

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

9:00 - 11:00 a.m., July 18, 2022. Hybrid meeting

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the County Council Office at least 96 hours in advance.

Meeting Participation Information

Meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend via Zoom webinar using the join link below or in person at the County Council office located at 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 105. All committee members will participate remotely via Zoom. Zoom attendees will join the meeting without audio or video controls. The Webinar Host will invite attendees to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting.

[Link to join meeting](#)

Call in phone number: (253) 215-8782

Webinar ID: 878 1518 5395

Password: 17783

AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement Statement: Before we begin, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo People who have cared for and tended this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

Packet Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Justice Project Needs Assessment

Update/Barry Buchanan

3. Pretrial Services Workgroup and Unit

Update/Jon Kraus and Stephen Gockley

4. IPRTF Public Communications 1 – 8

Report/Barry Buchanan

5. Draft updated sequential intercept model service inventory for Justice Project 9 – 12

Introduction/Co-Chairs, Perry Mowery

6. GARE Implementation

Update/Stephen Gockley and Mike Parker

7. Committee Updates

Steering Committee (July 7) 13 – 14

Joint Behavioral Health and Legal & Justice Systems Committees (June 14) 15 – 17

Legal and Justice Systems Committee (July 12) To be distributed

8. Other Business

9. Public Comment

1. If you would like to speak, virtually “raise your hand.”
 - a. Online: select the Raise Hand icon
 - b. Phone: Press *9
2. When called upon to speak, unmute your microphone. Inform the Webinar Host if you would like to enable your video during your comments.
3. Please state your full name for the record.
4. Staff will disable your microphone when you are done speaking.

10. Adjourn

Meeting summary of the previous meeting is included at the end of the packet for information only. Committee members may suggest changes and/or corrections to the draft summary to jlassite@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).

Upcoming Meetings

Visit the [Task Force website meeting calendar](#) for the most up-to-date meeting schedule

At this time, all meetings are held in a hybrid format. Members of the public may attend meetings via Zoom webinar or in person at the County Council office, 311 Grand Ave Suite 105, Bellingham.

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u>	<u>COMMITTEES</u>				
Monthly 2 nd or 3 rd Monday 9-11 AM	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u> Monthly 3 rd Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	<u>LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS</u> Monthly 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM	<u>CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY</u> Quarterly, 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	<u>INDEX</u> Bi-monthly 1 st Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	<u>STEERING</u> Monthly Various Thursdays 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
August 15 September 19 October 17 November 14 December 19	July 19 August 16 September 20 (11:30-1:00) October 18 November 15 December 13* (11:30-1:00)	August 9 September 20* October 11 November 8 December 13	July 21 October 20	August 4 October 6 December 1	August 4 September 8 October 6 November 3 December 8

EXHIBIT "A"
(SCOPE OF WORK)

I. Background

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

The Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force is a County Council-appointed body of local elected officials, law enforcement and criminal justice officers, courts, citizens, public health professionals, and social service agencies to reduce incarceration through enhanced services along the entire continuum of care, from prevention to post-incarceration.

People with mental illness and chemical dependency have a significant impact on the criminal justice system, jail population, and emergency medical system. Many people return to jail or the emergency room repeatedly as a result of behavioral health struggles. These individuals, and the community as a whole, are better served through robust prevention, treatment, and diversion programs.

Since the Task Force was founded in 2015, it has achieved a number of major accomplishments in the community. However, those efforts have largely gone unnoticed by our residents. Therefore, the Task Force will engage a communications strategist individual or team to assist us with improving our public communication efforts.

II. Statement of Work

Objective 1: Work with the IPRTF and its Steering Committee to create a public communication campaign framework around key Task Force initiatives, projects, key focus areas, activities, or messages to communicate to the target audience(s). The goal of a successful communications campaign is to significantly raise awareness of and educate the community about recent achievements and current and future activities. A successful campaign will use public communication best practices that will enhance and optimize the IPRTF's current efforts with:

- Public information and outreach
- Consultation that requests feedback from the public
- Public participation that engages the public in informed dialog with the Task Force

Objective 2: Develop a communications framework that the Task Force, Steering Committee, and staff can implement when future achievements and initiatives arise. Task Force members should be able to create a targeted message on a topic and direct staff to develop and deliver related content. A successful communications framework will:

- Create a standardized process and design for a variety of different topics and key messages
- Define standards, best practices, and guidance for creating engaging content and messaging
- Include a toolkit of communication materials that can be used as templates for future communications
- Determine the most effective content distribution channels for each target audience group

Tasks (Objective 1):

1. Meet (in person or remotely) with the IPRTF Steering Committee to: 1. Define overall goals, expectations, and outcomes of the contract; 2. Review and refine core message(s) for Task Force initiatives and projects; 3. Discuss potential target audience groups for each core message, and; 4. Review the Task Force's current communications efforts and capabilities and discuss potential improvements
2. Review and analyze relevant IPRTF reports and other written materials on the designated initiatives and projects, website, and the current potential new means of public engagement for all jurisdictions within the county.

