

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for March 10, 2022

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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, Caleb Erickson, Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Tyler Schroeder

Members Absent: None

2. [Update on Justice Project and Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(01:02\)](#)

Buchanan told committee members that they are preparing for the second Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting, which will be focused on data. He added that SAC members are invited to observe upcoming IPRTF committee meetings. IPRTF committee co-chairs will also be holding meetings with SAC members during which they can ask questions.

County Executive, Satpal Sidhu, commented that the notion amongst community members that the problems with the jail are the responsibility of the Sheriff are misguided and that it is the responsibility of the County to provide adequate facilities. He went on to say that the County needs to provide acceptable conditions for corrections staff to work as well as housing for those who need to be in jail.

Committee members discussed Executive Sidhu's comments including:

- What level of decision-making power the Sheriff holds, where responsibility for the facility lies, and the perception of the public on those topics;
- The SAC's responsibility to communicate to the public clearly the need for a new facility and new services;
- The Sheriff's willingness to support various solutions to the issues with the jail;
- How effective communication can be and the need for the community to be engaged;
- Which aspects of the court system are currently jeopardized by the condition of the jail and the resulting frustration of judges and court employees;
- The need to frame the discussion around creating a comprehensive system, of which the jail is one piece but is not the main focus;
- The working conditions for the staff who work in the jail and the importance of advocacy for the staff as well as those who are incarcerated;
- The interconnectedness of these issues – the point was made that these decisions will affect everyone involved in the criminal justice system;
- Progress that is already being made in terms of services, including the upcoming start of the Alternative Response Team pilot program;
- The importance of those programs and the changes in the criminal justice system that they herald.

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3. [GARE Implementation Strategy for the IPRTF \(32:32\)](#)

Hammill kicked off the conversation on the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), saying that it is a mistake to not utilize GARE. He said that the Task Force should be implementing the toolkit when making policy recommendations and taking advantage of the trainings, workshops, etc. offered. He went on to say that decision making should be done through a racial equity lens and suggested that they should start that practice at the next joint meeting. He also emphasized the importance of data to help understand and measure any racial disproportionalities.

Gockley proposed that the Committee ask Legislative Coordinator, Jill Nixon, to put together a grid of the six tool kit questions and that those questions be answered before the group makes decisions or recommendations. That analysis would then be part of the record of the Task Force.

Nixon and committee members discussed exactly when this framework would be used, given that the Task Force does not make official recommendations very often.

Committee members discussed challenges associated with data collection and analysis through a racial lens. Topic brought up included:

- Challenges arising because of discrepancies between what people self-report their race to be compared to what race someone else may assume them to be;
- The need for more specific guidance on how to use GARE as a lens in data collection;
- Data points that could potentially be missing because some offenders are not being arrested because officers know that they won't be able to do anything with them and some aren't being booked because of space at the jail;
- Inaccurate data related to gender if a person's gender identity changes;

Gockley clarified that he was looking more broadly at this time and was focused on implementing GARE on a process level rather than a data level. He added that adopting the GARE lens would start to drive the data needs in a direction of racial equity.

Hammill said that he doesn't want to focus on the ultimate output of the Task Force work since there are relatively few official recommendations, but he wants to apply the toolkit to the discussions they were having in committees and the recommendations those committees made to the full Task Force.

Buchanan asked that Nixon create a matrix that can be used for the County Council and other County departments in addition to the IPRTF.

Gockley asked the committee members to give consensus to use the framework. Committee members gave their assent via head nods.

Nixon clarified that those members with County e-mail addresses can access the GARE portal, but the other members would not have a mechanism to sign up for access.

Hovenier said he wanted to be cautious about the Task Force implementing GARE on its own if the County will be implementing it and could share their work on implementation with the Task Force.

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Gockley replied that he agreed that the Task Force should not disregard the work the County is doing, but the County's work to implement GARE could take many months and he thinks the Task Force should get started on it as soon as possible.

Parker said that one of the benefits of GARE was the membership and the cohorts that they offered. He suggested that access to those groups could be valuable.

Mowery suggested that they add a reference to the GARE lens at the beginning of certain meetings, akin to the land acknowledgment statement.

4. [Updating the Sequential Intercept \(01:04:05\)](#)

Mowery said that he has not yet taken the sequential intercept model (SIM) to his service providers, but that he had assembled a Behavioral Health Team for the Justice Project. He reported that the team is meeting to review the SIM soon.

King said that the pre-trial services group from the SIM hasn't given a report recently, though they show up in the "systems in place" intercept. She says she was unsure if they had any data to report and to whom they should be reporting.

Nixon said that she did not hear back from committees last time she asked them to e-mail her ideas on updates to the SIM and that she believes time will have to be dedicated to the topic in a meeting. She asked if this is something they should task the committees with or if the whole Task Force should brainstorm as a group. Buchanan responded that he expected updates to the SIM to come from the gap analysis conducted by the Behavioral Health Team for the Justice Project.

Hamill pointed out that a large number of members would be at the joint meeting on March 15th and that may be a good opportunity to ask a lot of committee members at once for update ideas. He also asked if they wanted to expand the SIM to include intercepts further upstream, such as preventative measures implemented before intercept zero.

Buchanan said that he would like to incorporate more upstream work, but acknowledged the need to establish parameters on that.

Parker pointed out that they already have an intercept zero to talk about upstream work. He also asked if the groups doing the gap analysis had significantly different membership from the IPRTF, pointing out that updates from the IPRTF may not be needed if the groups were largely the same. Mowery replied with the names of the members of his group and described the work they are tasked with now and in the future.

Parker suggested that Mowery's group do an initial update to the SIM first and then bring the updated document to the IPRTF for any further changes needed.

In regards to how far upstream they wanted to take the analysis, Nixon pointed out that there is a statement on the project proposal form that outlines a framework for considering preventative measures.

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Hammill said that he could see the upstream work going very far upstream and emphasized the need to put boundaries on that. He added that he thinks Mowery's Behavioral Health Team for the Justice Project would be the best group to analyze the updates to the SIM and that Mowery should be the one to present on it to the IPRTF.

Feld commented that the community is very interested in prevention and that there was state-level legislation being proposed to increase the number of school counselors. She said the next step would be increasing availability of family counseling. She added that all these programs matter and contribute to the web of services available. She said that she is in favor of supporting the largest amount of services possible, though she understands the complexity of adding so many things to the SIM.

Gockley emphasized the importance of gap analysis and pointed out that services we didn't think would be important at the time of the creation of the SIM are now very important.

5. [2022 Annual Report to Council and Executive \(01:24:20\)](#)

Nixon told members that she would be scheduling an agenda item on each committee to start planning what they want included in their committee reports within the annual report.

6. [Items for the next Task Force Agenda \(01:25:44\)](#)

Items suggested for the next Task Force meeting included:

- GARE – how to formulate a process for implementation
- The sequential intercept model – presentation and brainstorm on updates
- Legislative update – possible presentation from state legislators and from County elected officials such as Sheriff Elfo or Prosecutor Richey
- Incorporating SAC members into committee meetings and/or regular Task Force meetings

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.