

6-13-2016
 Task Force Legal
 & Justice Systems
 Committee
 Jill Bensch

Pre-Arrest Programs	Status	Problems
LEAD	currently being explored by BPD being explored in detail by Behavioral Health Subcommittee	Will require funding for law enforcement and mental health staff
Expansion of Triage	currently underway by Triage sub-committee	
Use of 10.31.110	Prosecutor McEachran to meet with prosecutors in municipal jurisdictions to create uniform standards	
CIT	Training currently underway for all officers in Whatcom County.	The need for continuous and universal training for all law enforcement officers in Whatcom County will have a financial impact.
Review Spokane's SMART Justice	Dan Hammill currently in contact with Spokane	
Pre-Trial Programs		
Pre-Trial Probation Supervision	currently in use in District and Municipal Courts. *Probation not available in Superior Court	Additional staff could provide an expansion of services.
Reminder Calls	currently in limited use in District and Bellingham Municipal Court	no benchmarking currently in place. Record keeping has been recommended to Bruce Van Glubt
Drug Court	currently in use in Whatcom County Superior Court	Running at less than full capacity. Delay in reviewing applications. Eligibility requirements not clear to defense bar. May need additional financial Resources.

Mental Health Court	currently in use in District Court (23 persons currently enrolled) and in Bellingham Municipal Court.	Not being used in other municipal courts. Some concern about mix of offenders affecting the effectiveness of the program.
Fast Track Docket	Currently in use in Superior Court. Viewed as necessary and helpful to managing the Court's docket.	
Alternatives to cash bail		Judges will need to Order
Examine non-profit alternatives to bail bondsmen		
Evidence based Pretrial Release standards	Commissioner Heydrich is exploring with Yakima and Spokane	
Review current bail standards seek consistency between jurisdictions		
Improve communication between courts and law enforcement set guidelines for release		
Use of Jail Alternatives Pretrial including work crew and electronic home monitoring.	currently being explored by Bellingham Municipal Court.	County Prosecutor concerned about the potential for liability. Concerns about pre-trial 'punishment' even if program was completely voluntary.
In-Custody Drug and Alcohol Treatment Screening	Previously there was an individual who performed this screening. The position was lost due to budget cuts.	Limited treatment capacity both in-patient and out-patient. Need to increase work force.
In Custody Mental Health Screening		Limited treatment capacity both in-patient and out-patient. Need to increase work force. Screening would require additional staff

Social Worker to arrange for treatment	Previously on staff in the Public Defenders Office. Lost staffing during budget cuts	Financial impact to County Budget.
Pretrial screening for jail alternatives	Efforts are being made by Bellingham Municipal Court	
Expanded Court Hours	some night court in District Court	Unions and other staff may object to the expansion of hours.
Portability Court	need to review work done in other jurisdictions - Dan Hammill is in contact.	
Veterans Court	need to review work done in other jurisdictions	
Post Conviction Programs		
Expansion of Jail Alternatives	Review costs, timing and eligibility requirements	Affordability is an issue and limited eligibility based on length of sentence. Delay in presenting applications may exclude some offenders.
kiosk in courthouses to link offenders with program	Currently being considered by Bellingham Municipal Court	
enhanced bus service to jail alternatives program	Bus tokens and expanded bus lines	would require collaboration with County transportation system and could have financial impact for 'free rides'.
reduced cost EHM	Private Companies currently being used by Bellingham and Lummi Nation have reduced the costs for their offenders.	Sheriff Elfo has asked for a recommendation to the County Executive to remove this program from the requirement that it be 'self supporting'.

subsidized costs for EHM	Currently being done by the Lummi Nation. Used in a limited way by the Bellingham Municipal Court and by discretion of staff at the County's jail alternatives program.	Expansion of this would need to be weighed against the cost of holding an offender in custody.
Probation Services (not available for felons)	Currently in use in all courts. Programs linked with probation reduce recidivism. Review length of probation and sentences for violations.	Additional probation staff could provide more focused services to special needs populations.
Swift and Certain Probation Sanctions	Currently in use by Lummi, DOC and drug court.	
High Risk Probation Services	Develop specialized supervision for offenders most likely to reoffend.	
Evidence based domestic violence treatment	Domestic Violence treatment currently ordered by all Courts	Programs have not been evaluated to demonstrate effectiveness,
Jail re-entry services	Currently staffed at the jail. Could be expanded to include one stop shopping for persons as they leave jail including coordination of treatment needs, referrals for housing, social security, insurance. Can create a 'cheat sheet' with all relevant information to be provided to inmate as they leave the jail.	Limits on amount of medication offenders can receive upon leaving the jail. Additional services would require additional staff.
Drivers License Re-licensing Program	three month pilot program currently to begin 8/16 under auspices of LAW Advocates	Continuity of program beyond three months may require funds to assist in staffing.

Good Time ratio	Jail currently offers good time.	Jail uses standards that assist in providing work crews to perform tasks within the jail. Enhanced good time for all offenders may lose this crew. May need to review how other facilities manage this question.
Restorative Justice	Create a Restoralife Center with programs for housing, employment, education, wellness and farming.	
Free Mental Health, Drug Alcohol and Domestic Violence Evaluations		Costs can be prohibitive for some offenders. This would require government subsidies for funding.
Decriminalization of minor offenses	Review of statutes currently underway in Bellingham Municipal Court.	May negatively impact motivation for a future LEAD program.
Reduce fines and interest on unpaid fines		May negatively impact court budgets
Identify locations for performance of community service		
Housing		Need for more staffed/supportive housing to stabilize offenders as they leave the jail. Need for additional clean and sober as well as 'wet' housing.
Housing	Review WWU's Homeless Project - to be scheduled. Adopt "housing first model"	