Tasks (Objectives 1 and 2):

3. Identify all potential target audience groups, such as policy-makers, Tribes, BIPOC community, low-income communities, individuals with lived experience in the criminal justice system and their families, service providers, partner agencies, business owners and employees, local media, community influencers, etc.
4. Analyze and identify where the target audience groups get their information about local government and how they prefer to engage with local government.
5. Determine the most strategic communication methods for each target audience group, including: content attributes (for example, the effectiveness of personal stories vs. data), outreach materials, and distribution channels, such as optimizing the use of the County website, direct outreach, social media, speaking at events, public forums, infographics, newsletters, traditional media, and other materials, etc.
6. Evaluate the current communication efforts to determine what is working, what is not working, and what is missing.
7. Meet (in person or remotely) with the IPRTF and/or Steering Committee to present the recommendation for communications campaign plans.
8. Ensure that all content and messaging use plain language, using the federal plain language guidelines. See: <https://www.plainlanguage.gov/>
9. Develop a process for evaluating the success of the targeted communication campaign(s) and future campaigns.

Tasks (Objective 2):

10. Educate and provide written tips and guidance to the IPRTF members and/or staff on how to create an effective message and content that is tailored to a specific audience, using best practices for public communication of local government information. Include case studies of similar messaging frameworks that have been successful.
11. Create templates for content and outreach materials that can be used in current and future campaigns, such as brochures, infographics, community presentations, press releases and other media announcements, newsletters, social media content, and other marketing materials

Deliverable(s):

Submit deliverables due December 30, 2022

1. Two to four refined key campaign messages, approved by the IPRTF Steering Committee, to communicate to the target audience(s) and/or community at-large regarding Task Force initiatives, projects, focus areas, or activities.
2. A detailed campaign strategy for each key message that the IPRTF can implement immediately. For each message, the strategy will include:
 - Final, refined message
 - Target audience group, including local media
 - A toolkit of messaging materials
 - Content distribution channel(s) and/or strategy
3. A process that would evaluate the success of each communication campaign, including data that can be collected and analyzed.
4. Written or in-person public communications training for key IPRTF members and staff to implement: 1. routinely, and 2. when future achievements and initiatives arise. Training should include public communications best practices and:

- Enable IPRTF members to develop future key communications campaign messages that will effectively engage and inform the targeted audience, and
 - Enable IPRTF staff to implement an effective communications strategy, and
 - Enable IPRTF members and staff to improve routine communications with the public at-large
5. Create a final report on a communications framework that includes:
- A spreadsheet that lists all target audience groups, including specific stakeholders and influencers within each group, and the appropriate content type and distribution channel(s) for each group
 - Templates for future marketing and outreach materials
 - Recommendations for additional efforts or improvements to existing efforts in routine public communications
 - Case studies (2-3) showing successful examples of messaging campaigns in other communities that were focused on similar topics. Provide a 1-2 page summary including details of the campaign topic, methods for messaging, target audience, estimated cost of campaign, and the results and value provided by the campaign.

III. Qualifications

The individual consultant and/or team should have:

- Minimum of 4 years' experience in a marketing communications field
- Minimum of 2 years' experience with web-based marketing campaigns
- Demonstrated experience in public relations and communications with a government agency
- Excellent writing/editing and verbal communication skills
- Graphical design and layout experience
- Knowledge of social media strategies highly desired

MEMORANDUM

To: Jill Nixon, Barry Buchanan and Tyler Schroeder
From: Sakara Remmu and Emily Goetz
Date: April 15, 2022
Re: Revised communications strategy proposal to Whatcom County

Thank you for spending time with our team, and for the opportunity to continue the conversation about how we can best support Whatcom County's path forward to transform its criminal justice and public safety systems in service of community safety, wellness, and care.

We understand there has been great progress made in this work already, but with little communication about it. We understand the County's priority for this initial body of work is to increase awareness and understanding of what's already been accomplished, and to build connection to and support for the path forward.

Whatcom County's success—or the success of any local government—will depend on understanding the existing perspectives of the communities it serves. Whatcom County has expressed an awareness that it is in an “echo chamber,” when it comes to the perceptions of those working in and closely with government; there is both a need and desire to expand and sustain community engagement and outreach.

Our approach to helping Whatcom County achieve its desired goals will begin with understanding the existing perceptions of communities in the County. In part, we'll achieve this by developing and testing sample messaging that not only highlights successful County public safety and wellness initiatives, but that tells a comprehensive story and vision of Whatcom County and its initiatives, aligned with the values and goals of the residents who live there.

Our revised recommended approach to the work is outlined below.

OUR APPROACH**Phase One: Develop communications campaign for key messages****IPRTF Phase One: Communications Campaign Development | Project Launch (Revised)**

We will kick off the work together with a project launch meeting to introduce our teams; discuss and align around goals for the work and how we'll measure success; and to identify, segment, and prioritize key stakeholders and the audiences we'll need to engage to succeed. We'll talk through how we can best engage the IPRTF Advisory Group in the work to come; build our contextual understanding of what's taken place leading up to this body of work, what can be built from and where the most significant challenges have shown up to date; and align on how we can best work together. Following the project launch meeting we'll deliver a work plan and timeline to guide our next steps.

