

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for March 4, 2021**

Note: Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however YouTube links may change. Links will not be updated. Please refer to time notation on each agenda item.

1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

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

Members Absent: Barry Buchanan,

2. [Annual report to County Council and Executive \(00:01:37\)](#)

The committee concurred to follow the schedule in developing the report and to post final report on the Whatcom Responds County website:

JUNE BI-ANNUAL WRITTEN REPORT SCHEDULE:

March/April:	Steering Committee suggests content and structure of annual report
March/April Committees:	Develop content for annual report
April/May Committees:	Final approval of committee report
June 3:	Steering Committee final review and edits
June 14:	IPRTF final approval
June 30:	Submit to County

Parker stated he would work on a section regarding the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE).

The committee members discussed including:

- A report from each committee, including impacts to programs, staff, and funding due to Covid, which may be causing delays in past goals, such as impacts to Health Department staff, availability of treatment services, and changes to data points.
- New members in the Behavioral Health Committee
- Long term goals from the Steering Committee
- A new phase for the Task Force
- Recognize the number of new partnerships that have flowed through work of the Task Force

A discussion of report content will be added to the agendas for the Legal and Justice Systems, Behavioral Health, and Crisis Stabilization March meetings

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3. [How to quantify the reduction of prevention and incarceration from new programs \(00:26:16\)](#)

Gockley reported on a discussion in the Legal and Justice Systems Committee regarding electronic home monitoring and diversion programs. They need to create reports for programs, similar to the reports from Bellingham Court Administrator Darlene Peterson, to quantify all the changes made over the years. Also, they need to communicate better about accomplishments to the broader community.

The committee discussed formally requesting that the County tracks racial and ethnicity attributes of individuals in the criminal justice system; data sources throughout the entire criminal justice system, not just the jail; make INDEX Committee be a starting point and keeper of information across the entire criminal justice system; information systems that can pull together information from different sources; detailed data for system users vs general data for the public; data accuracy; list of priority groups and agencies that the IPRTF reports to about its work; creating a steering committee workgroup to develop action items for better communication; partnering with Western Washington University to study the data; using national data when appropriate; using existing contractors to enhance communication; identifying outputs of prevention efforts, not outcomes; professional consultation on the level of information to collect and platforms to distribute the information; create a list of programs and their purpose; using Health Department prevention specialists to help consult on communication; in addition to data, communicate anecdotes from program successes; identify who to inform about what the IPRTF is doing the message the IPRTF wants to convey, and; engaging advocates for change located in Whatcom County.

4. [Reviewing Proposed State Legislation \(01:06:00\)](#)

Hammill reported that its still early in the legislative session. When bills are through the committees, he will review the successful bills and bring them to Steering Committee to discuss advocating.

The committee discussed creating a process for discussing legislation, working on getting operational funding for the Crisis Stabilization Center, and the process for the IPRTF to make policy recommendations to various officials.

This item will be scheduled at the next meeting.

5. [Agenda Items Scheduled for upcoming Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force \(01:18:16\)](#)

The committee members discussed agenda items. Include a tentative agenda item for Anne Deacon if needed, to present a motion that the IPRTF will work with Council on submitting a letter of support for the legislative proviso to fund operations at the Crisis Stabilization Center.

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6. Other Business (00:49:34)

The committee discussed operationalizing implementation of the GARE toolkit:

1. Look at who is at the table. They have more work to do on inclusion, including communication.
2. Have someone on each committee be a point person to take on GARE for the committee.

(01:27:31) Future changes due to Covid, such as continuing Zoom meetings for IPRTF and courts. Ask the committees and, if warranted, the full Task Force.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.