

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Joint Behavioral Health and Legal and Justice Systems Committees

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., September 14, 2021, Remote-only virtual meeting

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the County Council Office at least 96 hours in advance.

Link to join Zoom Webinar

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85213522143?pwd=QmRoNVZFNVZleXpCdWt6Ry9vWlIPdz09>

Attendees will join the Zoom Webinar without audio or video controls. Webinar Host will invite attendees to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting

- Call in phone number: (253) 215-8782
- Webinar ID: 852 1352 2143
- Password: 17783

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Before we begin, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo People who have cared for and tended this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

Packet Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Domestic Violence Offender Treatment 1 – 5
Discussion/Legal and Justice Systems Committee Co-Chairs

3. Juvenile Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment N/A
Presentation & Discussion/Chris Cochran, Bellingham School District

4. Recommendations for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding 6 – 9
Discuss & Approve Letter/Heather Flaherty

5. Behavioral Health Provider Ride-Along with Law Enforcement N/A
Discussion/Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff

6. Task Force Communications N/A
Committee Co-Chairs: Referred to committees by Steering Committee

- Action: Identify 2-5 targeted public relations and communication key messages regarding past, current, or future Task Force initiatives

7. Other Business

8. Public Comment

1. If you would like to speak, virtually “raise your hand.”
 - a. Online: select the Raise Hand icon
 - b. Phone: Press *9
2. When called upon to speak, unmute your microphone. Inform the Webinar Host if you would like to enable your video during your comments.
3. Please state your full name for the record.
4. Staff will disable your microphone when you are done speaking.

9. Adjourn

Meeting summary of the previous meetings are included at the end of the packet for information only. Committee members may suggest changes and/or corrections to a draft summary to jnixon@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Visit the [Task Force website meeting calendar](#) for the most up-to-date meeting schedule

At this time, all meetings are held via remote-only Zoom Webinar

IPR TASK FORCE	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEE	LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS COMMITTEE	CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY COMMITTEE	INDEX COMMITTEE	STEERING COMMITTEE
Monthly on various Mondays 9-11 AM	Monthly, 3rd Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	Monthly, 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	Bi-monthly, 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	Bi-monthly, 1 st Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	Various Thursdays 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
September 20 October 18 November 15 December 13	October 19 November 16 December 14 (Joint)	October 12 November 9 December 14 (Joint)	September 16 November 18	November 4	October 7 November 4 December 2

Count of Cases with Case DV Flag = Yes Filed in Whatcom County Courts of Limited Jurisdiction in 2020 and 2021 YTD.

	2020	2021	Sum:
BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL COURT	297	170	467
BLAINE MUNICIPAL COURT	29	15	44
EVERSON-NOOKSACK MUNICIPAL COURT	14	9	23
FERNDALE MUNICIPAL COURT	49	45	94
LYNDEN MUNICIPAL COURT	20	21	41
SUMAS MUNICIPAL COURT	7	4	11
WHATCOM COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	322	154	476
Sum:	738	418	1156

From County Prosecutor:

2020 Domestic Violence

total number of filed cases: 451
 290 in district court
 161 in superior court
 76 no actions
 56 event numbers were combined with one of the 451 filed cases
 24 remaining pending DV cases from 2020 with no charging decision made yet.

2021 Domestic Violence

Total number of filed cases as of 9/8/21: 286
 152 in district court
 134 in superior court
 32 no actions
 32 event numbers were combined with one of the 286 filed cases
 51 remaining pending DV cases from 2021 with no charging decision made yet.

From Darlene Peterson:

The City of Bellingham had:

331 DV cases filed in 2019
 288 DV cases filed in 2020
 179 DV cases filed in 2021 thru August

Count of Charges with Charge DV Flag = Yes Filed in Whatcom County Courts of Limited Jurisdiction in 2020 and 2021 YTD

