

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Legal and Justice Systems Committee

Meeting Summary for November 9, 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 11:33 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Moonwater, Eric Richey, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Darlene Peterson, Flo Simon, Donnell Tanksley

2. [Task Force Communications \(00:01:06\)](#)

Committee members discussed:

- Increasing the frequency of joint meetings with Behavioral Health Committee and will continue to interact productively in 2022
- Opening of the new Crisis Stabilization Center
- The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program
- Setting goals and targeting specific audiences
- Evaluating the success of communications campaign
- Social service connections made on the Task Force
- Home detention as a jail alternative
- Mental health deputy program
- Available and digestible statistics and dashboard for the public to see
- More data to present information to the community regularly
- The accuracy of data over the last couple of years due to artificial influences such as the pandemic and court backlog
- Building a stronger behavioral health crisis response, despite systemic barriers
- Integrating data systems
- Describe the artificial numbers from the jail due to the Covid pandemic ,court backlog, construction, Blake decision, and other factors, and what they need to do in 2022
- Identifying workforce and data issues and barriers and work to overcome those barriers in 2022
- Anticipate and respond to the issues important to the community in the moment
- Educate the public on how they can respond and participate in the process
- Make sure the communications person is hearing from and following the values of the community and meeting people where they are at
- How they are responding to concerns about public safety and invest in systems of care
- Where the government dollars are going, which is related to the data
- Have an accessible dashboard about the data they already have
- Recovery House
- Review the existing reports on activities and goals to prioritize the tasks accomplished and the goals
- Be transparent about achievements, the current landscape, and future goals
- Educate about the work being done
- Community understanding that people are coming together with shared values to address the issues about which the community cares

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3. [Domestic Violence Offender Treatment \(00:28:32\)](#)

Van Glubt reported on the possibility of approaching existing substance use disorder programs to gauge if they are interested in developing a domestic violence offender treatment program. The Health Department staff will gauge their interest. One agency is currently looking into the process and evaluating the statutes to become certified. A provider in Eastern Washington is interested in a local contract. Services would be provided remotely.

Mitchell reported that agencies have reported they don't have enough space or staff.

Feld reported on information from Joe Valentine regarding funding:

- Funding for domestic violence offender treatment is available via grants and various departments
- If specialized treatment is being provided by a domestic violence agency, then it would not be covered by Medicaid or state behavioral health funds
- If service is provided by a licensed behavioral health agency and the individual is receiving Medicaid, then it is covered
- The State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) provides grants for domestic violence prevention and treatment services
- Other grant sources for domestic violence prevention and treatment services are through a State program called GrantWatch

Committee members discussed the types of treatment provided to offenders, people referred to domestic violence treatment who are Medicaid recipients, whether mental health treatment providers would consider domestic violence treatment as part of their services, the appropriate agency that would apply for grants for individual treatment, whether American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds could be used for this purpose, and recommending to the Task Force that the County administration pursue grant funding for treatment services.

4. [Reentry: Status and Next Steps \(00:43:34\)](#)

Mitchell reported that Compass Health has cancelled its contract to provide behavioral health reentry services in the jail. They may be able to get two clinicians within the contract they are negotiating with Lifeline Connections.

Committee members discussed:

- Recidivism from habitual offenders
- Space constraints in the jail
- Reentry work that occurs outside of jail through social service organizations
- The Task Force recommendation to the County Council and Executive regarding ARPA funding included a priority on reentry
- Look at the systems of support available to people
- Training for everyone in the system to keep reentry success in mind
- Court provisions for release conditions
- Reentry services for all, not just those who have behavioral health services
- The need for a reentry navigator that is outside the criminal legal system
- Reaching out to Goodwill Industries on the status of their services
- Middlesex, Boston success with court and reentry navigators

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5. Status of Law Enforcement Drop-Off at Crisis Stabilization Center

This item was not discussed.

6. Agenda Items for December Joint Meeting with Behavioral Health Committee

This item was not discussed.

7. [Other Business \(00:59:27\)](#)

King spoke on upcoming agenda items that include review of their meeting length and a presentation on the Middlesex, Boston program success with court and reentry navigators.

8. [Public Comment \(01:00:09\)](#)

Mark Gardner spoke in support of producing a dashboard of jail data and information that includes a narrative to explain the current situations and trends.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.