

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for May 5, 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, Satpal Sidhu

Members Absent: None

2. [Update on Justice Project and Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(00:01:28\)](#)

Buchanan reported that the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Planning team was meeting weekly and that a second round of co-chair meetings with the Behavioral Health Committee chairs had been initiated. He and Hammill summarized what the upcoming SAC meetings would be focused on and who would be presenting to the group. In response to a question from Parker, Buchanan said that the meetings have had good attendance and enthusiasm from members so far. Feld added that she was encouraged to see that groups that might typically be more resistant to the process seemed to be engaged.

3. [2022 Annual Report \(00:06:50\)](#)

Legislative Coordinator, Jill Nixon, reviewed the draft report with members. She pointed out areas that still needed input from co-chairs. Committee members and Nixon discussed various elements of the report and Nixon's notes on the draft. Several changes were agreed upon and Nixon requested any further desired edits be sent to her. While reviewing the document, members also discussed topics such as number of warrants issued and the merits and drawbacks of low-level cash bail.

4. [GARE Implementation Strategy for the IPRTF \(00:34:30\)](#)

Nixon and committee members went through the list of proposed action items for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) toolkit implementation. Discussion items that came up included:

- The possibility of adding an acknowledgement statement on meeting agendas reflecting a commitment to utilizing the toolkit. It was agreed that the statement could be read aloud or simply appear on the agenda, depending on the wishes of each Committee's chair.
- A distinction between the GARE toolkit and an overall attention to race and equity disparities. The toolkit is a specific set of six questions that the Task Force wants to implement as a template for examination.
- Implementation steps being taken at the County level. Executive Sidhu stated that, in time, the GARE toolkit would be instituted as a permanent change to County code. Gockley responded that he fully supported those efforts, and added that the intent of the committee was to implement the toolkit on the Task Force level before the process to codify it on the County level was completed.

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- Getting Task Force members who are not County employees access to the GARE portal. Nixon reported that steps are being taken to do this, but members would not be able to engage in the interactive elements and would be limited to the Steering Committee at least initially. Gockley suggested further discussion with County staff, saying he would like to see a reconsideration of those limitations.
- Having a Council office staff member review the GARE portal on a regular basis and send out any information that seems relevant to Task Force members.

5. [IPRTF communications contract draft scope of work \(00:54:50\)](#)

Nixon showed committee members the draft Statement of Work for the communications consultant. No members had feedback on the Statement at the time of the meeting.

6. [IPRTF budget for 2023-2024 biennium \(00:57:00\)](#)

Nixon told committee members that requests should be in by the end of May. She clarified that they were not looking at funding for programs, but rather operating funds for the Task Force itself. Members discussed how much they needed to request. They considered needs and factors such as:

- The ongoing needs for ongoing regular communication with the public after the consultant is finished with their work
- Whether or not we have physical space for potential in-person meetings
- Possible consulting or analytic work to implement a cross-platform data analysis system
- The Pre-Trial Processes Workgroup's need for data on the pre-trial risk assessment and enhancing pre-trial services monitoring
- A need for a full-time person to gather data and make regular reports on what is going on in the criminal justice system to provide greater transparency to the public

Buchanan asked Nixon to put this item on the agendas for upcoming committee meetings.

7. [Items for the next IPRTF agenda \(01:12:34\)](#)

Nixon went over the items already slated for the next meeting. She suggested adding a conversation about making a formal recommendation to the County regarding funding for infrastructure, software, and staff to achieve the data needs that were talked about during the budget conversation. Gockley added that as the Law and Justice Council, they could make a recommendation to hire a consultant to help figure out what we need in that regard. Members agreed to add that discussion to the agenda.

8. [Other Business \(01:15:50\)](#)

Buchanan reported that he and Nixon have been discussing the future of Task Force meetings. Nixon summarized the upcoming changes to current Open Public Meeting Act requirements. She said that all members can still participate remotely, but a physical space will need to be provided for the public. She added that their normal in-person space is no longer available. She gave some alternatives that may be viable. Members discussed possible meeting spaces and the idea of having all IPRTF members continue

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to meet remotely, while providing a space for members of the public to come view meetings. Nixon suggested polling Task Force members at the next full meeting to gauge how many would like to stay remote and how many would like to attend meetings in person. Committee members agreed that a poll should be conducted.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 P.M.