

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., May 16, 2022, Remote-only virtual meeting

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

Link to join Zoom Webinar

Attendees will join the Zoom Webinar without audio or video controls. 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: 810 8680 9433
- Password: 17783

AMENDED 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

1. Call to Order

2. Justice Project Needs Assessment

Update/Barry Buchanan

3. Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program

Update/Malora Christensen and Thomas McAuliffe

4. 2023-2024 Budget 1

Discussion

- Budget needs for IPRTF operations
- Recommendations to Council and Executive for programs, services, expertise, and/or infrastructure

5. Committee Updates

Steering Committee (May 5)	2 – 4
Crisis Stabilization Facility Committee (April 21)	5 – 6
Joint Behavioral Health Committee and Legal and Justice Systems Committee (April 19)	7 – 9
Legal and Justice Systems Committee (May 10)	<i>To be Distributed</i>

6. Washington State Supreme Court’s Racial Justice Consortium Action Plan (tentative)

Presentation/Dr. Damani Johnson

7. Other Business

8. Public Comment

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.

9. 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 jlassite@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio 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 via remote-only Zoom Webinar

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u>	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
Monthly 2 nd or 3 rd Monday 9-11 AM	<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
June 13 July 18 August 15 September 19 October 17 November 14 December 19	May 17 June 14*(11:30-1:00) July 19 August 16 September 20 (11:30-1:00) October 18 November 15 December 13* (11:30-1:00)	June 14 July 12 August 9 September 20* October 11 November 8 December 13	July 21 October 20	June 2 August 4 October 6 December 1	June 2 July 7 August 4 September 8 October 6 November 3 December 8

2023-2024 BUDGET, AS DISCUSSED IN STEERING COMMITTEE

Budget needs for IPRTF operations *(suggestions due end of May)*

1. Meeting space rental
2. Ongoing IPRTF communications
3. Data consultant
 - For the INDEX Committee
 - For the Pretrial Processes Workgroup to validate risk assessment tool
 - To develop a plan for a cross-platform data analysis system

Recommendations to Council and Executive for programs, services, expertise, and/or infrastructure, to be included in the IPRTF 2022 annual report

1. Full time criminal justice system data analyst position with the expertise to evaluate and report on the data, who will:
 - evaluate, monitor, and report on the system
 - develop and maintain a criminal justice data dashboard for public transparency, including the information-gathering infrastructure

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for May 5, 2022

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

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Caleb Erickson, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Satpal Sidhu

Members Absent: None

2. [Update on Justice Project and Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(00:01:28\)](#)

Buchanan reported that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Planning team was meeting weekly and that a second round of co-chair meetings with the Behavioral Health Committee chairs had been initiated. He and Hammill summarized what the upcoming SAC meetings would be focused on and who would be presenting to the group. In response to a question from Parker, Buchanan said that the meetings have had good attendance and enthusiasm from members so far. Feld added that she was encouraged to see that groups that might typically be more resistant to the process seemed to be engaged.

3. [2022 Annual Report \(00:06:50\)](#)

Legislative Coordinator, Jill Nixon, reviewed the draft report with members. She pointed out areas that still needed input from co-chairs. Committee members and Nixon discussed various elements of the report and Nixon's notes on the draft. Several changes were agreed upon and Nixon requested any further desired edits be sent to her. While reviewing the document, members also discussed topics such as number of warrants issued and the merits and drawbacks of low-level cash bail.

4. [GARE Implementation Strategy for the IPRTF \(00:34:30\)](#)

Nixon and committee members went through the list of proposed action items for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) toolkit implementation. Discussion items that came up included:

- The possibility of adding an acknowledgement statement on meeting agendas reflecting a commitment to utilizing the toolkit. It was agreed that the statement could be read aloud or simply appear on the agenda, depending on the wishes of each Committee's chair.
- A distinction between the GARE toolkit and an overall attention to race and equity disparities. The toolkit is a specific set of six questions that the Task Force wants to implement as a template for examination.
- Implementation steps being taken at the County level. Executive Sidhu stated that, in time, the GARE toolkit would be instituted as a permanent change to County code. Gockley responded that he fully supported those efforts, and added that the intent of the committee was to implement the toolkit on the Task Force level before the process to codify it on the County level was completed.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for May 5, 2022

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- Getting Task Force members who are not County employees access to the GARE portal. Nixon reported that steps are being taken to do this, but members would not be able to engage in the interactive elements and would be limited to the Steering Committee at least initially. Gockley suggested further discussion with County staff, saying he would like to see a reconsideration of those limitations.
- Having a Council office staff member review the GARE portal on a regular basis and send out any information that seems relevant to Task Force members.

5. [IPRTF communications contract draft scope of work \(00:54:50\)](#)

Nixon showed committee members the draft Statement of Work for the communications consultant. No members had feedback on the Statement at the time of the meeting.

