

# Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for August 12, 2021

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## 1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held via 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. [Attorney General information on police reform legislation \(00:48:25\)](#)

Committee members discussed the Attorney General memo:

- Whether the memo could help the Task Force through the policing issues
- Get feedback on the memo from law enforcement;
- The possibility of bringing it to the full Task Force as the Law and Justice Council at the September meeting
- Outstanding questions that the memo doesn't address
- Frame the conversation at the IPRTF meeting to just disseminate information
- The Task Force being limited in what it can do on this issue
- Invite Representatives Ramel and Shewmake to the next IPRTF meeting, to provide their background of what was developed
- Regarding the response to mental health calls, the information about what law enforcement can and can't do isn't held in one place, and there may need to be definitive documentation about the commitment at this point in time
- In the IPRTF discussion, allow new and local information only in the discussion, and information that needs to be shared across all stakeholders
- IPRTF discussion of this item as the Law and Justice Council

## 3. [IPRTF Communications \(01:03:30\)](#)

Jill Nixon, Council Office Legislative Coordinator, updated the committee on the draft scope of work for a communications strategy consultant and requested information on a potential budget.

The committee members discussed:

- Recent communication efforts in other departments
- Whether they need ongoing work from a consultant
- The goal of the scope of work: specific communications campaigns vs an ongoing communication strategy
- Look at the annual report sequential intercept model for important topics
- Next steps include
  - Ask subcommittees to define specific communication messages for a campaign, including one thing they've done and one area they will concentrate on in the next year, and bring those suggestions back to Steering Committee.
- Who would implement an ongoing communication strategy

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### 4. [Amendment to the IPR Task Force Rules of Procedure for purpose of decision-making \(01:29:02\)](#)

Hovenier reported on the need to be clear in the Rules of Procedure about whether any formal action would be approved by a majority of the total membership or a majority of the members present at a meeting.

Committee members discussed:

- The impact of vote abstentions
- The requirement from courts to abstain to maintain impartiality
- The possibility of creating a mechanism for someone to abstain that would not count as a “no” vote
- Definition of a quorum

The committee members concurred to present to the full Task Force a proposed bylaw amendment that formal action would be approved by a 51 percent of a quorum, not a majority of all members.

This item will be held to the next Steering Committee.

### 5. **Agenda items for September 20 IPR Task Force**

See discussion of the other agenda items.

### 6. [Government Alliance on Racial Equity \(GARE\) Membership \(00:01:23\)](#)

Gordon Goodwin, presented information on the program, including:

- There are 320 member-jurisdictions, including counties, cities, regional governments, and independent government departments
- GARE is a movement of racial equity practitioners who work in government
- Focus of the work is around normalization aspects, such as this meeting’s land acknowledgment statement
- How jurisdictions begin to do the work of change, such as looking at data for those who are at-risk and/or underserved
- Root cause analysis of the data will show the barriers to government services, including fines and fees and complaint-based systems, so that the everyday experience of those experiencing inequity shows up in their analysis
- They must involve those closest to the problem through their input and insight to get a better solution
- Normalize conversations about race so they can have a shared set of understanding and terminology
- Organize and operationalize use of racial equity tools and analysis and action plans that are incorporated into other planning, such as budget and land use planning
- The focus of their work is on those who are working within government and racial equity practitioners
- Support network is peer-based, includes workshops, and brings together those in the network to exchange information about what is working and not working and what they’re trying
- Use of America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies to rethink how they do policing, how they begin to work further upstream, and how to engage other systems that would prevent incarceration, such as investments in small businesses and determining what jurisdictions can do to support minority- and women-owned businesses

Goodwin and the committee members discussed specific subject matter cohorts available through GARE, such as finance or criminal justice; evidence-based data collection in policy formation, evaluation, and accountability; GARE partners ArcGIS Data and Maps (formerly Esri Data & Maps) working to develop cross-platform data

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collaboration systems; local data services organization, and; the MacArthur Foundation work that will live in GARE as a cohort to track indicators of certain services, such as diversion.

Recommendations for development of the local Racial Equity Commission includes:

- Create a timeline of jurisdictional issues with racial inequity and racial equity to document what happened in the past, to create a community education opportunity
- The Commission can make suggestions about how government and other institutions might be able to explore the things it needs to do to acknowledge what happened, which is important for atonement, and then start having a conversation about what they are prepared to do to make things better for the future
- Acknowledge, atone, and make things better
- Give the Commission time to put together a workplan that includes a learning opportunity for the public

Goodwin and the committee members continued to discuss:

- The City of Bellingham proposed resolution declaring racism a public health risk
- Changing zoning regulations, including housing
- Public education on Native American history and current problems
- Making clear the connections between past relationships and current circumstances
- How history is often told from the perspective from the “survivor” or “winner” and there is often more than one side of it

Goodwin spoke about how the County, as a member of GARE, would advance their goals. GARE is redesigning its program now, and their services are under review. For moving forward, they will have increased and more intensive levels of exchange across the network. This will include increased resources brought to the network through the GARE member portal, published multiple times per month. There is an open platform for exchanging information about resources. They will be tracking the interests discussed in the network to engage a special level of exchange, including issue-specific working groups. The redesign process will occur through the end of the year. The annual membership meeting is the most significant exchange of information.

### **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.