

## ***Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force / Law & Justice Council Meeting Summary June 14, 2021***

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### **1. Call to Order**

Task Force Co-Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Present:** Barry Buchanan, Anne Deacon, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Seth Fleetwood, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Mike Hilley, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Scott Korthuis, Moonwater, Dave Reynolds, Tyler Schroeder, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley, Maia Vanyo, Mike Parker (Proxy for Greg Winter)

**Absent:** Bill Elfo, David Freeman, Daniel Hammill, Byron Manering, Darlene Peterson, Eric Petersen, Eric Richey, Bruce Van Glubt, Greg Winter

Task Force members indicated they would prefer to not have a meeting in August.

### **2. [Crisis Stabilization Center Mural Project \(05:38\)](#)**

Hollie Huthman, Bellingham City Council Member, gave a presentation on the project.

- Five different areas in the Center have blank walls that are available for murals
- A different artist will be used for each area
- They are fundraising with the Make.Shift art space in the amount of \$20,000 that will, in large part, pay the artists for their work
- Task Force members are invited to outreach to potential donors and share the project on their social media

### **3. [Steering Committee Update \(13:44\)](#)**

Buchanan referenced and read from the Committee summary.

### **4. [Annual Report \(16:50\)](#)**

Hovenier reported on the reporting requirements for the Task Force.

Tanksley moved to approve the report. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously, with Vanyo out of the meeting during the vote.

### **5. [INDEX Committee \(21:04\)](#)**

Gockley introduced the topic, and stated they will have more discussion on this item with INDEX Committee Chair Caleb Erickson, hopefully at the next meeting:

- There is good participation on the INDEX Committee from the agency stakeholders
- Not a lot of information sharing is happening across the agencies
- Significant gaps exist in data that agencies can gather
- Concerns about the inability to get racial and ethnic data needed to enact reform
- Many agencies are in the process of upgrading data management systems over the next few years
- It's time to look at the INDEX Committee makeup, charge, and expectations of the committee

Task Force members discussed:

- Invite Dr. Alexis Harris and/or consultant to meet with the Task Force and help guide them with developing data

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- The need for data to evaluate how to develop effective programs
- The importance of looking retroactively at the good work that has emerged from the Task Force, to see if any newer programs have had an impact on incarceration
- Identify clear data points and use them to measure past and future successes in reducing and preventing incarceration
- Consider whether there is an interim data collection and evaluation pilot project or other creative solutions that can be implemented
- Data already being measured through the Health Department that is important for this effort to track
- Develop a community dashboard that will say how they are doing overall
- There is no central repository for the data; it's scattered all across the system
- Defining the information they need and the cost to obtain it
- Current data gathering efforts in the emergency management system (EMS)
- Problems with data information staying in separate silos
- Technical difficulties from trying to connect different computer systems that are being used
- Using data for monitoring and to tell the story of what's happening within the system
- The County spends a lot of money on the criminal and legal justice system. The cost-benefit of investing in a data system could help them be more efficient with the dollars and create better strategies
- The number of people in the system who are making data-driven decisions; know what they are already looking at and tracking
- Reviewing data efforts in other jurisdictions
- Partnering with a graduate program at the University of Washington for data development and analysis

This item will be held for further discussion at the July Task Force meeting.

**6. [American Rescue Plan funding \(55:05\)](#)**

Schroeder referenced the County Executive's memo in today's meeting packet and reported on the available funding and how the County intends to use it. The Task Force can provide input to the process in phase two of the spending plan through the County's biennium budget process in the fall. For now, have the committees look at their priorities and see how the ARPA funds can be used. The funds are one-time monies, so they are looking at one time expenditures. They can also look at program support, but ongoing support will eventually need to be found elsewhere. One purpose for the funds is addressing behavioral health needs, including crisis intervention work. Another purpose is to enhance public health data systems, and they can look at how to expand public health data systems to incorporate criminal justice and racial equity work.

Task Force members discussed how they will gather public input through the two phases.

**7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments

**9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.