6. [IPRTF budget for 2023-2024 biennium \(00:57:00\)](#)

Nixon told committee members that requests should be in by the end of May. She clarified that they were not looking at funding for programs, but rather operating funds for the Task Force itself. Members discussed how much they needed to request. They considered needs and factors such as:

- The ongoing needs for ongoing regular communication with the public after the consultant is finished with their work
- Whether or not we have physical space for potential in-person meetings
- Possible consulting or analytic work to implement a cross-platform data analysis system
- The Pre-Trial Processes Workgroup's need for data on the pre-trial risk assessment and enhancing pre-trial services monitoring
- A need for a full-time person to gather data and make regular reports on what is going on in the criminal justice system to provide greater transparency to the public

Buchanan asked Nixon to put this item on the agendas for upcoming committee meetings.

7. [Items for the next IPRTF agenda \(01:12:34\)](#)

Nixon went over the items already slated for the next meeting. She suggested adding a conversation about making a formal recommendation to the County regarding funding for infrastructure, software, and staff to achieve the data needs that were talked about during the budget conversation. Gockley added that as the Law and Justice Council, they could make a recommendation to hire a consultant to help figure out what we need in that regard. Members agreed to add that discussion to the agenda.

8. [Other Business \(01:15:50\)](#)

Buchanan reported that he and Nixon have been discussing the future of Task Force meetings. Nixon summarized the upcoming changes to current Open Public Meeting Act requirements. She said that all members can still participate remotely, but a physical space will need to be provided for the public. She added that their normal in-person space is no longer available. She gave some alternatives that may be viable. Members discussed possible meeting spaces and the idea of having all IPRTF members continue

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for May 5, 2022

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to meet remotely, while providing a space for members of the public to come view meetings. Nixon suggested polling Task Force members at the next full meeting to gauge how many would like to stay remote and how many would like to attend meetings in person. Committee members agreed that a poll should be conducted.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Crisis Stabilization Committee

Meeting Summary for April 21, 2022

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

Members Present: Jack Hovenier, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery

Members Absent: Doug Chadwick, Todd Donovan, Michael McAuley, Tyler Schroeder

A quorum of committee members did not attend. The committee members present discussed the agenda items below.

2. 2022 Annual Report to County Council and County Executive

This item was not discussed

3. Census Data 2022

Mowery gave an update on census and use data for the first quarter

1. Pioneer Human Services / Detox
 - a. Total available bed dates is 1440, 1066 beds actually used = 74 percent use rate
 - b. 409 referrals from various sources
2. Compass Health / mental health stabilization
 - a. Total available bed dates is same, used was 728, 51 percent use rate
 - b. 254 referrals from various sources
 - c. They need to continue to work on improving the use rates above 50 percent

Compass health projects include working on admissions and achieving the 12-hour law enforcement holds certification. Steps to be implemented include:

- They are committed to a no decline program, and accept all clients in crisis
- Incoming referrals receive a brief screening on exclusionary criteria to establish whether a bed is available.
- Target is a 10-minute screening time, which includes a rapid Covid test
- All denials will be reviewed by the manager, nursing supervisor, and leadership.
- Leadership will gather feedback from the community about referrals and admissions
- New streamlined screening process will roll out on May 1, 2022
- Will formally request that community partners contact him directly about any admission challenges
- Expect to see an increase in bed use for the second quarter of 2022

Committee members discussed:

- The possibility of using EMTs at the facility and converting the old facility to a holding or sobering facility. Use the EMTs to oversee people as they sober up.
- Identifying the barriers to a higher use
- Actual bed use and availability vs counting bed days used in the detox unit

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Crisis Stabilization Committee

Meeting Summary for April 21, 2022

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- Improving communications with and from Compass Health so they can use the facility to its maximum potential
- The need to complete data sharing agreements with both vendors

4. Proviso funding for law enforcement 12-hour holds

Compass Health Initiated the application for certification for 12-hour holds.

- There was negotiating with Dept. of Health and the County
- They have worked through the negotiating and hope for a target certification date of May 1.
- They have posted positions needed for certifications to go through
- Need to better educate Bellingham Police Department and Sheriff's Office about what the Compass Health staff can and can't do
- Access to proviso dollars through NS BH-ASO
- With certification, CSC staff still cannot go hands on with a client, but there will be increased consequences if an individual chooses to leave before the 12-hour hold ends

5. Mural project update

Mowery reported that the mural project is complete and described the art. They will include artists names and examples of the artwork in the IPRTF annual report.

6. Role of the committee in developing a behavioral health urgent care facility

This item was held to the next meeting.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Meeting of the Behavioral Health Committee and the Legal and Justice Committee

Meeting Summary for April 19, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Dan Hammill called the meeting to order at 11:32 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Chris Cochran, Bill Elfo, Brian Estes, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Heather Flaherty, Dan Hammill, Deborah Hawley, Mike Hilley, Raylene King, Rhyan Lopez, Jackie Mitchell, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Darlene Peterson, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley, Courtney Taylor, Brien Thane, Louise Trapp (for Eric Richey), Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Doug Chadwick, Seth Fleetwood, David Freeman, Michael G. Smith

Members of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee were invited to attend and participate in this meeting

2. [2022 Annual Report to County Council & County Executive \(00:01:38\)](#)

Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator, told committee members that the list of topics to be included in the report is available to them in their packet. She instructed them to send any additions or changes to her.

