



CROSSROADS
CONSULTING

Planning Session Summary Report

WHATCOM COUNTY INCARCERATION PREVENTION AND REDUCTION TASK FORCE

January 2018

SUMMARY

On January 8th, 2018, the members of the Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force conducted a Planning Session to explore which of the recommendations from the VERA report should be prioritized for consideration and possible implementation. The Session was further intended to lay the groundwork for developing an 18-month Action Plan.

PROCESS

The co-chairs of the Task Force, Jill Bernstein and Jack Hovenier, along with Council Member Ken Mann and Legislative Coordinator Jill Nixon worked with a local facilitator and strategic planning consultant, Holly O'Neil of Crossroads Consulting, to design and facilitate the planning process. The Task Force had recently submitted its *Phase III Report to Whatcom County Council* in December of 2017, and was poised to evaluate the *VERA Institute November 2017 Report to Whatcom County Stakeholders on Jail Reduction Strategies*.

To lay the groundwork for the session, the facilitator developed a survey to gather preliminary input on planning priorities. The first draft of the survey and the proposed agenda for the Planning Session was first presented at the December meeting of the Task Force. At that meeting and in the week that followed, Task Force Members provided the facilitator with feedback on the survey and the agenda, which the facilitator incorporated into the final design. The final planning survey was distributed via email to Task Force Members and a similar survey was distributed to a list of interested citizens. Eighteen (18) Task Force Members and seven (7) citizens responded, and the results from both surveys were provided to the Task Force in advance of the January 8th planning session.

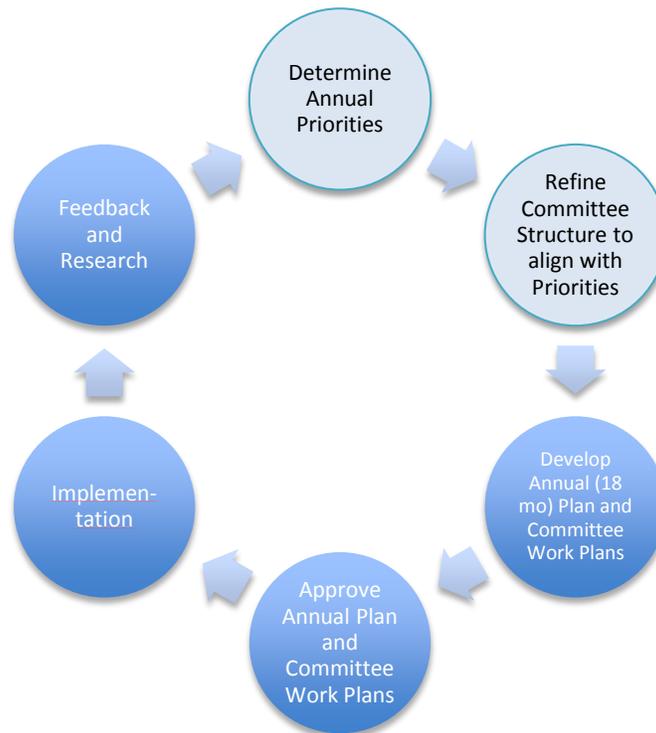
The pre-session Planning Survey was designed to:

1. Provide the three Committees with feedback on their current and proposed initiatives.
2. Assess and gather feedback on the recommendations of the VERA report.
3. Gather input on how to approach data gathering.
4. Solicit any additional feedback regarding interests and concerns.

The planning session was 3.5 hours long (see **AGENDA: Appendix A**). Due to the limited time, the survey feedback on the Committee’s current and proposed initiatives was not discussed at the meeting, but was included in the packet as important context. It was understood that Committees would use that feedback, in addition to the work of this Planning Session, to develop and refine their proposed Work Plans for the year.

The session began with introductions of all participants and citizens who were observing the process. The facilitator then provided guidelines for how the group would build consensus while openly exploring differences of opinion. The facilitator also provided a simple framework for understanding how today’s work would conceptually be incorporated into an annual planning cycle. The work of this planning session (as indicated in the light-blue circles) would provide the Steering Committee with the information needed to develop an 18 month Action Plan for approval at an upcoming regular meeting, working in close communication with the Committees.

ANNUAL PLANNING CYCLE



The Task Force reviewed their statement of purpose, as per County Ordinance **ORD2015-025**

TO PROVIDE RECOMMENDATIONS, OVERSIGHT, AND SPECIFIC TIMEFRAMES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW OR ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PROGRAMS DESIGNED ALONG A CONTINUUM THAT EFFECTIVELY REDUCES INCARCERATION OF INDIVIDUALS STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL ILLNESS AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND MINIMIZES JAIL UTILIZATION BY PRETRIAL DEFENDANTS WHO CAN SAFELY BE RELEASED

The facilitator then presented the Survey Results (**Appendix B**), showing which of the VERA recommended strategies were ranked as being most important. Scores from the Task Force Members' and the citizens' ranking were shown to have no significant differences. VERA recommendations that ranked above 4.0 in the survey were offered to the group as an initial set of strategies for discussion purposes.

The "REAL-WIN-WORTH" methodology was used as a framework for discussion, with our discussion starting at the bottom of the pyramid, and ending the day at the top.

- Real** – Are we actually going to be able to do it, and how?
- Win** – Is it feasible, is it likely to succeed, is there synergy and opportunity?
- Worth** – Is it important? Do you think it will make a difference?



Working in small groups of 2-3 participants, Task Force Members and Proxies discussed the survey results and identified any additional strategies that should be considered beyond the initial set. Participants also identified any concerns or refinements of the recommended strategies, based on their perception of whether the strategy would be a "Win" for our community. The group also noted that in some cases, these strategies would be pursued entirely as the development of recommendations, and were not anticipated to be appropriate for additional action by the Task Force.

As the small groups reported out, additions and changes were captured on sticky notes and categorized relative to the five goal categories in the VERA Report. An "Other" category was used to capture other ideas or comments that were important to note.

