

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., September 19, 2022. Hybrid meeting

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

Meeting Participation Information

Meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend via Zoom webinar using the join link below or in person at the County Council office located at 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105. All committee members will participate remotely via Zoom. Zoom attendees will join the meeting without audio or video controls. The 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: 870 2571 9201

Password: 17783

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. IPRTF Public Communications with Pyramid Communications

Introduction

- Sakara Remmu, Founder & Principle Strategist, Temple Water Consulting
- Emily Goetz, SVP, Client Services & Operations, Pyramid Communications
- John Hoyt, Founding Partner, Pyramid Communications

3. Justice Project Needs Assessment

Update/Stephen Gockley and Jack Hovenier

4. Options for obtaining additional jail bed space

Update/Sheriff's Office

5. Racial Equity Implementation Strategy for the IPRTF

Update/ Stephen Gockley & Mike Parker

6. Competency Restoration Workgroup

Update/TBD

7. Committee Updates

Steering Committee (Sept. 9)	1 – 2
Behavioral Health Committee (Aug. 16)	3 – 4

8. Other Business

9. 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.

10. 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 in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend meetings via Zoom webinar or in person at the County Council office, 311 Grand Ave Suite 105, Bellingham.

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u>	COMMITTEES				
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
October 17 November 14 December 19	September 20 (11:30-1:00) October 18 November 15 December 13* (11:30-1:00)	September 20* October 11 November 8 December 13	October 20	October 6 December 1	October 6 November 3 December 8

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for September 8, 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 11:04 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Caleb Erickson, Arlene Feld, Jack Hovenier, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker

Members Absent: Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Raylene King, Tyler Schroeder

2. [Justice Project and Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(01:06\)](#)

Buchanan reported that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) will soon be holding their fifth meeting, which will focus on facilities planning. He also stated that the inmate survey and a survey of SAC members had both recently been completed. A survey for corrections staff will be completed soon. Feld asked if they could go to other counties who have recently built new jails to get information on budgeting. Buchanan replied that he is working on collaborating with officials from Spokane County, who have recently completed a jail project.

3. [Racial Equity Implementation Strategy for the IPRTF \(06:17\)](#)

Parker reported on the progress that the group working on implementation of the Racial Equity Toolkit has made so far. He said that they were working on recruiting more people with lived experience to help work on further recommendations as an ad-hoc committee. He asked for feedback on the idea of doing an “all call” at the next full Task Force meeting in order to publicize the efforts at recruitment of diverse members for that group. Members discussed and agreed to put the item on the agenda for the next Task Force. Parker added that he and others had met with Executive Sidhu and his staff about the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE) and that the Executive had written a letter to GARE to try and address the issues with access for Task Force members. His office will also help to facilitate demonstrating GARE resources to members.

4. [IPRTF Updated Sequential Intercept Service Inventory Needs & Gaps \(14:50\)](#)

Mowery reported that his group was focusing on the needs and gaps identified within the Community Behavioral Health Services category. He gave an update on the status and the progress being made on the first need/gap they identified, which was the need to increase access to mental health and substance use disorder assessments on demand with no waiting:

- His department has sent out a questionnaire to providers in order to find out their current structure, contact people, and capacity.
- They are considering using funding for on demand assessments for individuals released from jail.
- Parker asked about targeted interventions and if a request for proposals for on demand assessments could be exclusive to those who have been involved in the criminal justice system. Mowery discussed how the funding works and stated that they think it may be a possibility to specifically target those individuals.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

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5. [Year-End Report \(24:43\)](#)

Jackie Lassiter, Legislative Clerk, shared the draft year end report with committee members. She asked them to approve the timeline proposed for developing and submitting the report and went over the suggested topics for each section. Committee members gave feedback and suggestions where needed and approved of the overall timeline and structure of the report.

6. [Items for the next Task Force Agenda \(42:48\)](#)

Buchanan stated that the presentation by Pyramid Communications would be a brief introduction. Lassiter reported that the racial equity implementation strategy and the contract to use the Snohomish County Jail were also on the agenda. Members suggested adding the discussion of the jail to the standing item for the Justice Project update and adding an update on the Competency Restoration Workgroup.

