

# Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Meeting Summary for April 18, 2022

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## 1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Stephen Gockley called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Caleb Erickson, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Deborah Hawley, Mike Hilley, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Scott Korthuis, Jenn Lockwood, Rhyan Lopez, Jason McGill, Perry Mowery, Eric Petersen, Darlene Peterson, David Reynolds, Tyler Schroeder, Satpal Sidhu, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley, Louise Trapp (for Eric Richey), Bruce Van Glubt, Maialisa Vanyo

Members Absent: Bill Elfo, Seth Fleetwood, David Freeman, Greg Winter

## 2. [Justice Project Needs Assessment \(00:02:34\)](#)

Buchanan and Erickson summarized the topics covered in the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings so far. He said that the discussion groups hosted by the IPRTF committee co-chairs have been extremely valuable in getting SAC members up to speed on the issues the committees are focused on.

Mowery gave an update on the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team and their work on updating the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM).

## 3. [Role of the IPRTF / Law and Justice Council in the Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(SAC\) needs assessment process \(00:10:22\)](#)

Hovenier led the committee members in a discussion of the IPRTF's role in the SAC's work. He explained that SAC members would be making recommendations to the County regarding what a future facility for incarceration and diversion services will look like. After those recommendations are made, the IPRTF acting as the Law and Justice Council, will weigh in on those recommendations. Ideally, the recommendations from the SAC would be largely or unanimously supported by the IPRTF. He asked committee members for any ideas on how to achieve that goal. Committee members discussed this; ideas and topics included:

- A knowledge gap exists within the SAC and the public regarding behavioral health issues and outcomes of those with behavioral health needs in the justice system.
- Community input is essential and we should be getting feedback from the public in general rather than only hearing from those who have a specific interest.
- The importance of using data to help shape the conversation.
- The urgency of this work, as this will be the third time a jail measure has gone to the voters.
- That it is essential to craft a proposal that can be supported by the community and pass.
- Task Force members should be involved in the process whether or not they are SAC members.
- Both crime and inflation are on the rise. This atmosphere will have an impact on this process and its outcome. In that light, the idea that the process should be sped up was introduced, as well as the need to balance the urgency of the situation with the need to create something that the voters will support.

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- The fact that the IPRTF's work is not to decide what can pass with the voters, but rather to inform the process, share knowledge with the SAC, and to comment on the recommendations.
- Communication with the public is essential. The public must be given a clear understanding of the proposal as well as the work that has already been done in order to gain their support.
- We should not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. A perfect solution will not come, so we should focus on making a good proposal that can pass without delay.

#### 4. [Data dissemination proposal \(00:45:15\)](#)

Gockley introduced the topic, summarizing the proposal to consolidate the available data reports and send that information out to Task Force members as well as making it available to the public. Hammill asked about data exchange with the Racial Equity Commission. Erickson said that he hoped to coordinate to the extent possible. Committee members generally agreed that the proposal was a good idea and that access to data was important for Task Force members, the public, and law enforcement.

Korthuis moved that the Task Force adopt the data dissemination proposal, "The Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force will receive periodic data collection reports from any point within the multi-jurisdictional criminal-legal system, along with similar data reports from related service/treatment/support systems within the task force's scope of interest, such as from the Health Department, the North Sound Administrative Services Organization, the state Health Care Authority and DSHS, the Healthy Whatcom collaborative, school districts, and others. Such reports will also be made readily accessible to community members, to the extent allowed by the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, and will be posted and clearly identified on the task force homepage on the County website." Hammill seconded. Members voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

#### 5. [2022 Annual Report to County Council and County Executive \(00:56:30\)](#)

Nixon informed the members that the outline for the report is available to them. She requested that members let her know if there is anything they would like to see on the report that is not already included in the outline.

#### 6. [IPRTF Communications \(00:58:00\)](#)

Buchanan gave an update on the Task Force's work to hire a communication consultant. He reported that they have a proposal from Pyramid Communication that is currently under consideration. Nixon added that the budget proposal and contract are currently being created and will be submitted to the County Council. Feld asked if the vendor was clear that communication needed to be in language that is free from jargon and understandable to the public. Buchanan said that they had talked about that with the vendor and agreed that it was important.

#### 7. [Committee Updates \(1:01:35\)](#)

Buchanan reported on the Steering Committee meeting. He said that most things they talked about had already been covered earlier in the meeting. He added that they had discussed implementation of the

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Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) framework and summarized the conversation around that topic with Gockley's input. Hammill stated the importance of GARE implementation and that the framework should be passed on to the SAC as well.

### **8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **9. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **10. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.