3. [Update on the Sequential Intercept Service Inventory and Reentry Services \(held from March meeting\) \(00:04:20\)](#)

Items three and four on the agenda were combined into one discussion.

Parker gave an overview of what the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) is and what the update process is looking like. Mowery provided an explanation of the work his Behavioral Health Gap Analysis group is doing to update the SIM as well as a timeline of expected completion.

Committee members added additional background information about how the SIM is formulated and what services are included for the benefit of Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) members who were in attendance.

Discussion ensued between committee members and SAC members. Participants spoke on topics including:

- Estes said that his organization, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Washington, is working to form a Clubhouse International model in the area, which might help to address some of the programs that are identified as needed but not yet in existence.
- Brel Froebe, SAC member, asked if the SIM would be available for review before the update is complete. Mowery said that he could make the current version available with the understanding that it is a working document.
- The definition of re-entry services, when those services might be offered, and the importance of those services to prevent recidivism.
- Where programs are or should be physically located. Members discussed the benefits and drawbacks of housing services within a justice center compared to elsewhere in the community.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Meeting of the Behavioral Health Committee and the Legal and Justice Committee

Meeting Summary for April 19, 2022

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- What treatments are currently provided at the jail. Mitchell reported that they are very limited in terms of space and are not able to provide as much as they would like.
- Re-entry protocols for treatment centers, including admittance to treatment for competency restoration and the next steps after restoration is complete.
 - Jason Smith, SAC member and public defense contractor, described the difference between substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and competency restoration. Vanyo and Jones expanded on the competency restoration process and the delays that often occur.
- Jones stated that expediting the steps post-competency restoration would be very beneficial so that individuals don't decompensate and have to start the process again. King pointed out the hinderances to this, which had previously been identified by Vanyo.
- Individuals charged with a misdemeanor are not subject to the Trueblood decision so competency restoration takes longer. They are also more likely to be in the community instead of in jail awaiting trial. Due to the extended timeline and other factors, King described the creation of a revolving door effect that often ends in individuals committing higher level crimes and ending up in jail or Western State Hospital.
- The restoration process is extremely confusing, overwhelming, and traumatizing for those in the system, especially if they are experiencing mental health issues.
- Mowery and Mitchell summarized the new Response Systems Division and the work that the Recovery Navigators will be doing.

Gaps in services identified included:

- Navigators who work between systems and can identify gaps.
- Smith said that he would see a benefit in having an on staff social worker on his team in the offices of public defenders. These employees would be able to coordinate with clients and guide them to available services. Taylor agreed that the public defense system needs more social workers and mental health professionals.
- Options to pursue recovery outside of incarceration systems.
- Inequalities regarding gender and justice. King reported that the Administrative Office of the Courts had a lot of information and resources on this subject.
 - Accurate and complete data collection is key
 - There is a need for childcare for justice-involved individuals
 - Civil attorneys need to be available for those without access to one, for example domestic violence victims with children
- Barriers to free services. Not all individuals may know what services are available to them, whether they are incarcerated or not. They also may not have transportation to access those services.
- Navigators to provide a warm hand-off during re-entry. These are needed for both those with mental health issues and those without.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Meeting of the Behavioral Health Committee and the Legal and Justice Committee

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- Skill development. Job training for incarcerated individuals. Lopez brought up the Sustainability in Prisons program.
- Delayed treatment is poor treatment. We need more staff and beds should be available at all times.

Suggested action proposed included:

- Surveying the national landscape of re-entry navigation to see what program models have shown to be effective elsewhere. Members discussed how programs from other jurisdictions across the country are researched and the usefulness of basing local programs on other successful models.
- Research on efficacy of mandated programming. SAC member Brel Froebe asked if requiring participation in services as a condition of sentencing or release would be effective. Committee members discussed this in terms of effectiveness and legality.
- Looking at diversity, equity, and inclusion issues currently effecting systems of incarceration. Progress already made and in process were discussed.
- Improving food at the jail which could have an impact on overall health of incarcerated people.
- Looking into “jail without walls” model, such as an outpatient boot camp-type program as an option for some offenders.
- Presentations to the SAC are needed to further explain the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. [Public Comment \(01:26:43\)](#)

Joy Gilfilen of the Restorative Community Coalition spoke on the importance of prevention and the work her coalition has been doing to study issues related to incarceration prevention and reduction. She also spoke to the need for community input especially from those who interact with the system. She encouraged committee members to look at the documents she recently submitted to the Task Force.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 P.M.