After developing a more complete picture of the strategies participants felt were important to include in long term planning, participants used **green sticky dots** to indicate which strategies they thought should be prioritized for consideration or action in the next 18 months (across all goal areas). Additionally, if any participants had remaining concerns about the strategies, they were invited to use **yellow sticky dots**, with their initials, so that any lingering concerns could be addressed as needed after the session. Lastly, if people had interest in working on a particular strategy, they put their name on a sticky note and attached it to that strategy.

To complete the process, the Committee Chairs were invited to the front of the room to select those strategies that would naturally fall into their Committee's purview. The group then discussed how to address the remaining prioritized strategies, which did not naturally fall within the purview of a Standing Committee, and how the committee structure of the Task Force could be adjusted to support that work. Lastly, topics for future discussion were identified.

RESULTS

The tables reflect the prioritized long-term and short-term (18 month) strategies identified by the participants. Strategies were organized according to the three Standing Committees, with a final grouping of strategies related to data gathering, oversight, and accountability. Lastly, the final table reflects topics that members identified for future discussion topics.

Law and Justice Committee			
Strategy	Green Dots	Yellow Dots	Interested Parties
Adopt and validate a data-driven pretrial risk assessment system	13		Angela Anderson Deborah Garrett Jill Bernstein Stephen Gockley Dave McEachran (or designee)
Establish Regional Pre-trial monitoring services program to serve all Whatcom County Courts	13	KL	Angela Anderson Stephen Gockley Deborah Garrett RK
Implement policies and procedures that will reduce number of bench warrants issued for FTAs	4		
Expand book and release practices, including from police stations (addition: expand concept to include pre-arrest diversion)	2	DH	
Increase opportunities for people to resolve outstanding warrants	2		RK
Develop mechanisms to prevent jail admissions for violations of probation/parole	2		
Facilitate opportunities for individuals to pay off fines assoc. with moving violations	1		
(NEW) Use EHM to facilitate improvements in Whatcom County	1		
Explore how EH and EHM can reduce bench warrants for FTAs	1	KL	
Analyze warrant data to understand the scope of the problem to target responses appropriately (also include in data considerations)	0		

Behavioral Health Committee			
Strategy	Green Dots	Yellow Dots	Interested Parties
Equip law enforcement officers with tools to de-escalate and divert people experiencing behavioral health crises	11		Ann Deacon Bill Elfo
Pursue opportunities to coordinate care between county agencies	9		Dan Hammill Anne Deacon Chris Phillips
Improve Data Collection System (addition: verify data on number of people in jail who seek out or are referred to Behavioral Health Services)	3	JG	

Triage Center Committee			
Strategy	Green Dots	Yellow Dots	Interested Parties
Explore sobering services in the Triage Committee as part of the Triage Services	2	DH AD	Jack Hovenier RK

Strategies related to DATA GATHERING, OVERSIGHT, and ACCOUNTABILITY			
Strategy	Green Dots	Yellow Dots	Interested Parties
Report and publish data regularly to ensure transparency and accountability	6	TS	Tyler Schroeder (Courts and Jails) Deborah Garrett (comment - yes if applied to all court processes)
Develop and track case processing performance measures	4	RK	
Work to secure and develop data to understand case flow processing (<i>amended from original text: "develop a collaborative plan to ensure efficient and fair caseflow management"</i>)		JG	
Addition: Look at new ways to make data informed bail decisions (as per VERA Goal "Reduce unnecessary pretrial detention...")			
Addition: Remove select low-level offenses from municipal code (as per VERA Goal "Reduces unnecessary admissions to the jail")			
Addition: Consumer Focus Groups and exit interview with those involved in justice system, to include their input in a system mapping and strategic planning, and include discussion of opportunities to apply restorative justice (as per VERA Goal "Create oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure successful and sustained jail population reduction)		TS SG	Joy Gilfillen

FUTURE DISCUSSIONS (for the Steering Committee to add to Task Force Agendas, or identify other mechanism for future exploration of the topic)			
TOPIC	Green Dots	Yellow Dots	Interested Parties
Restorative Justice			
When, where, and how people are transported to jails in nearby counties		BE	Bill Elfo
Who do we need/want to have in our jails?		SG	
How changes in Behavioral Health and Medical Systems may affect our community			
Task Force proxy system and representation on TF committees			

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The group came to agreement that the strategies related to whole system DATA GATHERING, OVERSIGHT, and ACCOUNTABILITY needed to be advanced by the formation of another committee or some other type of workgroup, or possibly workgroups.

The Steering Committee was charged with the responsibility of developing a recommendation for the Task Force for how to proceed. In developing a recommendation, the Steering Committee will consult with key informants familiar with current data collection activities.

The group thanked Ken Mann for his service, and the Co-chairs and facilitator for organizing the planning session. Next steps will include:

- ✓ Facilitator will prepare Report from today's session
- ✓ The Steering Committee will use this report along with reports from Committees to propose a work plan for approval at an upcoming regular meeting.
- ✓ Committees shall use this report, review their charges as outlined in their statements of work, and review their current goals in submitting their proposed work plan and goals to the Steering Committee.

APPENDIX A

WHATCOM COUNTY IPR TASK FORCE PLANNING SESSION

January 8, 2018

County Courthouse Fifth Floor Conf. Rooms 513/514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA

Desired Outcomes:

- ❖ To explore which of the recommendations from the VERA report are the highest priorities for the Whatcom County Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force, and lay the ground work for developing an 18 month Action Plan.

AGENDA

- 8:45 am** **Arrival; coffee and tea (15 min)**
- 9:00 am** **Introductions, Desired Outcomes, Agenda, Guidelines for Participation (20 min)**
- 9:20 am** **Overview of the Planning Process (10 min)**
Purpose: Facilitator will provide an overview of the planning cycle and how today's work will be incorporated.
- 9:30 am** **Review and Evaluate Findings from Planning Survey (60 min)**
Purpose: Explore areas of common ground and differences of opinion regarding the Vera Report recommendations, and assess feasibility of preferred options.
- 10:30 am** **Break (15 min)**
- 10:45 am** **Identify Priorities for IPR Task Force (80 min)**
Purpose: Seek agreement on long-term and short-term priorities and identify Task Force members' areas of interest.
- 12:05 am** **Review Next Steps and Wrap Up (10 min)**
Purpose: Review next steps:
- ✓ Facilitator will prepare Report from today's session
 - ✓ Steering Committee will use Report to prepare an 18 month Plan for approval at February Meeting
 - ✓ Committees will refine their work plans and bring back to Task Force for approval Mar/April
- 12:15 pm** **Public Comment (15 min)**
- 12:30 pm** **Closing**

APPENDIX B

See following pages for Survey Results.