			2020	2021	Sum:
BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL COURT	10.14.120	VIO OF ANTI-HARASSMENT ORDER	2	1	3
	10.14.170	VIOLTN OF CIVIL ANTI-HARASS ORDER		1	1
	10.99.040	NO CONTACT ORDER VIOLATION	12	3	15
	26.50.110.1	NO CONTACT/PROTECTION ORDER VIOL	139	69	208
	26.50.110.1.A	NO CONTACT/PROTECT ORDR VIO ATTEMPT	1		1
	26.50.110.1A2	NO CONTACT/PROTECT RES,WRKPLCE,DAYC		1	1
	26.50.110.1A3	NO CONTACT/PROTECT DISTANCE VIOL	1		1
	9.41.270	DISPLAYING WEAPON	1		1
	9.61.230.1	TELEPHONE HARASSMENT	1	2	3
	9A.36.041.2	ASSAULT 4TH DEGREE	139	85	224
	9A.36.050	RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT	4	2	6
	9A.36.150	INTERFER W/REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOL	6	3	9
	9A.46.020.1	HARASSMENT	9	5	14
	9A.46.080	VIO ORDER RESTRICTING CONTACT	2	1	3
	9A.46.110.1	STALKING- GROSS MISD	10	2	12
	9A.48.090	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3	49	31	80
	9A.48.090.1A	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3 PHYSICAL DMAGE	2		2
	9A.52.070	CRIMINAL TRESPASS-1ST DEGREE	2	1	3
	9A.52.080	CRIMINAL TRESPASS-2ND DEGREE	2	3	5
	9A.52.100.1	VEHICLE PROWLING 2ND DEGREE	2	1	3
	9A.56.050	THEFT 3	3	1	4
	9A.84.030	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1		1
	BMC 10.24.010.A	DISORDERLY-ABUSIVE LANGUAGE	2		2
BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL COURT		Sum:	390	212	602

BLAINE MUNICIPAL COURT	26.50.110.1	NO CONTACT/PROTECTION ORDER VIOL	4	4	8
	9A.36.041.2	ASSAULT 4TH DEGREE	4		4
	9A.36.150	INTERFER W/REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOL		1	1
	9A.46.020.1	HARASSMENT	1		1
	9A.46.110.1	STALKING- GROSS MISD	1		1
	9A.48.090	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3		1	1
	9A.52.080.1	CRIMINAL TRESPASS SECOND DEGREE	1		1
	9A.56.050	THEFT 3	1		1
	BNM9.12.040	ASSAULT DV	11	3	14
	BNM9.12.040DV	ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	3	3	6
	BNM9.12.070	RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT		1	1
	BNM9.12.130	VIOL OF PROTECTION ORDER	2	3	5
	BNM9.20.130	HARRASSMENT	1		1
	BNM9.24.200A	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF UNDER \$50	2		2
	BNM9.24.200B	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF OVER \$50	2	1	3
BLAINE MUNICIPAL COURT		Sum:	33	17	50

EVERSON-NOOKSACK MUNICIPAL COURT	26.50.110.1	NO CONTACT/PROTECTION ORDER VIOL	5	2	7
	9A.36.041.2	ASSAULT 4TH DEGREE	8	7	15
	9A.36.050	RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT	2		2
	9A.36.150	INTERFER W/REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOL	1		1
	9A.46.020.1	HARASSMENT	1		1
	9A.46.080	VIO ORDER RESTRICTING CONTACT	1		1
	9A.48.090	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3	1		1
EVERSON-NOOKSACK MUNICIPAL COURT		Sum:	19	9	28

FERNDALE MUNICIPAL COURT	26.50.110.1	NO CONTACT/PROTECTION ORDER VIOL	16	14	30
	26.50.110.1A2	NO CONTACT/PROTECT RES,WRKPLCE,DAYC		1	1
	9.05.040	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF	1		1
	9.61.260	CYBERSTALKING		1	1
	9A.36.041.2	ASSAULT 4TH DEGREE	31	25	56
	9A.36.150	INTERFER W/REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOL	1	2	3
	9A.46.020.1	HARASSMENT	1		1
	9A.46.020.2A	HARASSMENT	1		1
	9A.48.090	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3	9	4	13
	9A.56.050	THEFT 3	2	1	3
FERNDALE MUNICIPAL COURT		Sum:	62	48	110