Deliverables: Work plan and timeline

IPRTF Phase One: Communications Campaign Development | Vision and Goal Setting; Key Messaging (Revised)

Building from what we learn in the project launch meeting, we would come together for a facilitated two-hour session with consultants' core project team and the IPRTF Advisory Group focused on two areas:

- **Vision and Goal Setting:** Together, we will explore and align around a shared vision for success. We would ask and answer: In six months from now, a year, and/or two years, if the County is ideally successful, how will we know? What will be different? What will be in place? Where are we today, relative to that vision for success? And what will it take to move from today's reality to success?
- **Key Messaging:** Together, we will explore and understand the foundation of creating successful messaging for the County and the IPRTF. We will ask and answer: What are the values of Whatcom County? What are the key themes the County wants to communicate? Where does "the story" begin? We'll identify the key messaging priorities of focus now.
- **Community Engagement:** As an initial step to community engagement work, we'll work in collaboration with the IPRTF Advisory Group to build our understanding of the landscape, where engagement is strong, where it needs to be strengthened, and more.

***Deliverables:** Vision and goals summary; messaging priorities*

IPRTF Phase One: Communications Campaign Development | Narrative and Message Development (Revised)

We'll build from our assessment work and the vision and goal setting session to develop an overarching narrative and message framework to guide how we talk about this body of work as a whole, and the key initiatives and programs that fall within it moving forward. Narrative and messaging will be strategically developed to advance our goals in the context of the landscape we're communicating in, will reflect the demographics of the County, and align people through shared values toward a clear vision for success.

- **Message Testing:** In addition to working closely with the Advisory Group to ensure the effectiveness and cultural relevance of the narrative and messaging we create, we will work with the County to identify key audience segments to engage in message testing. Message testing will likely take the form of an online survey and two-three follow up, informal focus groups.
- **Audience Mapping:** We will work together to map our audiences and power. We'll build from initial conversation on audiences to map where power lies and how it informs and impacts experience—and the community engagement and communications strategies to come.

***Deliverables:** Message testing narrative and message framework; audience mapping*

Phase Two: Develop communications framework for future achievements and initiatives

IPRTF Phase Two: Communications Framework I Planning and Strategy and Needs Assessment

In phase two work, we'll start by gathering to review what's been accomplished to date; to discuss shared learnings; and identify the greatest opportunities to embed new best practices specific to Whatcom County in community engagement and communications. We'll dig into ongoing programs and initiatives that fall within the purview of our work; conduct an assessment of the social, cultural, demographic, and political landscape this work is taking place in; and spend time with the IPRTF, to align our thinking to their work and roles to date, and capacity to engage and implement community engagement and communications plans.

***Deliverables:** Needs assessment report*

IPRTF Phase Two: Communications Framework I Framework for Communications

Our conversation will inform the development of a framework for communications moving forward in Whatcom County. The framework will identify a standard approach to communicating around this work, identify best practices, key considerations, specify ideal channel use and timing, provide message guidelines and best practices to align to, and detail how community engagement continually intersects with and is core to communications, and more based on our planning and strategy conversation. Our team will develop a framework plan, and engage in collaborative review and revision with the IPRTF and our core working group to finalize. The framework will center and prioritize accessibility.

***Deliverables:** Framework for communications*

IPRTF Phase Two: Communications Framework I Toolkit template

We will develop a template for a communications toolkit to complement the framework and offer guidance on the key messages, content and assets that should be developed for each initiative's execution. The toolkit will include a media list to support communications moving forward.

***Deliverables:** Initiative communications toolkit template; media list; materials TBD based on plan*

IPRTF Phase Two: Communications Framework I Communications and Community Engagement Plan

We will develop an integrated communications and community engagement plan that is informed by the Advisory Group, needs assessment, audience and power map, and more—and grounded in a clear-eyed vision of success and where we are today relative to it. The plan we create will include: Goals; Measures of success; Audiences, segmented and prioritized; Identified influencers, ideal facilitators and messengers; Communications and Community engagement strategies; and a work plan and timeline to guide implementation. The plan will include and prioritize community relationship management planning and strategies, which will work to ensure a structure and methodology is in place to sustain community engagement in the County in ways that are authentic to the people we seek to engage and that support capacity and continued appetite to engage, as well as trust in the process and relationships.

***Deliverables:** Communications and community engagement plan*

IPRTF Phase Two: Communications Framework I Training

Finally, we will develop a custom training for IPRTF members and staff on communications, messaging, media and community engagement. The training will stay high-level to ensure its applicability to the larger team, and will seek to align staff around core best practices and shared thinking and methodology in how we communicate and why. We can develop additional and more specific communications and community engagement trainings for team members leading specific portions of work as best serves.

Deliverables: *One communications training workshop (likely half day) for IPRTF members and staff*

YOUR PYRAMID TEAM

Sakara Remmu will serve as the lead strategist on this body of work, guiding the framing and content strategy of narrative and message development, for communications planning, and development and planning, as well as on the development of a sustainable communications framework and community engagement strategy.

Sakara Remmu, Temple Water Consulting

Sakara Remmu is a diversity, inclusion, and equity professional and strategies consultant with more than 25 years of experience in equity and root cause analysis, strategic planning, project management, human resources consulting, as well as curriculum development and training facilitation.

Distinctly focused on integration of sustainable and data-driven solutions, Sakara's expertise helps clients move from the theory of diversity, inclusion, and equity, to actualizing change; working with a wide array of professionals and companies in traditional and non-traditional fields, including human services, civil rights, law enforcement, post-secondary education, engineering, public health, construction, and the government sector.

Sakara is adept at building diverse coalitions, identifying ways to maximize existing resources to fuel new and lasting solutions, and negotiating mutually beneficial agreements with partners while maintaining and broadening client outcomes.

