

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for May 6, 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.

Call to Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the County Council Conference Room, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

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

Members Absent: Caleb Erickson, Raylene King, Tyler Schroeder

1. [Items for next Task Force agenda \(00:00:56\)](#)

Committee members concurred on scheduling the following agenda items:

- Update on behavioral health crisis response
- Update on development of the Racial Equity Commission and a community visioning summit scheduled on May 22
- An in-depth discussion of the INDEX Committee at the June Steering Committee and Task Force meetings; have an introduction on the issue at the May Task Force meeting
- The Rising Strong Pregnant and Parenting Women program should be scheduled at the Behavioral Health Committee before the Task Force
- At the May Task Force meeting, show the video on the County website about the Crisis Stabilization Center

Committee members discussed Rising Strong, a proposed new program for pregnant and parenting women, the impact of new programs on behavioral health funding, and the need to strategize and prioritize new program proposals.

2. [Update on status of Annual Report \(00:54:06\)](#)

Jill Nixon, Task Force clerk, reported on the status of the draft annual report to the County Council and County Executive. Committee members discussed:

- In the Next Steps-Reentry section, the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee oversees quite a few local dollars that provide some reentry services
- Domestic violence offender treatment, including whether the state treatment protocol and modality are effective, concerns about local government dollars funding this program, and the need to treat offenders for an effective domestic violence prevention program
- Incorporating suggested amendments submitted by Ms. Deacon
- Removing a section on Shelter+Care vouchers from the Behavioral Health Committee section and to the Task Force in Transition section

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee
Meeting Summary for May 6, 2021***

- Remove the content regarding the Acadia Health Services substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, because it has not been before the Behavioral Health Committee or Task Force

3. [INDEX Committee \(00:41:00\)](#)

Gockley and Hovenier reported on a discussion with the chair of the INDEX Committee, Barry Buchanan, and Jill Nixon to address challenges facing the INDEX Committee, including:

- The lack of ability to collate the data across all the different case management systems in the criminal justice system
- Some stakeholders have not or may not be able to share their data
- New data systems coming online in the next 12 to 24 months
- The possibility of contracting with a consultant expert to optimizing the INDEX Committee's work output and efficiency
- Whether the Task Force needs to reconsider the purpose and/or membership of the INDEX Committee
- The need for the Task Force, as the policy arm of the INDEX Committee, to provide direction to the technical group, in light of the current challenges
- The need for transparent race and ethnicity data in all systems, to implement the racial equity toolkit and understand the demographics of those in the behavioral health and criminal justice systems

4. [IPRTF Strategic Plan](#)

This item was not discussed.

5. [Communications Strategy](#)

This item was not discussed.

6. [The America Rescue Plan Act](#)

This item was not discussed

7. [Should the IPRTF join Government Alliance on Race and Equity \(GARE\)](#)

This item was not discussed.

8. [Other Business](#)

There was no other business.

9. [Public Comment](#)

***Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Steering Committee***
Meeting Summary for May 6, 2021

There were no public comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.