LYNDEN MUNICIPAL COURT	26.50.110.1	NO CONTACT/PROTECTION ORDER VIOL	2	2	4
	26.50.110.1A3	NO CONTACT/PROTECT DISTANCE VIOL		1	1
	9A.36.041.2	ASSAULT 4TH DEGREE	16	14	30
	9A.36.150	INTERFER W/REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOL	1		1
	9A.46.020.1	HARASSMENT	1	1	2
	9A.46.080	VIO ORDER RESTRICTING CONTACT		3	3
	9A.48.090	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3	3	1	4
	9A.48.090.1A	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3 PHYSICAL DMAGE		2	2
LYNDEN MUNICIPAL COURT		Sum:	23	24	47

SUMAS MUNICIPAL COURT	26.50.110.1	NO CONTACT/PROTECTION ORDER VIOL	1	1	2
	9A.36.041.2	ASSAULT 4TH DEGREE	5	3	8
	9A.48.090.1A	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3 PHYSICAL DMAGE	1		1
SUMAS MUNICIPAL COURT		Sum:	7	4	11

WHATCOM COUNTY DISTRICT COURT	10.14.120	VIO OF ANTI-HARASSMENT ORDER		2	2
	10.14.170	VIOLTN OF CIVIL ANTI-HARASS ORDER	16		16
	26.50.110.1	NO CONTACT/PROTECTION ORDER VIOL	115	57	172
	26.50.110.1A1	NO CONTACT/PROTECT RESTRAINT VIO	3		3
	26.50.110.1A2	NO CONTACT/PROTECT RES,WRKPLCE,DAYC	7		7
	46.52.020	HIT AND RUN ATTENDED VEHICLE	1		1
	9.61.230.1	TELEPHONE HARASSMENT	4		4
	9A.36.041.2	ASSAULT 4TH DEGREE	141	74	215
	9A.36.041.3.A	ASSAULT 4TH DEG PRIOR DV ATTEMPT	1		1
	9A.36.050	RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT	5	1	6
	9A.36.150	INTERFER W/REPORTING DOMESTIC VIOL	8	4	12
	9A.46.020.1	HARASSMENT	8	5	13
	9A.46.020.2A	HARASSMENT	2	3	5
	9A.46.040	VIO OF HARASSMENT NO CONTACT ORDER	2	2	4
	9A.46.080	VIO ORDER RESTRICTING CONTACT		2	2
	9A.46.110.1	STALKING- GROSS MISD	1		1
	9A.48.090	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3	13	8	21
	9A.48.090.1A	MALICIOUS MISCHIEF-3 PHYSICAL DMAGE	3	2	5
	9A.52.070	CRIMINAL TRESPASS-1ST DEGREE	5	2	7
	9A.52.080	CRIMINAL TRESPASS-2ND DEGREE		1	1
	9A.52.080.1	CRIMINAL TRESPASS SECOND DEGREE	1		1
	9A.56.050	THEFT 3	1	1	2
	9A.84.030	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1		1
	9A.86.010.7A	DISCLOSING INTIMATE IMAGES	1	1	2
WHATCOM COUNTY DISTRICT COURT		Sum:	339	165	504
		Sum:	873	479	1352

September 7, 2021

To: Whatcom County Executive Satpal Sidhu and Whatcom County Council Members

The Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Taskforce (IPRTF) was asked to develop recommendations for Whatcom County Executive Sidhu and Whatcom County Council to consider regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) investments. We recognize the landscape for these decisions is complex and want to share our perspective on some of the issues that continue to come up as barriers or gaps in services and that are preventing our community from realizing some of our goals around incarceration prevention and reduction. The following are four priority areas that we support broad investment in – through the use of ARPA dollars and/or with other resources:

1. **Behavioral Health Workforce**
2. **Pre-trial and Re-entry support**
3. **24/7 Mental Health Urgent Care**
4. **Supported and Transitional Housing**

The goal of the taskforce is to prevent and reduce incarceration – bringing leaders from across the sectors needed to work together to build systems to achieve that goal. One role of the IPRTF is to focus on building up the system of diversion and treatment to assist with the complex overlap of behavioral health issues within the criminal justice system. Taskforce members see how untreated behavioral health issues and trauma can lead to someone’s involvement with the legal system, and if left untreated, can lead to cycles of recidivism.

