



*Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention
and Reduction Task Force*

2020 Annual Report

June 2020

2020 TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Maia Vanyo

Chief Deputy, Whatcom County Public Defender

Travis Brockie

Lummi Nation

Barry Buchanan

Whatcom County Council

Anne Deacon

Human Services Manager, Whatcom County Health Department

Mike Hilley

Fire District 14 Chief / Whatcom County EMS Manager

David Doll

Police Chief, City of Bellingham

Bill Elfo

Whatcom County Sheriff

Arlene Feld

Citizen Representative

Heather Flaherty

Citizen Representative

Deborra Garrett

Superior Court Judge

Stephen Gockley, Co-Chair

Co-Chair; Health and Social Services Representative

Daniel Hammill

Council Member, City of Bellingham

Deborah Hawley

Consumer Representative

Jack Hovenier, Co-Chair

Co-Chair; Consumer Representative

Raylene King

Blaine Court Administrator

Scott Korthuis

Mayor, City of Lynden

Seth Fleetwood

Mayor, City of Bellingham

Byron Manering

Executive Director, Brigid Collins

Moonwater

Executive Director, Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center

Eric Richey

Whatcom County Prosecuting Attorney

Darlene Peterson

Court Administrator, Bellingham Municipal Court

Eric Petersen

Washington State Department of Corrections

Dave Reynolds

Whatcom County Superior Court Administrator

Tyler Schroeder

Whatcom County Deputy Executive Representative

Kevin Turner

Police Chief, City of Ferndale

Bruce Van Glubt

Whatcom County District Court

Greg Winter

Executive Director, Opportunity Council

NOTE: DUE TO STATE AND LOCAL RESTRICTIONS AGAINST CONVENING MEETINGS NOT RELATED TO COVID-19 RESPONSE, THIS REPORT HAS NOT BEEN OFFICIALLY APPROVED BY THE FULL INCARCERATION PREVENTION AND REDUCTION TASK FORCE.

I. Task Force Efforts

PURPOSE. Whatcom County Code 2.46 requires the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force to submit reports to the County Council and County Executive twice per year. The Task Force submitted its most recent report on February 11, 2020.

The Task Force's annual written report to the County Council and County Executive is due no later than June 30th each year. However, the Task Force and its committees have not met or conducted any business since early March due to the emerging COVID-19 (2019 Novel Coronavirus) pandemic and the subsequent proclamations from the Governor to declare a statewide emergency and impose restrictions on public meetings and events. In addition, lifting these meeting restrictions will likely not occur in time for the Task Force to return to business and develop an annual plan by the June 30th deadline.

Although the Task Force has not met, its participating agencies and organizations continue to move forward with incarceration reduction and prevention efforts. For example, the Crisis Stabilization Facility is scheduled to open at the end of September. The Brigid Collins Family Support Center is moving forward with its Parent First Incarceration Prevention Pilot Project working with families impacted by parental incarceration.

When restrictions are lifted and the Task Force is once again able to conduct business, it will take some time to rebuild momentum and achieve reportable accomplishments. The Task Force will strive to develop and submit a report to the County Council and Executive as information about the work of the Task Force becomes available.

Recommendations

At this time, the Task Force has no recommendations regarding the items required by WCC 2.46.090:

- ***Outcomes of Existing Programs***
- ***New Programs in Other Communities***
- ***Recommendations for Changes or Additional Programs***

Whatcom County Code 2.46.090 Reporting

The task force will provide at least two updates per year to the county council and executive. One of the two reports will be an annual written report presented no later than June 30th of each year, and will provide recommendations to the county council and executive on outcomes of existing incarceration prevention and reduction programs throughout Whatcom County, new innovative programs being used in other communities, and recommendations for changes or additional programs.