Q1 Your name and today's date:

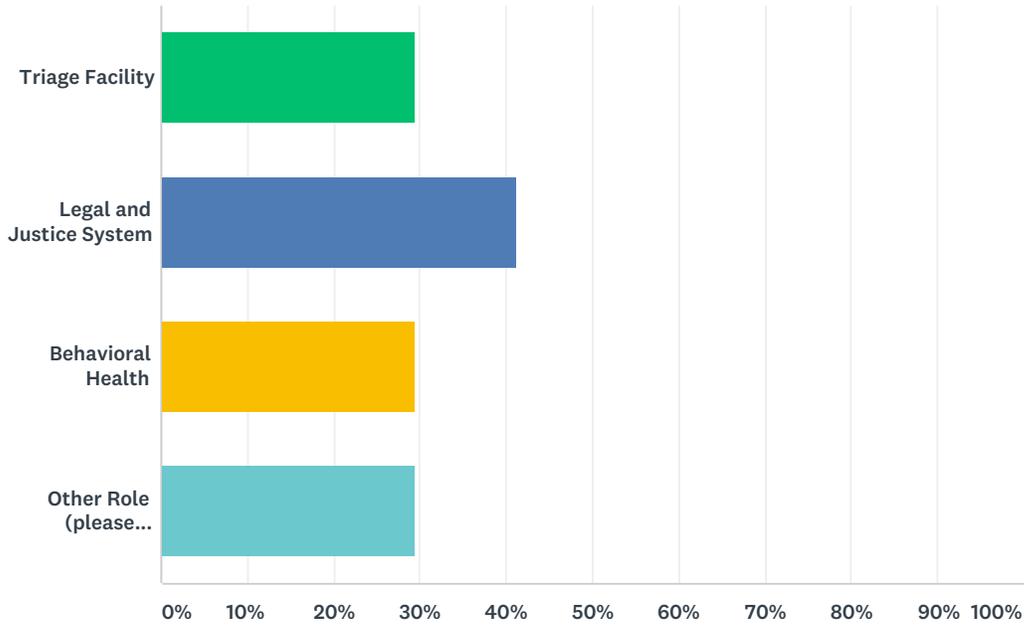
Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Bill Elfo [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2	David s. McEachran [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3	Deborra Garrett [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
4	Jack Hovenier, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
5	Kelli Linville. [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
6	Moonwater, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
7	Jill Bernstein [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
8	Susan Gribbin [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
9	Ken Mann [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
10	Tyler Schroeder [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
11	Byron Manering	[REDACTED]
12	Peter Ruffatto - [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
13	Irene Morgan [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
14	Daniel Hammill [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
15	Chris Phillips	[REDACTED]
16	Stephen Gockley [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
17	Anne Deacon [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
18	Mark Gardner, [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Q2 If you currently serve on a IPR Task Force Adhoc Committee, which one(s) do you serve on?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



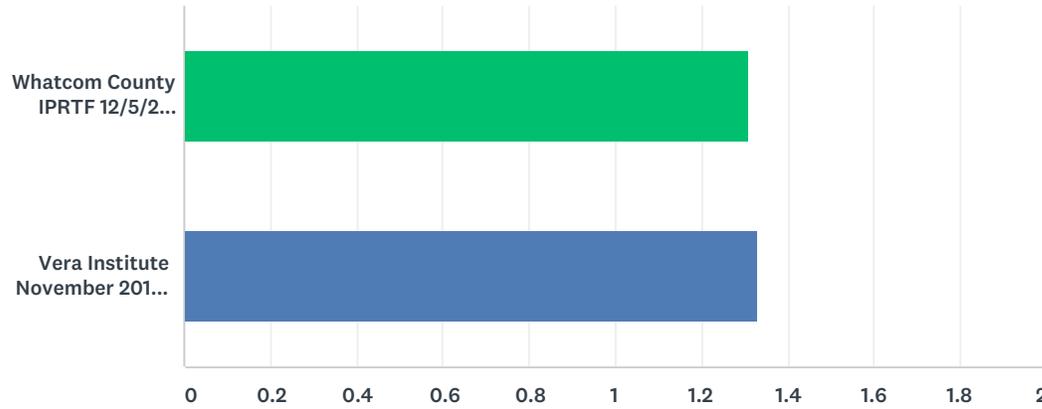
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Triage Facility	29.41%	5
Legal and Justice System	41.18%	7
Behavioral Health	29.41%	5
Other Role (please specify)	29.41%	5
Total Respondents: 17		

#	OTHER ROLE (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Don't attend regularly	12/28/2017 8:31 PM
2	As co-chair I have been attending all of the meetings for each of the committees	12/28/2017 6:08 AM
3	Steering Committee	12/27/2017 6:38 PM
4	I am a proxy for the Mayor of the City of Bellingham. However, I attend the Legal and Justice System Committee as it relates more to my role as Bellingham City Attorney.	12/27/2017 11:23 AM
5	steering committee	12/26/2017 11:17 AM

Q3 How familiar are you with the following documents and reports?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



	VERY FAMILIAR	SOMEWHAT FAMILIAR	NOT VERY FAMILIAR	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Whatcom County IPRTF 12/5/2017 Phase III Report	68.75% 11	31.25% 5	0.00% 0	16	1.31
Vera Institute November 2017 "Report to Whatcom County Stakeholders on Jail Reduction Strategies"	66.67% 12	33.33% 6	0.00% 0	18	1.33

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	I haven't memorized them but have read and referenced both.	12/28/2017 11:55 AM
2	There was a very short paragraph at the end of the report that talked about mapping the experiences of our public that actually go thru our justice system - the term used was 'focus groups'.	12/26/2017 4:09 PM

Q4 Do you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns about the current goals?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 3