ARPA funds provide a one-time opportunity to make investments in creating systems of care across Whatcom County. Whatcom County sees a high and unmet need for treatment and mental health support, and this has been exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic – not only for all the children, families, and individuals who need support – but for the workforce who is providing support. **The IPRTF supports Whatcom County government’s desire to use ARPA sustainably, as start-up funds, capital dollars, or catalytic investments in programs that can build sustainability over-time.** Additionally, we request that Whatcom County explore how the recent passing of HB1406, HB1590, the current Behavioral Health Fund, and the additional Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grants and Community Mental Health Services Block Grants can provide sustainable and ongoing support for one-time ARPA investments.

Behavioral Health Workforce

Problem: Repeatedly treatment providers, community-based organizations, and skilled professionals are saying that a lack of people going into the Behavioral Health and support services workforce presents a significant challenge in the ability to provide adequate care and to meet demand. Though it will take layered strategies to see a shift in this, there are things that can be done locally to accompany state, philanthropic, nonprofit, and higher-ed efforts. Anecdotally, one local mental health service provider has seen over 100 vacancies unfilled in recent months. Salaries are not commensurate to training and education requirements, the job itself is stressful and taxing at times, and with the cost of living and housing prices in Whatcom County rising, it is hard to recruit and retain adequate talent.

Opportunities:

- Evaluate the possibility of implementing hiring and retention bonuses for frontline behavioral health positions
- Support and develop workforce bridge strategies, such as apprenticeships for laypeople with proper supervision and tuition assistance.
- Ensure programs have the depth and breadth of clinicians to maintain favorable staff to patient ratios and quality outcomes.
- Advocate for strategies to increase industry salaries – whether through philanthropy, reimbursement rates, working with the Health Care Authority and Center for Medicaid
- Provide relocation support for those moving to the area. (It can cost \$10,000+ to move across the country for example).
- Invest in organizations working on long-term strategies and develop strategic relationships and partnerships to advance this goal.

Pre-Trial and Re-Entry Support

Problem: The Criminal Justice system exists to ensure public safety, accountability and consequences for actions that harm others, and to allow for correction and rehabilitation for individuals who have committed crimes. The COVID-19 pandemic has stalled the processing of individuals through the system but has also demonstrated some progress in incarceration reduction through the constraints put on jail bookings. There is an opportunity to set individuals up for success during the extremely vulnerable times of pre-trial and re-entry. Ensuring the pre-trial services and re-entry supports are robustly staffed and provided enhanced training to serve this population is an opportunity to keep people from recidivating or from having to enter the jail.

Opportunities:

- Invest in staffing and capacity for Pre-Trial and Re-Entry services.
- Provide trainings and ongoing education in how to be trauma-informed; best practices and evidence-based approaches; and diversity, equity, and inclusion for probation, pre-trial, law enforcement, and re-entry specialists
- Hire specialized Navigators/Case-Managers whose role would be to support individuals through all aspects of the criminal justice system – from arrest to re-entry – with the mind-set of re-entry from the very beginning.

24/7 Mental Health Emergency Center

Problem: With legislative reforms making significant impact on local law enforcement's ability to respond to calls and provide support, and with a treatment and diversion system working to scale up and needing investments, there is nowhere for individuals to go on their own accord, or for mental health professionals to refer to in a moment of crisis.

Opportunity: Use ARPA dollars to build a Mental Health Urgent Care program – this could be a 24/7 facility open to the public for anyone who is in a mental health crisis to access and be provided care, treatment, support, and referrals that are needed. This would be different than the Crisis Stabilization Center in that services would be broader and accessible to anyone in the community. We recognize much research and exploration of this model would need to be done and are including this as a high priority based on input from Emergency Medical Services and community members who have experience going through the currently available system. Example:

[Behavioral Health Urgent Care, Providence.](#)

Supported and Transitional Housing

Problem: The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many individuals losing their incomes, jobs, and even their housing. There are some supported housing programs for individuals who need additional case-management support when they are working through mental health or substance use disorders. There is not a continuum of support however, and when individuals “graduate” from these programs, they are often left without help or resource at an exceedingly vulnerable time.