Emily Goetz will serve as a primary day-to-day point of contact for this body of work. Emily will lead our team of strategists, support project launch and core administration, provide ongoing project management, and engage additional team members along the way to ensure the work is best resourced—whether earned media specialists, digital content strategists, designers, or others. Emily will advise on narrative and message development, support communications planning and the development of a sustainable communications framework.

Emily Goetz, Pyramid Communications

As a listener and creative problem solver, Emily helps organizations sift through competing demands and goals to identify successful paths forward. She plays dual roles at Pyramid, driving business growth as CMO, while also leading multidisciplinary teams for special projects, such as Pearl Jam's Home Shows initiative, the 2020 Census campaign and work with Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County and the Washington Black Lives Matter Alliance. She was recognized by the

Portland Business Journal in the 2018 40 under 40 class and serves as board chair for Pear, which works with homeless and transitional youth.

***John Hoyt** will serve as an advisor to our core team bringing political and strategic insight and experience working in Whatcom County. John will advise on communications strategy, messaging testing and community engagement, and government relations and political strategy as needed.*

John Hoyt, Pyramid Communications

John founded Pyramid based on his belief that a company could be successful working only for good causes. He specializes in communications work and high-level strategic and fundraising campaigns and initiatives that benefit from his political expertise. His recent clients include the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations, the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Earthjustice, Cascade Public Media, and Pearl Jam's Vitalogy Foundation.

***Candace Jackson** will serve as an advisor to our core team as needed, focused on message and content strategy, and advising on community engagement strategies.*

Candace Jackson, Pyramid Communications

Candace is a visionary, values-based health equity strategist committed to driving change alongside communities. With more than 10 years of experience in the government and nonprofit sectors, she is passionate about being accountable, building, and healing with her community. She co-founded the African American Health Board was a founding member of the Community Health Board Coalition.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH GAP ANALYSIS TEAM WHATCOM COUNTY SEQUENTIAL INTERCEPT MODEL UPDATE 2022

Intercept 0	Intercept 1	Intercept 2	Intercept 3	Intercept 4	Intercept 5
Community Services	Law Enforcement	Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings	Jails/Courts	Reentry	Post-Incarceration Community Supports
<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>	<i>Programs in Place:</i>
<p>0.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Paramedic • Ground-level Response & Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program • Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) • Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) • Alternative Response Team (ART) • Way Station (hygiene, medical, behavioral health services, medical respite for homeless individuals) – funding & planning in place • Downtown Safety Ambassadors • Lummi Cedar Project • Community providers of mental health treatment services • Community providers of substance use disorder treatment services • Crisis Stabilization Center (detox & mental health crisis stabilization) • Community Medicated Assisted Treatment • Lighthouse Mission Programs (Street Connect Outreach Program), Base Camp (Low Barrier Shelter) • Opiate Outreach & Engagement (Prescription Take Back, prescription lockboxes & safe storage, opiate addiction outreach & education) • School District Prevention Programs (Strengthening Families, Building Healthy Communities, Community Coalitions, In-School Prevention/Intervention Services, Communities in Schools, Sendan Center, Community Resilience Research) 	<p>1.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground-level Response & Coordinated Engagement (GRACE) Program • Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) • Sheriffs' Office behavioral health trained deputies • Co-Responders with Sheriff Deputies • Alternative Response Team (ART) • Specialized training for law enforcement & 1st responders • Truancy/discipline school-based services • Law Enforcement Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training • Crisis Stabilization Center (12-hour Law Enforcement holds) • Specialized training for case managers • Crisis Intervention/Hostage Negotiation Training • Cite & Release • NWYS (Teen Court) • Law Enforcement direct referral (direct line) to Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) 	<p>2.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) • Jail Behavioral Health Program (mental health screening & suicide assessments) • Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Services • Superior Court & District Court Pretrial Risk Assessment • Superior Court Pretrial Services Unit • Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) in lieu of detention when applicable • District Court phone call and text reminders for select court calendars • District Court electronic monitoring (SCRAM & Soberlink) • Bellingham Municipal Court: Pretrial SCRAM, Pretrial GPS EHM, Pretrial Risk Assessment, and 2x/week warrant quash • District Court: Pretrial Unit and Pretrial Electronic Equipment Program 	<p>3.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DUI Victim Impact Panel • Work and school release • Inside facility and In-custody work crew • Specialized courts (Teen Court, Drug Court, Family Court, Mental Health Court) • Jail Behavioral Health Services (MHPs, Psy, ARNP) • Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program • Jail Health Program (M.D., ARNP, & Dentist) • Sheriff's Office reduced fees and increased eligibility for jail alternatives • Expanded and increased out-of-custody work crew and work release capacity • District Court Post-Conviction Electronic Equipment Program • Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) • Bellingham Municipal Court: Mental Health Court, DV Court, EHM in lieu of incarceration • District Court High Risk DV Unit, court text messaging • Juvenile Court Behavioral Health Program • Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) • Bible study & 1-1 faith-based counseling • Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) group meetings & emergency notification resource for victims • Self Help support groups (AA/NA) 	<p>4.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term housing for stabilization • Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) specializing in jail referrals • Peer Pathfinders (Pilot) - warm handoffs, case management • Prescriptions and access to prescriptions upon release • Specialized Behavioral Health Unit in District Court • GRACE Program • Substance use disorder assessments & treatment coordination • Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) • Jail Behavioral Health Support & Reentry Services 	<p>5.A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-to-peer community supports (12-step programs, volunteer organizations) • Community Medicated Assisted Treatment • GRACE Program • Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC) (adult conflict resolution training and skill building workshops, Youth restorative practices/justice services & conflict resolution training) • Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) • Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) • Offender Reentry Community Safety (ORCS) – DOC • Scattered site housing & permanent supportive housing (22 North, Francis Place, Sun I Street apartments, Greggies House, Sun House Shelter, City Gate) • Shelter Plus Care/Supportive Housing Program Vouchers, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing, Supportive Services for Veteran Families • Opportunity Council Community Leasing, Subsidized Housing Program (SHP) for Chronic Homelessness • Bellingham Comprehensive Treatment Center (Methadone) • Men's Recovery House (clinically managed low intensity residential services)