7. [Other Business \(45:24\)](#)

Buchanan gave an update on the Competency Restoration Workgroup. The workgroup has had their initial meeting and Buchanan and Mowery have met to plan the next meeting. The group would like to work with other jurisdictions to elevate the issue to the state level.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 A.M.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for August 16, 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 Daniel Hammill called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Brian Estes, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Mike Hilley, Perry Mowery, Michael G. Smith, Donnell Tanksley

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Doug Chadwick, Arlene Feld, Seth Fleetwood, Heather Flaherty, Jenn Lockwood, Mike Parker, Courtney Taylor, Brien Thane

2. [Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team \(BHGAT\) Needs and Gaps \(00:01:00\)](#)

Mowery gave an overview of the status of the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) as updated by the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team (BHGAT). The Steering Committee was tasked at the last meeting of the IPRTF with reviewing the needs and gaps document and the addendum to analyze what resources may be needed to implement solutions to fill the gaps. He summarized the documents he referenced, which were included in the meeting packet.

Estes asked if the document takes into account plans for another treatment facility at Maplewood, adding that he understood that there was funding secured at the state level. Mowery replied that he was not fully familiar with the project, but that the document can be updated as needed. Committee members discussed the status of the planned facility and the services it may offer.

Mowery read from the Community Facilities and Services page of the document and explained the needs/gaps in more detail. Committee members discussed the needs/gaps and the resources needed to implement recommendations. Main points included:

- Workforce issues among providers
- What services are available in the area and who is providing those services. A document that outlines the services available would be helpful to use as a quick reference guide.
- The possibility of the Task Force taking a more active roll and meeting with providers in order to make sure the funds available are being used as efficiently as possible to address the needs/gaps. The Response System Division already has relationships with the providers and meet with them regularly.
- Hammill proposed an agenda item for the next meeting in which law enforcement and the Response Systems Division could go over scenario-based training and the steps involved in referring individuals to various programs.
- The importance of the public understanding the co-responder models that are being implemented.

3. [Local fentanyl use trends \(00:45:03\)](#)

Hammill briefly summarized the Blake decision and its effects on street drug use and law enforcement's response to it. He stated that police can hand someone a business card with a recovery hotline and he does not believe that is sufficient, especially given the potency and lethal nature of fentanyl.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Behavioral Health Committee

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Hilley gave an overview from an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) perspective of what the situation with fentanyl use is currently. He shared a report that summarizes overdose data throughout the state. He went through each page of the report, pointing out some of the most relevant statistics

Hilley added that they just received a grant to add two Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) classes aimed towards communities that may not have traditionally been interested in becoming an EMT. There will be modules on fentanyl use and mental health in the new classes.

Hilley announced that Jeremy Morton, data specialist, is moving to the Health Department Informatics Team, which may create an opportunity to integrate data such as that found in the report to create an accessible information exchange in the County.

Mowery recommend a book, "The Least of Us" by Sam Quinones, which details the rise of fentanyl use.

Hammill asked Hilley for clarification on what fentanyl strips are. Hilley responded that some states distribute testing strips to drug users so that they can test their drugs for fentanyl.

Gockley asked about a drug called "tranq" that he has heard is being mixed in with other drugs. Hilley said that they have not seen that yet as far as he knows. Smith said that tranq is often mixed with PCP, and it has the effect of making people "stuck" and zombie-like. He said that it is probably happening here but may not be reported. Committee members continued to discuss drug mixtures.

In regards to fentanyl strips, Mitchell added that they can also be used by drug users to ensure that fentanyl is in their substance or to increase their tolerance.

Hammill brought up enforcement issues and harm reduction at the street level. He also mentioned property crime associated with drug use and the increase of folks going in to stores and walking out with large amounts of products.

Smith discussed the cultural lens through which to view drug use.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:38 A.M.