Opportunities:

- Invest in and develop a continuum of supported housing, including recovery-oriented step-down programs to help participants who are transitioning from needing a high level of support but who aren't ready for zero support.
- Use ARPA dollars to acquire properties (like the newly established Recovery House) designated for re-entry support or graduated supports – this also helps remove a barrier for those with a criminal record as many traditional landlords will not rent to individuals who have been convicted of a crime, and this can lead to despair, homelessness, and recidivism.
- Build in a spectrum of programming that meets people where they physically are with access to supports, therapies, and job training. Example: [White Feather Re-Entry, Tacoma, WA](#)

Additional Priorities

Knowing that the Whatcom County Executive and Council are seeking input from a number of community groups, the IPRTF would like to also express support for investments in strategies and programs that support child and family success, as the science shows that early childhood experiences can have dramatic impacts on whether someone ends up on a trajectory of success, or one that leads to poverty, homelessness, substance use disorders, behavioral health disorders, or incarceration. **Youth mental health supports and making sure families have the resources and care they need as the community transitions out of the pandemic is a high priority when it comes to upstream prevention efforts as they relate to the IPRTF and its goals. There IPRTF would like to emphasize this priority and highlight the lack of resources and supports for youth in Whatcom County.**

The IPRTF would like to also **underscore the importance of investing in data and where possible, using ARPA funds to build the infrastructure and connectivity between databases and systems to allow for meaningful analysis of the criminal justice system.** As a community, it is impossible to know if improvements have been made or if investments saw a return if there is not an ability to measure, utilize, and analyze data.

Support and Partnership

The Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Taskforce is optimistic and hopeful about the work ahead to create meaningful and successful pathways of diversion for our some of our most vulnerable and hard-to-serve community members. We offer our support and partnership in advancing this vision and are at the ready to serve and support the development and implementation of these strategies. We recognize that there is much need and more to do, and we believe these issues have been impacted and made worse by the pandemic and are cornerstone opportunities to make a considerable difference in Whatcom County.

ARPA Fund Investments and Recommendations from the Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the IPRTF
DRAFT Letter for IPRTF review

It is the understanding that ARPA funds may be allocated broadly within the scope of the following five categories (italicized categories directly connected to Behavioral Health priorities):

Supporting public health expenditures by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, *behavioral healthcare*, and certain public health and safety staff.

Addressing *negative economic impacts caused by the pandemic*, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector.

Replacing lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic.

Providing premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to “those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors.”

Investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and expanding access to broadband internet.

DRAFT

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for August 17, 2021

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Dan Hammill called the meeting to at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Nathan Bajema, Doug Chadwick, Chris Cochran, Anne Deacon, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Byron Manering, Michael G. Smith, Brien Thane

Members Absent: Megan Ballew, Arlene Feld, Seth Fleetwood, Mike Hilley, Mike Parker

2. [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) Fund Investments and Recommendations \(00:34:22\)](#)

Flaherty reported on the request from the County administration to help create priorities for ARPA funding and on the workgroup that drafted the letter in the meeting packet. The goal is to revisit the proposed letter today and recommend sending it to the Task Force for approval to send to the County Council and Executive.

The committee discussed:

- The possibility of a 24/7 mental health emergency center and using ARPA dollars to support a behavioral health urgent care facility or a center to help people who may be falling through the cracks
- Program sustainability and long-term funding after ARPA funds are spent; suggesting one-time investments
- Leveraging other funding sources
- Highlighting the lack of resources for youth
- Recovery house models: investing in the homes and leasing the homes to community services
- Funding from the City of Bellingham
- Dedicated units for the Shelter+Care Program
- Providing options for how to spend the funding without being prescriptive

3. [2021 Committee Priorities \(00:01:09\)](#)

Deacon spoke about the work of the Health Department with the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization (ASO) on workforce issues. It's an ongoing issue. They're looking at wages, incentivizing tuition, and other ways to get people interested in the program. Locally, they are working with providers. The concern is about overloading or over-investing in one aspect of the continuum of care, so that the rest of the continuum becomes unbalanced.

