

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee**

DRAFT Meeting Summary for August 20, 2020

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was a remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Anne Deacon, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Mike Parker, Tyler Schroeder

Members Absent: None

2. Review Task Force direction on priorities

The committee members reviewed priorities discussed at the July 23 Steering Committee meeting and discussed the need for a racial equity toolkit, data, and statistics.

- Distinguish between the IPRTF's use of a toolkit for its work and making a recommendation to the County Council and administration on their use of a racial equity toolkit.
- Equity training for IPRTF members
- Each committee should discuss possible racial equity toolkits
- Blaine Police Chief Tanksley has offered to provide racial equity training
- Advocate at State and federal levels for concrete reform to systems and accountability

The committee discussed the status of the INDEX Committee. Schroeder stated schedule the next meeting mid-September, focus on:

- Next steps
- Racial and ethnicity data; Ethnicity data is not being captured in the FBI database
- Update for the Steering Committee on data currently being collected throughout the county
- The vendors for the new Crisis Stabilization Center should also be tracking racial and ethnic data.

(Schroeder left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.)

The committee continued to discuss how to get more involvement from persons of color and people who are involved in the criminal justice system, possibly through amending the membership of the Task Force.

Hammill moved to recommend to the full Task Force that all IPRTF and its committees begin with an introductory land acknowledgment statement that acknowledges occupation of tribal lands. The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously, with Schroeder absent.

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Committee members continued to discuss strategies for being more inclusive, achieving better diversity and participation, and hearing from those with lived experience.

(Hovenier left the meeting at 11:32 a.m.)

3. First Feedback on Race and Justice Listening Sessions

Committee members continued from the previous conversation to discuss achieving diversity and inclusivity; get input on how to ensure other voices feel safe enough to participate; potentially include the Task Force in listening sessions;

Deacon, Buchanan, Gockley, and Feld volunteered to review the Task Force's enabling ordinance to see if there are positions that can contribute multiple areas of expertise and consider how best to achieve better diversity and inclusivity.

Hamill reported on the listening sessions hosted by the County Executive and Bellingham Mayor. Some of the feedback he heard include:

- Agencies, including the Task Force, need to do a better job communicating what they're doing
- People don't see themselves reflected in the community agencies. Hiring practices need to be improved
- Listening is important, but action is necessary
- Defund the police and put the money into behavioral health services

Gockley stated he also heard feedback in the sessions that there is a distrust of law enforcement, government, government processes, and social systems meant to treat underlying issues. As much as possible, extract law enforcement from processes whenever possible, such as how 9-1-1 calls are routed.

The committee members discussed responding to the feedback from the listening sessions. Create a Task Force bulletin that goes out to the community. They need to consider whether the Task Force will need a budget from the upcoming biennium, possibly to develop a marketing strategy.

4. Full Task Force meeting schedule

The committee discussed the momentum of the full Task Force.

Buchanan moved to recommend that the Task Force to consider returning to a monthly meeting schedule. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously, with Schroeder and Hovenier absent.

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5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

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