- 1** = Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team rating highest priority program/service to reduce jail population
- 2** = Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team rating high priority program/service to reduce jail population
- 3** = Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team rating medium priority program/service to reduce jail population

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Marijuana Prevention & Education • Syringe Support Services (mobile & State Street) • Northwest Youth Services (NWYS) (Ground Floor Drop-In Center, Supported Employment for Youth) • Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center (WDRC) (adult conflict resolution training & skill building workshops, youth restorative practices/justice services & conflict resolution training) • Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS) (survivor advocacy, shelter, and perpetrator services) • Parent Child Assistance Program (PCAP) • Brigid Collins Parenting Academy • Northwest Regional Council (provides nursing and medical services in jail. Support for individuals with disabilities and complex medical conditions) • Nurse Family Partnership (prevention-based programming) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance use disorder assessments provided in the jail – Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) funding 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) • Lighthouse Mission (Ascent Program & Agape Home) • Law Advocates – Access ID • Crisis Stabilization Center (detox & mental health crisis stabilization)
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Community Services	Law Enforcement	Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings	Jails/Courts	Reentry	Post-Incarceration Community Supports
<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>	<i>Programs in place with resource shortage:</i>
<p>0.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scattered-site Permanent Supportive Housing (additional locations) and onsite or improved access to clinical support and intensive case management 1 • Intensive case management needed for facility-based Permanent Supportive Housing Programs 1 • Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) (additional staff for reduced response time when law enforcement comes in contact) 2 • Transportation Van (EMS currently – expansion to all individuals needing transport related to services) 2 • Clean and sober housing 2 • Domestic Violence Perpetrator Opportunity for Treatment Services (DVPOTS) 2 • Housing Case Management (additional capacity/training to support people with behavioral health needs) 3 • Sex offender ADA accessible housing 3 • 2nd Chance Employer Program 3 • Eviction prevention assistance (Case Manager) 3 • Homeless Outreach Team – expand services outside of Bellingham and 24/7 3 • Student Assistance Programs (mental health counseling, substance abuse counseling, & family resource coordinators) 3 • Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainings 3 • 988 Roll Out Community Access Point 3 	<p>1.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) (Additional staff for reduced response time when law enforcement comes in contact) 2 • Behavioral health specialized law enforcement in multiple jurisdictions (additional capacity) 2 • Community Outreach and Recovery Support (CORS) (additional capacity) 3 	<p>2.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health-Assisted Outpatient Treatment/Least Restrictive Alternative (LRA) (additional staff) 2 • Public Defender Behavioral Health Specialist 3 	<p>3.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competency restoration program in the jail facility (state funded) 1 • Increased work release capacity 2 • Domestic and sexual violence jail-based women’s support group 2 • Video visiting capabilities (limited electronic tablets for incarcerated individuals) • Vocational and literacy training for offenders, with bilingual accessibility 3 • Increased warrant quash opportunities 3 	<p>4.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jail Reentry Services, (additional capacity) – both in jail & in community reentry staff, 2nd Sheriff Corrections reentry specialist, reentry navigators) 1 • Employment resources (i.e., 2nd chance employers, Goodwill reentry employment services) 2 • Increased work release capacity 2 • Coordinated Entry referral system (additional staff) 3 • Brigid Collins Family Support Services 3 	<p>5.B</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment (additional capacity) 1 • Scattered-site Permanent Supportive Housing (additional locations) and onsite or improved access to clinical support and intensive case management 1 • Intensive case management needed for facility-based Permanent Supportive Housing programs 1 • Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) (additional capacity) 1 • Domestic Violence Perpetrator Opportunity for Treatment Services (DVPOTS) 2 • Sun House - emergency shelter (additional staff, operational costs, upgrades HVAC system) 2 • Clean and sober housing 2 • Additional rental assistance for post-incarcerated individuals 3 • Shelters for individuals post-incarceration 3