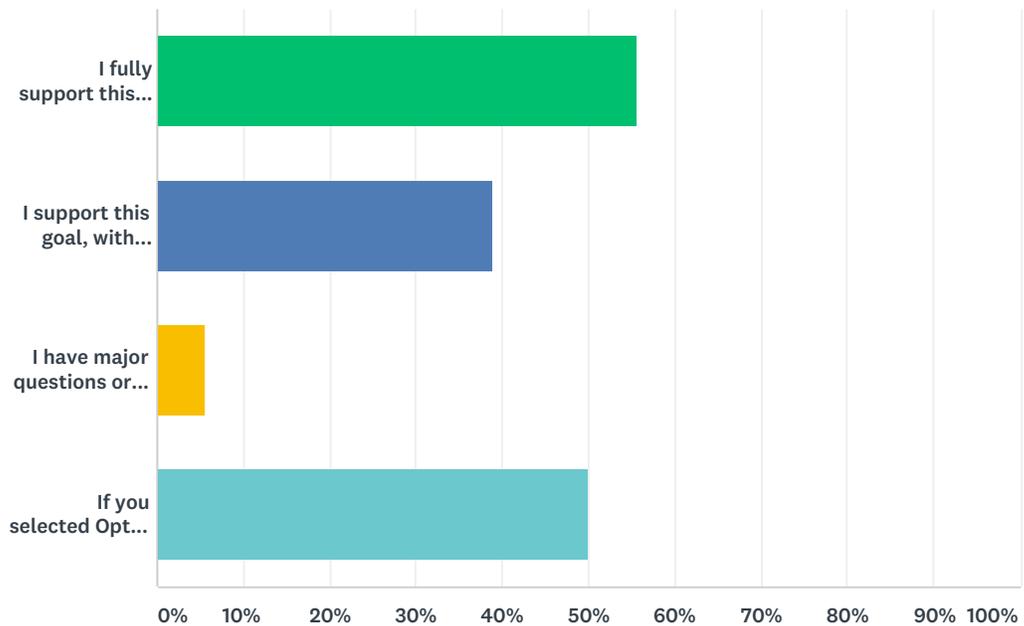
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	From a law enforcement perspective, the availability of a triage Center is essential if we are going to effectively divert low level offenders from the criminal justice system to the behavioral health system as contemplated by RCW 10.31.110. It is also important that such a center be effectively staffed so as to avoid lengthy trips to Saint Joseph's Medical Center Emergency dept. for medical clearance. I support the Grace Project and have been involved in its planning since its conception. Specifics of the program will help prevent crime, arrests and incarceration upstream which are consistent with the purpose and goals of the IRPTF	1/4/2018 8:57 AM
2	I am not certain that providing financial support to the Grace Program would have the impact on incarceration rates in Whatcom County. I believe that the overlap with these participants is not a great as originally thought.	1/2/2018 12:11 PM
3	I believe #1 and #4 require funds from sources other than Whatcom County. #2 and #3 may include grant money but mostly funded by the County, at least in planning stages.	1/2/2018 11:54 AM
4	No, I support these goals	12/29/2017 2:23 PM
5	Concern about the size of the Triage center and the restriction imposed by state and federal government dollars. Am willing to discuss need and how we can locally expand services and beds.	12/28/2017 8:34 PM
6	These are concrete goals/tasks that I support. There are additional goals I think we should further explore in order to continue the good and important work for the Task Force in reducing and preventing incarceration.	12/28/2017 11:57 AM

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

7	The pretrial risk assessment tool may take some time to create and validate - but we can move forward with a pretrial supervision unit. While the unit may have different tasks after the risk assessment is ready for use, a pretrial supervision unit would be an immediate resource for the Superior Court.	12/28/2017 6:11 AM
8	Add consumer input	12/27/2017 11:10 PM
9	I'm not convinced drug court is as effective as other options like EHM, which I would prioritize more highly.	12/27/2017 6:39 PM
10	Include a victim advocate on pretrial risk assessment development tool	12/27/2017 12:17 PM
11	I hope that No. 2 is done in a way that non-County jurisdictions can eventually use the tool and the monitoring program. This includes Whatcom County cities, the Lummi Nation, and the Nooksack tribe.	12/27/2017 11:26 AM
12	As always, my concern is for adequate housing, treatment and work opportunities for the folks in the system. We have many good programs that are not large enough to serve all the citizens that need them, leaving huge gaps in the continuance of services, leaving them vulnerable to re-offending/ recycling - once again.	12/26/2017 4:14 PM
13	The Task Force needs to account for the Jail vote that failed in November 2017 and come up with recommendations beyond the more narrow scope of the goals listed here. The Task Force should also work stable housing into its strategies.	12/26/2017 1:18 PM
14	No	12/23/2017 2:46 PM
15	It would be good to set some timelines for how this work can be advanced or completed in 2018.	12/22/2017 2:45 PM

Q5 Law and Justice System Committee: "Create and locally validate a pretrial risk assessment tool + pretrial services unit"

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I fully support this goal	55.56%	10
I support this goal, with minor questions or concerns	38.89%	7
I have major questions or concerns about this goal	5.56%	1

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

If you selected Option #2 or #3 above, please share your specific questions or concerns here:

50.00%

9

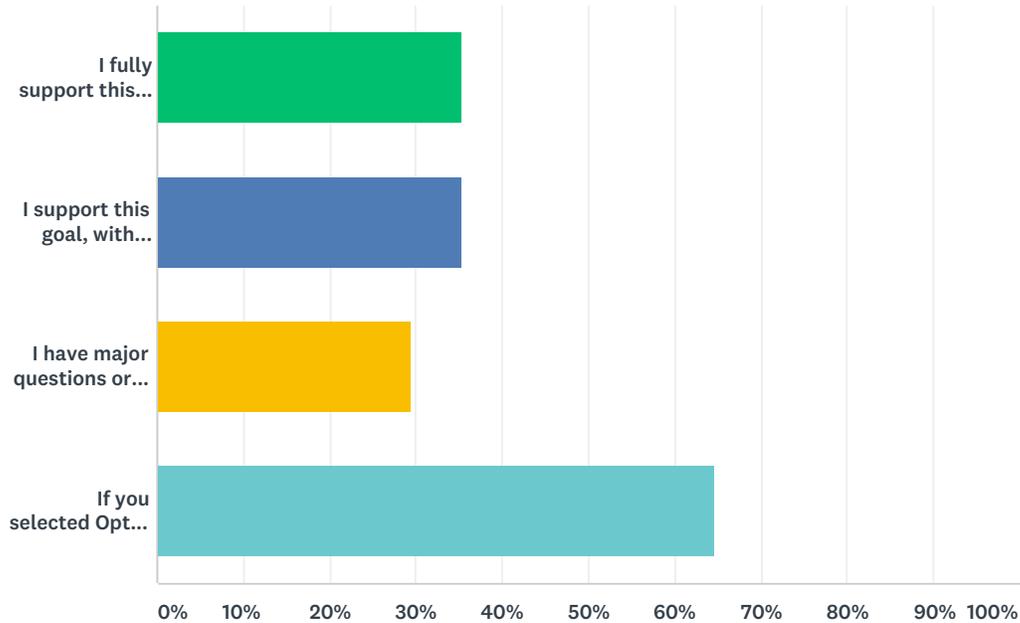
Total Respondents: 18

#	IF YOU SELECTED OPTION #2 OR #3 ABOVE, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HERE:	DATE
1	My committee reviewed this and I voted with the majority to recommend pre-trial risk assessment tools and pretrial supervision. This concept falls within the province of the judicial branch of government and I will support the recommendation of the judges. i would recommend however, that uniformity and the development of consensus on how this tool is utilized by ten court systems in Whatcom County.	1/4/2018 8:57 AM
2	I have concerns about spending the level of County resources for an assessment tool that could be utilized for free or miuch less of an investment. An assessment tool would assist the judicial branch in making release decisions, but ultimately when there is history of a specific defendant the court can make a decision based on past behavior. A tool would be nice, but I don't agree with paying over a \$100,000 for a specifically tool.	1/2/2018 12:31 PM
3	I'm not sure what "locally validate" means -- if it means validate with local demographic information, then I fully support this goal.	1/2/2018 12:02 PM
4	see comments above - we can move forward with a pretrial services unit while working on the risk assessment tool.	12/28/2017 6:35 AM
5	We need to determine the county department that this will be housed and how Superior Court and District Court will coordinate these efforts	12/27/2017 12:36 PM
6	To maximize the efficacy of the tool and services unit, it should be developed in a way that it can and will be used by other Whatcom County jurisdictions. Also, there seems to be consensus on the "local" validation. But a better approach may be to use tools already in existence which allow quicker and less expensive implementation. The results can then be measured during the initial phase. Those results can be measured against national benchmarks and the 2nd phase can be based on a "local" validation (if it is even necessary).	12/27/2017 11:39 AM
7	I want to understand the funding that would support this goal, how it will be secured and how sustainable it will be.	12/26/2017 1:24 PM
8	Need buy-in from prosecutors and should include them from the beginning in research	12/22/2017 7:22 PM
9	I believe that validating the risk assessment tools and procedures can be ongoing as long as there is sufficient data analysis to back up the creation of an initial set of tools. An effort to design a perfect tool with massive data analysis may result in no progress because it is too time consuming and expensive. There is enough research out there to back up most of the basic elements of a tool. Ongoing validation can be used for fine-tuning, adaptation to local conditions, quality control, and continuous improvement.	12/22/2017 2:59 PM

Q6 Law and Justice System Committee: "Review best practices related to restorative justice for possible local development"

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



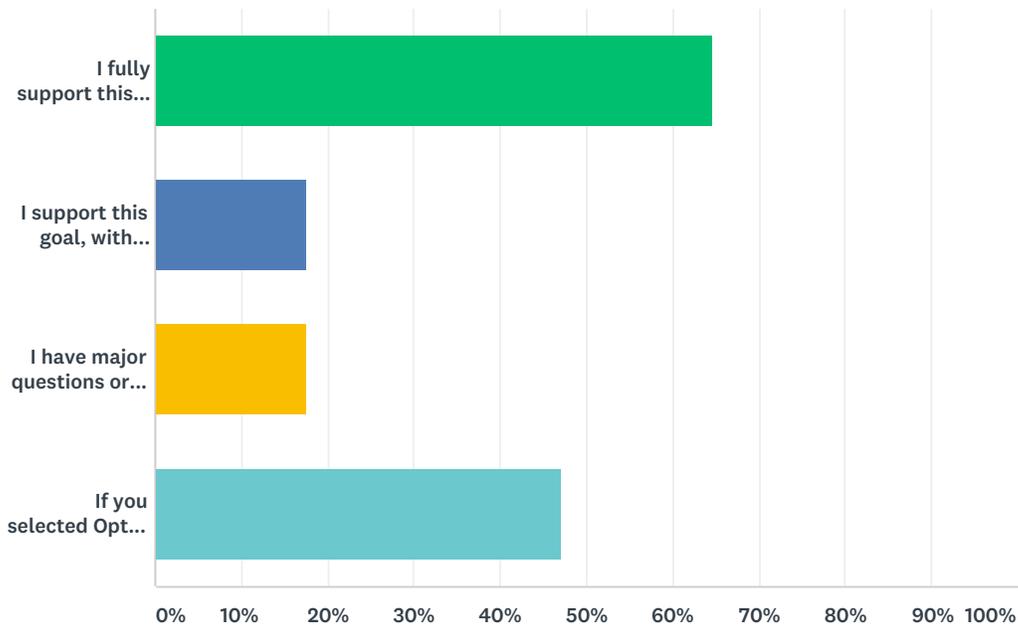
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I fully support this goal	35.29% 6
I support this goal, with minor questions or concerns	35.29% 6
I have major questions or concerns about this goal	29.41% 5
If you selected Option #2 or #3 above, please share your specific questions or concerns here:	64.71% 11
Total Respondents: 17	

