

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for September 9, 2021

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

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

Members Absent: Tyler Schroeder

2. [Rules of Procedure \(00:01:46\)](#)

Hovenier reported on the proposed amendment to amend the rules of procedure to define operational rules on voting.

The committee members suggested changes to the proposed amendments and discussed the types of motions that may require a two-thirds majority of the vote; the impact of Task Force members who don't vote due to their positions; definitions of the entire membership and quorum of members; the process for making parliamentary decisions during a meeting; including in the rules of procedure a list of the motions that require a two-thirds majority for approval;

This item was held in committee.

3. [Next steps for INDEX Committee and data development \(00:25:54\)](#)

Erickson discussed the status of the Information Needs and Data Exchange (INDEX) Committee. They need to:

- determine the direction the INDEX Committee will go and its next steps
- understand recent State legislation and changes that impact law enforcement activity
- look at a higher level of data and the data available across all criminal justice systems, not just what's in the Sheriff's Office database

The committee members discussed:

- Getting all agencies to share information
- Asking for guidance from Dr. Alexes Harris at the next full Task Force meeting on how to navigate the silos of data
- The need for real-time data from the courts
- Reporting data in a way that's consumable and useable
- The possibility of having the new Crisis Stabilization Center being a pilot program for the State
- Hire someone in the short term to set up a structure for how they gather data
- The current software system used by the GRACE, LEAD, and EMS programs, Julota, can provide information on who has been diverted from arrest and incarceration
- New case management software systems coming online for several agencies over the next few months and years
- Finding a data aggregator that will work with all the agencies' case management systems
- Consulting with James Austin, JFA Institute, on how to move forward
- Ensuring data transparency to rebuild trust with the community as a way to implement the racial equity toolkit

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- Presenting a budget recommendation to the County Council for a communications consultant and data analyst in time for the upcoming budget discussions
- The possibility of using America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to create a data repository
- Hire a contractor to look at all the data collection systems they have and design a template that would define the data they need to collect to show outcomes and provide guidance if they aren't achieving outcomes
- They need a place for central collection of the data
- A communications consultant could help them decide what data the public really wants to know about
- Determining what other jurisdictions have done to address data challenges
- Look at data across all jurisdictions around the county
- Someone could work full-time on data analysis across the entire system in all jurisdictions
- Getting guidance from Jeremy Morton, the EMS data analyst, on the data they need to collect and how to collect it
- Put forward a provisional motion at the September Task Force meeting to endorse moving forward on hiring someone to set up the systems

Buchanan will meet with Tyler Schroeder to discuss next steps and the possibility of hiring a data system design consultant and the possibility of hiring someone full-time for data analysis in our criminal justice system, possibly using ARPA funds.

4. [IPRTF Public Communications \(01:06:05\)](#)

Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator, reported on the latest draft of the consultant scope of work.

The committee members discussed the process for selecting the 3-5 initiatives for the consultant to work on. The committees could suggest items, and the Steering Committee would select the ideas at a future date

The committee members approved by consent the draft scope of work and asked that it be included in the agenda packet for the September Task Force meeting.

5. [Items for the next Task Force Agenda \(01:11:17\)](#)

Nixon reported on confirmation of attendance from Dr. Harris and Representatives Ramel and Shewmake.

The committee members discussed the upcoming agenda, including allowing Dr. Harris's presentation to be first on the agenda; how to structure the Task Force conversation with the Representatives on State legislation; hearing from the legislators about their intent with the legislation; getting a response from law enforcement on the current state of information, and; current call volumes to behavioral health services.

6. [Other Business \(01:17:38\)](#)

Deacon reported on her recommendation to continue the Crisis Stabilization Facility Committee going forward, meeting once per quarter, for the purpose of:

- Addressing the possibility of working with Roger Goodman at the State legislature on the proposed pilot program
- Keeping the focus on getting the facility certified as an involuntary triage program

She recommended that Perry Mowery serve as her replacement on the Task Force and its committees.

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Committee members thanked Ms. Deacon for all her work on the Task Force and with Whatcom County.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.