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Community Services	Law Enforcement	Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings	Jails/Courts	Reentry	Post-Incarceration Community Supports
<i>Programs recommended but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs recommended but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs recommended but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs recommended but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs recommended but not in existence:</i>	<i>Programs recommended but not in existence:</i>
<p>0.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health & substance use disorder assessments on demand/no waiting 1 • Youth Street Outreach Team (NWYS) 2 • Sobering Center 2 • Services for youth Transitioning out of youth services (loss of care at age 25) – warm handoff to adult system 2 • 24/7 drop-in center for persons experiencing homelessness with BH, employment, case management services 3 • Trauma Informed Care training across all intercepts 3 • Homeless Outreach Stabilization Transition (HOST) Program with behavioral health clinical staff 3 • Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) 3 • SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, & Recovery (SOAR Program) 3 • Safe storage 3 • Alternative shelters (Smaller capacity, low stimulation, increased sense of safety for participants/individuals releasing from jail) 3 • Social Worker in jail for support of individuals with memory care needs 	<p>1.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated Designated Crisis Responder to Bellingham Police Dept/Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (reduction of response time for law enforcement-involved potential Involuntary Treatment Act calls) 1 • Neighborhood Policing 2 • Inpatient/Crisis facility for individuals with serious mental illness & violent behavior 3 • Triage mental health unit for juveniles 3 	<p>2.C</p>	<p>3.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive case manager for the jail 1 • Dedicated housing for therapeutic court members 1 • Mental health & substance use disorder assessments on demand/no waiting 1 • Evidence-based treatment for methamphetamine & other substance use disorders 1 • Parenting & family support programs for families with incarcerated caregivers 2 • Whatcom Literacy Council (1 on 1 tutoring as needed) 3 • In jail assistance with resume writing, interview techniques and skills 3 • Worksource group counseling (interview prep & finding employment) 3 • Parents for Parents support group (discontinued at onset of COVID) 3 • GED Program for incarcerated individuals (No available space in current jail facility) 3 	<p>4.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharge planning and mainstream benefits enrollment or reinstatement 1 • Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) dedicated to reentry 1 • Employment assistance in community 2 • Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau: Reentry services for release from incarceration other than Whatcom County jail 3 • Peer reentry specialists' program 3 • Inpatient behavioral health treatment for parents with children 3 • Temporary housing for individuals who committed a violent domestic crime but need to abide by a protective order to stay away from their victim 3 • Funding for housing costs, utilities when wage earner is ordered to stay away from the home by protective order 3 • Housing Lab in jail run by Whatcom Homeless Service Center (discontinued due to COVID, workforce/remote ineffective) 3 	<p>5.C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe storage location 2 • Behavioral health consultation to housing providers 3 • Recovery house (3/4-way house after treatment) (female) 3 • Sex offender ADA accessible housing 3 • City Ambassadors employment program – i.e., Downtown Seattle Association (DSA) Clean Team, Safety Team, Outreach Team in Seattle 3

1 = Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team rating highest priority program/service to reduce jail population
2 = Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team rating high priority program/service to reduce jail population
3 = Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team rating medium priority program/service to reduce jail population

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for July 7, 2022

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, Raylene King, Mike Parker, Perry Mowery,

Members Absent: Jack Hovenier, Tyler Schroeder

2. [Update on Justice Project and Stakeholder Advisory Committee \(00:01:12\)](#)

Buchanan reported that there is another discussion today (July 7, 2022) with Behavioral Health Committee members and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) members. There is also a regular SAC meeting tomorrow (July 8, 2022).

3. [GARE Implementation Strategy for the IPRTF \(00:02:40\)](#)

Parker stated that he, Gockley, Jill Nixon (Legislative Coordinator) and Jackie Lassiter (Legislative Clerk) had recently met to review existing frameworks for establishing a racial equity lens for IPRTF discussions. Parker also shared an update on the status of allowing Task Force members access to the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) portal. After reaching out to GARE, Parker determined that it would not be possible for non-county employees to be members of GARE. Members and staff further discussed GARE implementation, including:

- Possibly including a reminder on agenda items to include a discussion on GARE
- A form to fill out when official recommendations are made
- A pre-amble of community agreements to be included on the form
- A post-script to the form to evaluate the effectiveness of the racial equity analysis
- The importance of using talking points inspired by the toolkit and other jurisdictions' frameworks to guide discussions, even when a policy is not being formed
- Posting a GARE statement on each agenda

4. [IPRTF Public Communications \(00:21:06\)](#)

Buchanan updated the group on getting started with Pyramid Communications. There will be a special Steering Committee meeting to kick off the work. Committee members collaborated to find the best date for that meeting. They decided to meet at 3 P.M. on August 10th. They also agreed for the Core Planning Team (Buchanan, Hovenier, and Gockley) to meet with the consultant before that date.

King stated that the Small Cities are sending out communications advocating for faster implementation of a new jail.

5. [IPRTF approval of the SAC's BHGAT Updated Sequential Intercept Model \(SIM\) \(00:31:05\)](#)

Nixon and Mowery told committee members that the SAC had asked that the IPRTF consider formalizing the version of the SIM updated by the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team (BHGAT). Gockley brought

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Steering Committee

Meeting Summary for July 7, 2022

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up the possibility of updating the portions of the SIM not related to behavioral health. Mowery acknowledged that there were areas of the SIM that his team was not able to adequately update since they were not subject-matter experts. Committee members discussed the SIM further, including:

- The importance of communicating the information included in the SIM to the public, but changing the format and simplifying so that it is more accessible to providers and the public
 - Using King County’s directory of services as a model
 - The Whatcom Family Community Network’s ongoing work to identify and compile community resources that will be maintained
- Possibly bringing the SIM back to the IPRTF every six months for potential updates
 - This could be incorporated into the annual report
 - Who would be the appropriate people to do the updates?
- Communication needs of professional service providers compared to the general public
- The parameters of the SIM and which services should be included
 - It is important to establish these parameters in order to keep the focus of the document and maximize its utility
- The Steering Committee should advocate for programs that are “recommended but not yet in existence” to be established and funded

6. [Pretrial Services \(00:59:34\)](#)

Buchanan said that the needs assessment process for the new jail has brought up the question of where we are at with the VERA report’s recommendations and specifically the status of pre-trial services. Nixon stated that this is an agenda item for the next Task Force and that John Krauss will be presenting. Gockley reminded the group that the Pre-Trial Services Unit is not a part of the Task Force. He said that the process is limping along and not making a lot of progress for a variety of reasons.