#	IF YOU SELECTED OPTION #2 OR #3 ABOVE, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HERE:	DATE
1	"Best practices" seem to be in the mind of the beholder. I am not in agreement that the program presented is a Best Practice. In order to utilize such a program, the victim or victims would have to wholeheartedly agree. The entire Task Force process has failed to recognize the rights victims have in the criminal justice system and fails to consider victims and victims' rights. In our State victims have constitutional protected rights that are to be viewed as we view defendant's rights. Any approach at "restorative justice" must have as the primary goal the agreement of the victims.	1/2/2018 12:31 PM
2	Superior Court's ability to non-statutory sentences is very limited by state law.	1/2/2018 12:02 PM
3	Method for funding and participation of all Whatcom County jurisdictions. Development of a common county plan and budget based on resources available. May take reprioritization of existing expenditures.	12/28/2017 8:43 PM
4	I am waiting to hear from Moonwater about how she would frame these practices and about their local utility before either endorsing or rejecting this goal.	12/28/2017 6:35 AM
5	I haven't seen any evidence that it works for the type of population we have in our jail.	12/27/2017 6:43 PM
6	Better definition needs to be provided in regards to "restorative justice" is and how this will be implemented locally. We may need to focus on the pre-trial efforts and continue to define this throughout the year.	12/27/2017 12:36 PM
7	victim voices need to be heard on this	12/27/2017 12:23 PM
8	I do not know enough about what this means as a practical matter to assign any level of support to this goal. Depending on what it means, I have concerns about whether the principle of accountability is lost for those that violate criminal laws and whether it is workable at the practitioner level.	12/27/2017 11:39 AM
9	I don't understand how this would be funded.	12/26/2017 1:24 PM

10	This is a broad category and anything we look to implement needs to have solid replicated research behind it	12/22/2017 7:22 PM
11	I support examining how a restorative justice approach could work in Whatcom County. However, the TF should make sure that current adopted goals do not get delayed in pursuit of a broader more inclusive approach to justice.	12/22/2017 2:59 PM

Q7 Law and Justice System Committee: "Support Attorney General Ferguson's proposed bill to establish a state-level capability to centralize and accept payment of court fines"

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I fully support this goal	64.71% 11
I support this goal, with minor questions or concerns	17.65% 3
I have major questions or concerns about this goal	17.65% 3
If you selected Option #2 or #3 above, please share your specific questions or concerns here:	47.06% 8
Total Respondents: 17	

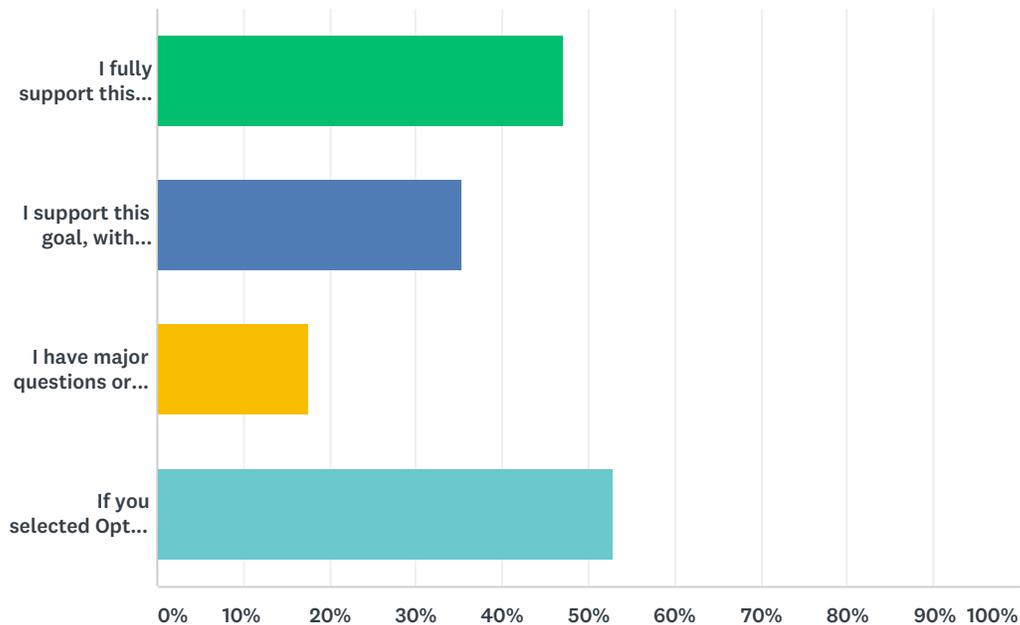
#	IF YOU SELECTED OPTION #2 OR #3 ABOVE, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HERE:	DATE
1	This has not been thoroughly discussed by the Task Force and any proposed legislation would have to be carefully analyzed. This has not been done, and consequently, I could not support this, other than as a concept-not as a proposed bill.	1/2/2018 12:31 PM
2	I strongly support this goal, but it will not reduce incarceration locally as we do not incarcerate people for nonpayment of fines (without clear evidence of means to pay and willfulness in avoiding -- very, very rare).	1/2/2018 12:02 PM
3	Believe we need to start locally and not have potential lack of progress at the state level slow us down. Could progress in parallel .	12/28/2017 8:43 PM

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

4	I'd like to hear more about this and what our support would look like - i.e. a letter? advocacy? something else?	12/28/2017 12:01 PM
5	I have been working on this project for a couple of years and have come to accept that a local solution will not be an efficient or effective response to re-licensing. Our pilot project to help people get re-licensed was not successful. As the VERA report made clear, these charges lead to warrants and admissions to the jail that can and should be avoided. Some communities have decided to stop arresting for this crime, others have had community wide warrant quash events, and have otherwise creatively addressed the issues created by this crime. Any - or all of this should be attempted in an effort to reduce these unnecessary drains on our resources. The support for the AG's legislation can be a part of our efforts in this regard.	12/28/2017 6:35 AM
6	need more info	12/27/2017 12:23 PM
7	As long as there is a way to allow for interest and fees to be omitted from original fines. There are too many 3rd parties who profit from this - collection fees, fees for loading funds for payments, etc.	12/26/2017 4:25 PM
8	We would need to ensure that fine levels could be set locally so that we do not create new financial barriers by going to a state system.	12/22/2017 2:59 PM

Q8 Law and Justice System Committee: "Explore best practices for supporting successful post-incarceration re-entry into the community, to reduce recidivism"