The committee members discussed how communities are trying to address the challenges with behavioral health response, such as the Ground level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program; how well law enforcement is using the new crisis stabilization center; diversion using the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) and Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) programs; challenges in providing response and care due to recent State legislation; the involuntary hold status of the crisis stabilization center; the advisory committee for the center, and; the long-term expectation of involuntary treatment certification as part of the lease agreement.

Hammill reported on the Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE) representative's presentation to the Steering Committee. He will endeavor to make sure they apply the toolkit to each priority item. The committee discussed the need for data on programs to apply the toolkit.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Behavioral Health Committee

Meeting Summary for August 17, 2021

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

Hammill stated that Chris Cochran will provide additional information on item G, Juvenile substance use disorder (SUD) treatment at an upcoming meeting. The committee discussed whether it should be discussed jointly with the Legal and Justice Systems Committee. Get the Legal and Justice System Committee's opinion on the new laws impact on juvenile SUD.

The committee continued to discuss:

- Change in behavioral response calls and having dedicated mental health professionals ride along with law enforcement. It's difficult to get alternative resources in the field in a timely manner. The Sheriff's Office would advocate for that if there is grant funding.
- Program effectiveness, the core charge of the Task Force to evaluate programs, and getting data from programs. Any program the County has includes reporting outcomes. There is a need to do more reporting to the Task Force.
- Barriers to crisis treatment, including Covid testing, and the need for services for folks who are in crisis and need help, but don't meet the requirements for the crisis stabilization center.

4. [Agenda Items for September joint meeting with Legal & Justice Systems Committee \(01:11:42\)](#)

The committee discussed the items proposed for the joint meeting in September.

1. From the Legal and Justice Systems Committee: Domestic Violence Offender Treatment.
2. From today's meeting: Juvenile SUD
3. From today's meeting: the proposed ARPA funding letter
4. From today's meeting: behavioral health ride-along with law enforcement
5. From the Steering Committee: Task Force Communications - Identify 2-5 targeted public relations and communication messages regarding past, current, or future Task Force initiatives

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. [Public Comment \(01:15:25\)](#)

Mark Gardner, City of Bellingham Legislative Analyst, spoke on the timeline for ARPA funding.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Legal and Justice Systems Committee

Meeting Summary for August 10, 2021

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

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Eric Richey, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Bill Elfo, David Freeman, Deborah Hawley, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson

2. [Domestic violence offender treatment \(00:48\)](#)

Amie Roberts, DSHS, reported on the State effort to revise the WAC for offender treatment and gave a presentation on the process for developing the new program; the research they reviewed when creating the new WAC; efficacy of treatment and progressive treatment levels; core treatment standards; the importance of group treatment, and; cost of treatment varies by provider.

Roberts and the Committee members discussed availability of individual therapy; training treatment providers; providers working with courts and probation officers; whether DSHS has worked with HCA or Medicaid plans to provide payment for this service; treatment programs that are specific to a particular culture and/or language; what the committee can recommend to the full Task Force, such as funding; qualified workforce shortage; comparison with other types of treatment; impact on the need for treatment and number of providers from the Covid pandemic; nationally-recognized best practices for domestic violence treatment; domestic violence assessments and whether there are screening factors that suggest someone should be referred to other types of behavioral health treatment before domestic violence treatment; new police reform laws and victim safety; courts that are specific to domestic violence, and; number of domestic violence cases in Whatcom County.

3. External communication and engagement

There were no suggestions or discussion.

4. [America Rescue Plan Act funding: How can ARPA dollars support public health programs and public health data systems with a criminal justice aspect \(45:23\)](#)

Task Force members discussed the possibility of making a recommendation for domestic violence treatment, including funding for the workforce and gathering data on how the pandemic has impacted domestic violence and mental health treatment.

5. [Other Business \(49:00\)](#)

Task Force members discussed getting input on the committee from juvenile court, juvenile court trends, and focus on treatment.

Agenda items for September joint meeting with Behavioral Health Committee

There were no suggestions for agenda topics for the September joint meeting.

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal and Justice Systems Committee**

Meeting Summary for August 10, 2021

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

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.