7. [Items for the next Task Force Agenda \(01:03:20\)](#)

Ideas for the next Task Force Agenda included introduction of the updated SIM and GARE Implementation

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 P.M.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Behavioral Health and Legal and Justice Systems Committees

Meeting Summary for June 14, 2022

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 Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:32 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Doug Chadwick, Bill Elfo, Brian Estes, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Stephen Gockley, Dan Hammill, Deborah Hawley, Mike Hilley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker, Darlene Peterson, Erick Richey, Michael G. Smith, Donnell Tanksley, Courtney Taylor, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Nathan Bajema, Chris Cochran, Jenn Lockwood, Seth Fleetwood, David Freeman, Brien Thane

2. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Clubhouse International model *(from Behavioral Health Committee)* [\(00:02:00\)](#)

Alan Friedlob and Ruth Davidson of the Clubhouse Startup Committee, presented on the Clubhouse model. They showed a video linked in the packet and discussed some key tenants of the model, including:

- The Whatcom clubhouse will not be a drop-in center – clients would need a referral from a medical provider in order to become a member.
- It is not a peer-run program; staff and members work side by side to build skills, form relationships, and find transitional employment for members.
- The Clubhouse contracts with local businesses to fill open positions, which the Clubhouse guarantees to fill. These are usually part-time rolls.
- 40% of Clubhouse members are employed, compared to 15 – 20% of the general population living with serious mental illness.
- The Clubhouse model reduces hospital stays and incarceration while also improving well-being of members.

Members discussed the model, its potential impact on the community, and how it will interact with the IPRTF's goals.

Parker asked how the model handles members who have a co-occurring substance use disorder. Davidson replied that their goal is not to exclude based on diagnosis, however they do not provide treatment for addiction.

Feld asked how the program would be funded, what the leadership would be, and what qualifications the staff would have. Davidson replied that they are in the process of becoming a 501(c)(3) of their own, but for now they are operating under the auspices of NAMI. They currently have a budget of about \$200,000 and have a contract with the Healthcare Authority, though they will also be seeking out outside funding sources such as individual donors. She said that staff would come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Friedlob discussed the possibility of billing Medicaid for services.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Behavioral Health and Legal and Justice Systems Committees

Meeting Summary for June 14, 2022

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Gockley asked about capacity, criteria for membership, and the impact of homelessness on admittance to the program. Davidson stated that members must be referred by a healthcare provider, though members do not necessarily need to be under active treatment from a provider. She also spoke to capacity and how it may vary day to day and over time.

Elfo brought up the Mental Health Deputy Program and asked if this would be considered a pre-court diversion program. Friedlob said that the relationship between the Clubhouse model and the criminal justice system needed to be explored further, especially in regards to their ability to make referrals.

Richey asked how criminal history and commitment of crime while involved in the program effected membership. Davidson said that history of incarceration is not taken into account for membership and Friedlob added that once you are a member, you are always a member, though an individual's engagement may vary for many reasons.

King asked if schools could refer people to the Clubhouse if they were still receiving assistance from the school via an IEP. She also asked about transportation. Davidson said that it would be likely that the Whatcom Clubhouse would have a transportation program and that she would bring up the idea of referrals from schools.

Parker asked how the Clubhouse might interact with other organizations providing supportive employment. Friedlob said that the intent is not to duplicate services, but to think about what the demand is for those services and if there is an unmet need in the community.

Parker asked about how the Clubhouse furthers racial equity in the communities they are established in. Friedlob said that there is a nationwide effort underway to assess equity within the Clubhouses, which is in its beginning phases. Davidson added that they are currently working on deciding what their board will look like, and she wants to take equity into account.

3. **Mental Health Sentencing Alternative:** [RCW 9.94A.695](#) (from Legal & Justice Systems Committee) ([00:52:10](#))

Vanyo spoke to the members about the Mental Health Sentencing Alternative (MHSA). This is one of many sentencing alternatives created by the legislature.

- MHSA went into effect in July 2021
- The standard range sentence is suspended and instead treatment or oversight by the DOH is required
- Victim's opinion must be taken into account when deciding if it is appropriate
- Length of time in the MHSA is anywhere from 12 months to three years, depending on their criminal history and offender score
- In order to be eligible, the judge must determine that the offender has serious mental illness at the time of sentencing that results in serious impairment that interferes with life activities. The crime of conviction must be a felony offense, but cannot be a serious violent or sexual offense.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Joint Behavioral Health and Legal and Justice Systems Committees

Meeting Summary for June 14, 2022

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The judge must also determine that the offender and the community would benefit from the alternative and the offender must be willing to participate.