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



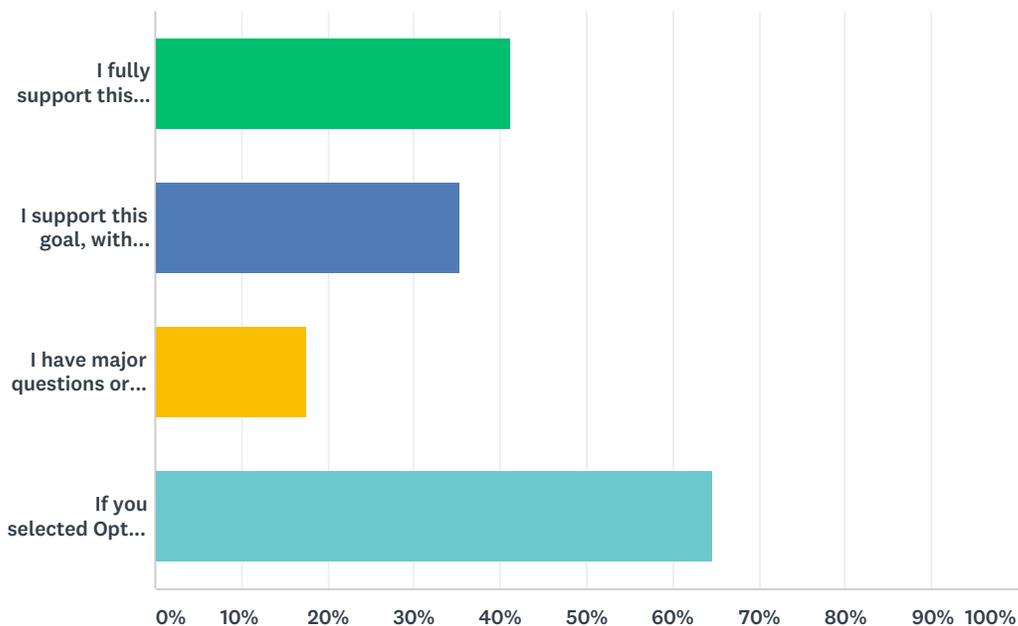
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I fully support this goal	47.06%	8
I support this goal, with minor questions or concerns	35.29%	6
I have major questions or concerns about this goal	17.65%	3
If you selected Option #2 or #3 above, please share your specific questions or concerns here:	52.94%	9
Total Respondents: 17		

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

#	IF YOU SELECTED OPTION #2 OR #3 ABOVE, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HERE:	DATE
1	I support this goal and feel it would help people that have been incarcerated in the State prison system. However, I question the term " Best Practices" since this can vary widely and would have to be tailored to this state and our criminal justice system in Washington.	1/2/2018 12:31 PM
2	Again, Superior Court's authority is limited (though the lengthier and/or prison sentences that come from Superior Court mean an even greater need for re entry help). Any efforts at this goal (which is important) for District Ct. defendants would be coordinated with District Ct. probation.	1/2/2018 12:02 PM
3	Would like to recommend practices rather than just explore.	12/28/2017 8:43 PM
4	The way that this goal is written could be interpreted in a variety of different ways - some of which I would support - and others that seem to be beyond the purview of the Task Force. Without identification of what is meant by the question, I am reluctant to offer my support for the goal.	12/28/2017 6:35 AM
5	We need to determine how this will be paid for and how to expand the housing fund opportunities	12/27/2017 12:36 PM
6	Why is this a law and justice committee issue? This might be better assigned to behavioral health committee	12/27/2017 12:23 PM
7	As the founder of the Restorative Community Coalition, this is our expertise. Many good programs exist and there are others that are newer and very effective that do not have the 'best practices' label. I would want us to be able to critique newer, successful programs that may not fit that label.	12/26/2017 4:25 PM
8	I think that we are past the "explore" part and should be in the "implement" phase.	12/26/2017 1:24 PM
9	I believe we know best practices. Our challenge is the paucity of community resources needed to provide a comprehensive and successful program.	12/22/2017 7:22 PM

Q9 Law and Justice System Committee: "Evaluate the Drug Court outcomes and develop a cost/benefit analysis"

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I fully support this goal	41.18% 7
I support this goal, with minor questions or concerns	35.29% 6

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

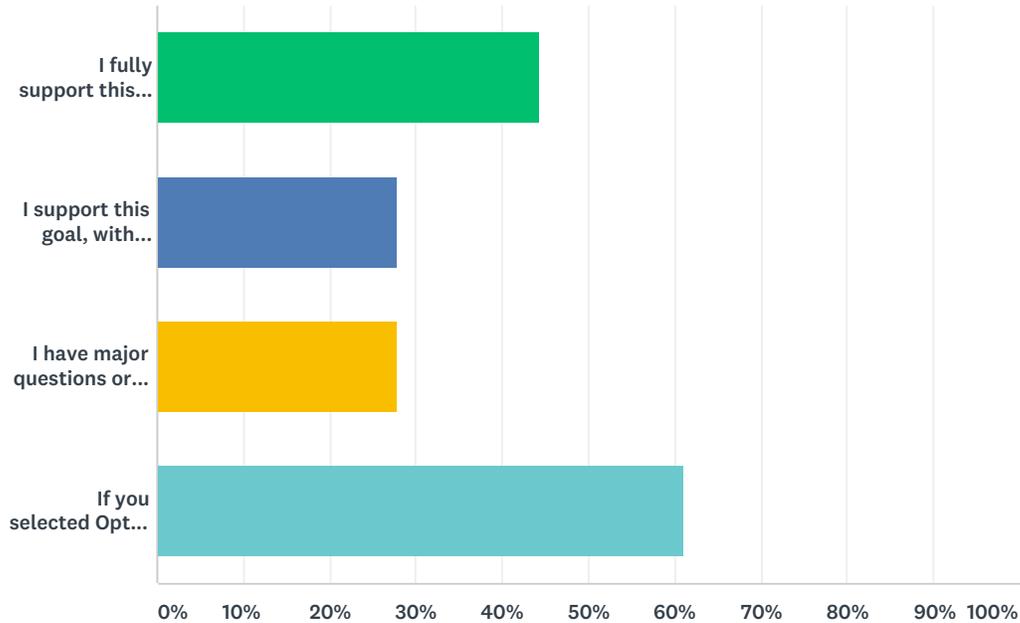
I have major questions or concerns about this goal	17.65%	3
If you selected Option #2 or #3 above, please share your specific questions or concerns here:	64.71%	11
Total Respondents: 17		

