

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: INDEX Committee

Meeting Summary for February 3, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Caleb Erickson called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Ryan Anderson, Brenda Beeman, Amy Ebenal, Caleb Erickson, Dave Reynolds, Perry Rice, and Maia Vanyo,

Members Absent: Barry Buchanan

2. [Recap: Where we've been, where we are, & where we think we are headed \(01:03\)](#)

Erickson gave an overview of this topic and explained the importance of exploring the Committee's past successes, their current projects that need to be worked on, and their future opportunities. He went on to describe each:

- **Where we've been:** In the course of gathering data, the Committee realized that they needed access to data being stored by the Department of Corrections' Spillman software. They then created queries and reports that are automatically gathered. They also developed a website that made available certain information that was not previously public.
- **Where we are:** The Committee needs to focus on what data collection will look like post-COVID. They will need to be intentional about acknowledging how each system works together and the challenges in data collection, including gathering data from agencies that use paper-based systems.
- **Where we're headed:** Erickson has met with a data collection vendor and let them know the goals of the Committee, but that vendor was not able to help because their services do not fit with our needs at least in the near term. The INDEX Committee is being tasked with responding to data requests from the Justice Project Needs Assessment process. To achieve this, the committee may find it beneficial to move into smaller groups to focus on specific questions.

Rice, Whatcom County Information Technology Manager, gave an overview on where the County is with major system updates in the Courts, Public Defender's Office, Prosecutor's Office, and Sheriff's Office.

Erickson proposed that the Committee narrow down their focus to five or six of the most commonly asked questions of INDEX to inform the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Technical Advisory Committee. He said he envisions workgroups focused on:

1. Calls for service across law enforcement agencies: number of calls, reason for calls, and outcome of initial contact.
2. Number of warrants that exist across agencies. If there is diversion at initial contact, does that result in a positive outcome or a warrant?
3. Statistics of incarcerated individuals, both on a snapshot level and a long term level: Who is in custody, why are they in custody, average daily populations, how alternatives are functioning, pre-trial supervision.

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4. Statistical analysis of young adults age 18 – 24 who are in custody. Erickson said that Buchanan had requested data on this group as a target for reform. Reynolds pointed out that there is currently a bill going through the State Legislature which would raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to 19. If passed, 18 and 19-year olds would go through juvenile court. The bill would also remove 13-year olds from juvenile courts.

3. [Available Data \(26:25\)](#)

Erickson guided committee members through the data included in the packet. This data would form the foundation of a database or repository for the INDEX Committee's work. He asked the committee members to take a look at it and determine if there were any data points that needed to be updated or any additional agencies that should be included. Committee members suggested adding data from:

- What-Comm, which would be able to provide information on the calls of service category Erickson described earlier. Erickson pointed out that the original nature of a call is not necessarily how it ends up being categorized and he is not sure if that information would be updated at the dispatch level.
- EMS
- Health Secure
- Health Department, though they would have to be conscientious of confidentiality laws
- The software that pre-trial services uses
- CaseLoadPRO

Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator, and Erickson discussed how best to display the data in the table.

4. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

5. **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

6. **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 P.M.