

# Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for October 7, 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 Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

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

Members Absent: Tyler Schroeder

## 2. [Items for the next Task Force Agenda \(00:01:07\)](#)

Committee members discussed potential agenda items for the next agenda:

- Next steps of ARPA funding, including a navigator
- Data available in Whatcom County and how it informs the work of the Task Force
- Recommendations for legislative fixes to the police reform legislation, for October or November Task Force meeting
- Status of the alternate response team (ART), for December Task Force meeting
- Discussion about possible support of new jail or new criminal justice efforts
- Behavioral Health workforce, for November Task Force meeting

Committee members also discussed how to take advantage of Dr. Alexes Harris's offer of assistance; the need to gather data on who is and isn't going to jail; the status of the alternate response team implementation; restarting the Council's public health, safety, and justice initiative; the need for a more robust behavioral health specialist workforce; expectations for continuing the conversation at the Task Force about data needs and information exchange; the need for a statistical analyst for INDEX Committee, and; status of IPRTF public communications.

## 3. [Rules of Procedure \(01:06:22\)](#)

Hovenier stated he will bring forward the proposed rule changes as shown in the packet to the full Task Force. The committee concurred.

## 4. [End of year/New Year Report to Council \(01:08:37\)](#)

Steering committee members concurred for the committee co-chairs to submit 3-4 topics from their committee that they have been working on and what is coming up in 2022. Jill Nixon will compile those items into a draft report for the November Steering Committee meeting.

## 5. [Future of the Crisis Stabilization Facility Committee \(01:13:40\)](#)

Hovenier stated the issue is the role of the committee going forward and if it should exist.

Committee members discussed reviewing designated America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, planning for a 24/7 urgent care center, the existing advisory committee for the Center, getting and evaluating performance data, and meeting quarterly.

## 6. [Next Steps for INDEX Committee and Data Development \(00:30:23\)](#)

*(See discussion of this item under Agenda Item 2.)*

## **Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee**

Meeting Summary for October 7, 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.*

---

Committee members discussed data that potentially may be skewed, and inconsistency of data reporting in the field; engaging Dr. Alexes Harris to help construct and optimize local data collection; the need to define what they want to know and be specific about the questions they're asking; whether data entry is standardized in the criminal justice system; have a discussion about the specific questions they want to ask Dr. Harris; data on the Ground-level Response and Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) programs; impacts on drug court from the Covid pandemic and the Blake decision; the need for a full-time data analyst at the County, and; asking Dr. Harris about potential grant funds to put toward improving data collection.

### **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **9. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.