items and recommendations from this committee to the Task Force and Council.

This item will be held to the next meeting.

5. Introduction on plans to develop a strategy for external communications: Identify local agencies and groups who may be interested in receiving information on the work of the IPRTF

This item was not discussed and will be rescheduled.

6. Identify a committee point person to operationalize GARE toolkit for the LJS Committee

This item was not discussed and will be rescheduled.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Information Needs and Data Exchange Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 4, 2021***

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Caleb Erickson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Rooms 513/514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Ryan Anderson, Barry Buchanan, Amy Hockenberry, Caleb Erickson, Erin Herschlip, Wendy Jones, Dave Reynolds, Perry Rice, Tyler Schroeder, Kathy Smith, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Brenda Beeman, Amy Ebenal

2. [Update from Vicky Cullinane, Administrative Office of the Courts, on the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction case management project \(01:18\)](#)

Cat Robinson, Administrative Office of the Courts Project Manager, shared and read from a presentation on the project, including the history of the project, project team members, e-filing benefits and roll-out schedule, Odyssey CMS and Tyler Supervision, and next steps.

The committee members and presenter discussed storage location of e-file documents,

3. [Presentation from Perry Rice on case management systems coming online in 2021 \(21:28\)](#)

Rice shared and read from an update on criminal justice case management systems, including the rollout schedule for new systems in the Superior, Juvenile, and District Courts and in the Prosecutor's, Public Defender's, and Sheriff's Office.

4. [Discussion of systems that can be used to view aggregate data throughout the Criminal Justice System \(33:55\)](#)

Erickson reported on the idea for gathering data across all parts of the criminal justice system to consider the impacts of programs to reduce recidivism and deal with other issues in the criminal justice system. Recidiviz, a criminal justice data platform, is one potential central repository to find information and data points across the system.

5. [Update on an email distribution system and the process for requesting data from the INDEX Committee \(37:56\)](#)

Erickson and Rice reported on the email distribution list set up for members of the Task Force to send requests. The intended use is for when members of the Task Force have requests of the INDEX Committee.

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Information Needs and Data Exchange Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 4, 2021***

6. Other Business (39:17)

Jones reported that the year-end jail bed day use and bookings report is available. There is a 48 percent drop in jail populations from 2019 to 2020, mostly due to shutting down a significant portion of the jail due to Covid.

Erickson reported that the IPRTF Annual Report is due in June. He will draft a committee report for review at the May INDEX Committee meeting. He will write a draft report and send it out for comments and for a final committee vote in May.

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.