

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for April 13, 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 Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley, Doug Chadwick (proxy for Bill Elfo), Perry Mowery (proxy for Jackie Mitchell)

Members Absent: Bill Elfo, Deborah Hawley, Jackie Mitchell, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

2. [Committee's Annual Plan \(00:01:07\)](#)

The Committee members discussed the content of items in the committee annual plan, including:

- Items to focus on in the upcoming year should include reentry and domestic violence offender treatment programs
- Gockley will work with the Judges to develop content regarding pretrial services and the risk assessment
- Recovery house for Drug Court and how it should be included within the annual report
- Separating the pretrial services narrative based on municipal, district, and superior courts
- Including presentations and discussions that have occurred in past years regarding reentry
- Include domestic violence offender treatment, including history of requirements, funding, and program availability, in the Next Steps section
- As a next step, get an update on the status of law enforcement's behavioral health officers
- Keep the concept of restorative justice alive on the task list as a standalone concept

3. [Identify agenda items for the May joint meeting with Behavioral Health Committee \(00:39:27\)](#)

The committee members discussed agenda items for the joint meeting with the Behavioral Health Committee in May. Agenda items already include reentry and behavioral health crisis response expansion. Committee members discussed:

- Law enforcement perspective on a co-responder program
- Co-responder programs in other communities
- Negotiating concerns about safety of responders and long response times with community demand for unarmed response
- Include on the May agenda an update on involuntary admissions at the crisis stabilization center, including law enforcement and emergency medical services drop-off

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4. Other Business (01:06:10)

King reported on the communications strategy for the IPR Task Force.

Jill Nixon, County Council Office, reported on the discussion at the IPRTF Steering Committee on next steps in developing a communications strategy and on the County Council resolution to form an ad hoc committee to review and enhance opportunities for public participation with Whatcom County government.

The committee members discussed having qualified communications support to help message key focus areas and activities, and pushing that information out to partner agencies; format of the Whatcom County Traffic Safety Commission question-and-answer responses in their 'Rules of The Road' series in the Bellingham Herald;

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.