- In order to make these determinations, the court can look at old records, or order an examination, which has not yet been seen in our courts. The court can also order a pre-sentence investigation, which must include a proposed treatment plan with a provider who has agreed take on the client. Such providers are difficult to find at this time.
 - This could be a useful tool, however we have to have treatment providers available and funding for them.
- 4. Whatcom County Alternative Response Program** *(from Legal & Justice Systems Committee)*
[\(01:25:49\)](#)

Mowery reported that the Health Department was awarded the contract for the Alternative Response Program. He was unable to share more due to time constraints, however King said that they would put this item on the agenda for a future meeting.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Meeting Summary for June 13, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Jack Hovenier called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Barry Buchanan, Bill Elfo, Caleb Erickson, Arlene Feld, Heather Flaherty, Seth Fleetwood, Deborah Hawley, Jack Hovenier, Raylene King, Scott Korthuis, Mike Hilley, Stephen Gockley, Jason McGill, Rebecca Mertzig, Perry Mowery, Mike Parker (proxy for Greg Winter), Eric Petersen, Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Donnell Tanksley, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: David Freeman, Dan Hammill, Jenn Lockwood, Dave Reynolds, Tyler Schroeder, Bruce Van Glubt

Fleetwood introduced Rebecca Mertzig as the new Bellingham Chief of Police and as a new member of the Task Force. Mertzig further introduced herself.

2. [Justice Project Needs Assessment \(00:05:12\)](#)

Gockley gave an overview of how and why the Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Team (BHGAT) was formed.

Mike Parker of the Opportunity Council, and Jackie Mitchell, Dean Wight, and Perry Mowery of the Health Department gave a presentation on the BHGAT Process and the newly updated Sequential Intercept Model (SIM). Main points included:

- Breakdown of what the SIM is, how it is used, and what each intercept and tier includes
- Types of changes made, such as a new addendum and addition of an Intercept 0
- Data used to inform the update
- The process followed to update the SIM, including the criteria used for any added programs, survey of representatives from various organizations in the area, identification of gaps, and recommendations made
- Overview of gaps and needs identified in each intercept

Korthuis asked what a budget would be for the needed programs and Wight responded that the next step would be to determine estimates of level of need and the costs of implementation. Gockley pointed out that we also need to take into account the costs we incur if we don't take action to address gaps.

Wight requested that the Task Force review the new version of the SIM and officially adopt it. Hovenier responded that they would bring that up at Steering Committee.

3. [2022 Annual Report to County Council and Executive \(00:51:07\)](#)

Vanyo moved to approve the 2022 Annual Report to County Council and Executive as it appeared in the meeting packet. King seconded. Peterson noted a change needed to a list of committee members. Members voted unanimously to approve the report.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Meeting Summary for June 13, 2022

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4. [Status of Jail \(item added to agenda at beginning of meeting\) \(00:54:00\)](#)

Elfo spoke to members about the letter he recently submitted and the current state of the downtown jail. He summarized the challenges they are currently facing and emphasized the direness of the situation. He described the causes of the problems, such as backlogs of many systems, prevalence of mental health and substance abuse disorder among incarcerated people. He said he is asking Council for approval to send some of the population to Snohomish County and went over the booking restrictions in place or soon to be in place.

Vanyo pointed out that there is no way for counsel to have confidential communication with clients who are housed at the Snohomish County Jail. There are no video or phone options for them to use there. This means that there would be an unrealistic amount of travel required for counsel to be able to serve clients there. Elfo replied that this was a last resort measure and that they are trying to implement IT solutions to the problem. He suggested that they may be able to contract for local counsel, but acknowledged that it may be difficult to find anyone. Vanyo agreed that finding a public defender in Snohomish to take those cases would be very difficult to impossible and offered to help in any way she could with establishing an IT solution.

King asked how many people were being treated at Eastern State Hospital and the impact of its potential closure. Elfo responded that he did not know how many people were housed at Eastern State, but the assumption would be that at least some of them would need to be transferred to Western State Hospital if it does close.

5. [Whatcom County 2023-2024 Biennial Budget \(01:08:30\)](#)

Buchanan reported to the Task Force that the budgeting process is underway and that co-chairs would need to get requests from their committees to the Steering Committee by the end of July.

The Task Force sent a letter to the Executive regarding recommendations for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Buchanan said that he would hopefully have an update on these funds at the next meeting. Gockley recalled that they had sent the letter without specific dollar amounts listed and the Executive's office had come back and asked for costs. Committee members discussed the idea of calculating costs, including benefits and challenges of doing so and the reasoning of not including them originally. Because the BHGAT is planning on doing cost analysis of needed services, it may make sense to include some of their numbers in a response to the Executive.

Members discussed possible revisions to the recommendations based on current developments, including the issues at the jail that the Sheriff spoke about.

6. [IPRTF Communications \(01:31:00\)](#)

Buchanan reported that the contract with the communications consultant would be going to the County Council for approval next week. Jill Nixon, Legislative Coordinator, went over the scope of work and goals for the consultant.

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force

Meeting Summary for June 13, 2022

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7. [Committee Updates \(01:33:45\)](#)

Steering Committee: Buchanan reported that the Committee discussed implementing the Government Alliance on Racial Equity (GARE) toolkit, status of 2017 VERA report recommendations, and the annual report. Hovenier asked Buchanan about the SAC process and the relationship with the Steering Committee. Buchanan said that they have been utilizing the committee co-chairs as resources to the SAC in discussion sessions.

Behavioral Health Committee: Parker reported that they discussed items for the upcoming joint meeting with the Legal and Justice Committee, listened to a presentation from the City of Bellingham on downtown safety, and discussed the Clubhouse model, which will be further described at a future meeting.

INDEX Committee: Erickson reported that they discussed the data dissemination proposal submitted by Gockley, and the annual report.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 A.M.