#	IF YOU SELECTED OPTION #2 OR #3 ABOVE, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HERE:	DATE
1	I think Drug Court serves a critical purpose and provides help for many of the people that enter and complete it. However, if you look at this on a cost/benefit analysis it would be difficult to justify the expense. I don't feel this is the correct way to analyze the program.	1/2/2018 12:31 PM
2	My understanding is that it's working well and is positively impactful. I'd like to hear more about the need for a c/b analysis.	12/28/2017 12:01 PM
3	My concerns with 'evaluate outcomes' is that it ignores the predicate for the work that needs to be done relative to drug court and our other therapeutic courts which is to identify 'best practices' (there are National standards) identify how we are - and are not - in compliance with those standards and the impact that the non-compliance has on our program - for the participants, the community and for the 'bottom line'. This 'goal' is written in a way that only addresses one part of the work that needs to be performed in this regard.	12/28/2017 6:35 AM
4	Cost/benefit to whom/ from whom	12/27/2017 11:13 PM
5	The evaluation should be done independent of those who are most invested in it. An independent evaluator would be best.	12/27/2017 12:23 PM
6	I have not kept abreast of this matter.	12/27/2017 11:39 AM
7	Again - there are newer techniques that should be considered.	12/26/2017 4:25 PM
8	How does this goal square with FastTrac? How do the restrictions of entry into this program affect outcomes?	12/26/2017 1:24 PM
9	Outcomes to date are probably affected by quality and availability of necessary related services, and these factors need to be captured somehow in any analysis.	12/23/2017 2:49 PM
10	The development of a cost-benefit analysis is typically done by researchers who do this for a living. The Washington State Institute for Public Policy does this work. I do not see this goal as feasible. There are some national standards for Performance Measures that we could look at.	12/22/2017 7:22 PM
11	I support an evaluation of the drug court but would need further information to decide on whether a full-blown cost/benefit analysis is warranted.	12/22/2017 2:59 PM

Q10 Law and Justice System Committee: "Enhance and expand the current drug court program"

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



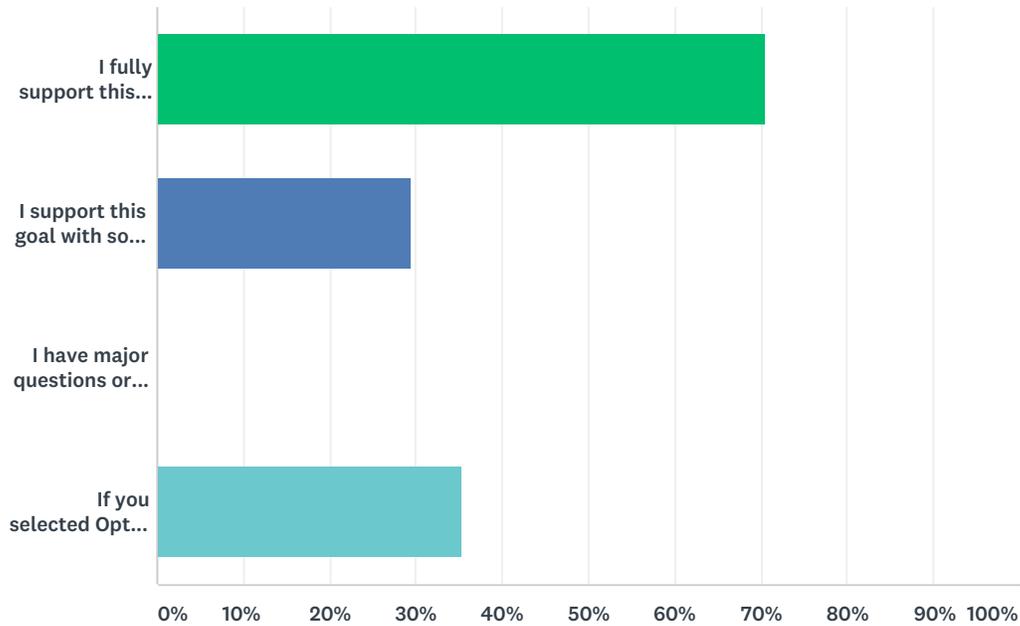
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I fully support this goal	44.44%	8
I support this goal, with minor questions or concerns	27.78%	5
I have major questions or concerns about this goal	27.78%	5
If you selected Option #2 or #3 above, please share your specific questions or concerns here:	61.11%	11
Total Respondents: 18		

#	IF YOU SELECTED OPTION #2 OR #3 ABOVE, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HERE:	DATE
1	I absolutely support the drug court and other therapeutic court concepts. I trust the judgement and ability of our Superior Court, the drug court staff and our Prosecuting Attorney and Public Defender to formulate specific recommendations for further success.	1/4/2018 8:57 AM
2	I believe that the Drug Court Program is functioning well and meets the needs that we have in our community. We offer the program to many more people that are willing to undertake it due to its difficulty. I feel it will expand as needed by non-violent offenders who are at the point of seriously looking for help.	1/2/2018 12:31 PM
3	I fully support this goal if the need / population exists. I don't know if it does, but the investigation described in #9, above, will help determine this.	1/2/2018 12:02 PM
4	The data from 2016 demonstrated that the majority of felony admissions to our jail were for crimes related to controlled substances. This information shows us that we have a real opportunity to address one of the major reasons for admissions to our jail - if we open ourselves to a fresh look at the process for evaluating who is eligible for the program and the effect of our other programs (like fast-track) on the admissions process. To date, we have not been able to develop a commitment to this fresh look.	12/28/2017 6:35 AM
5	Depends on what we learn in #9	12/27/2017 6:43 PM
6	More details need the be explained on the cost/benefit to this program compared to other court programs	12/27/2017 12:36 PM
7	The return on investment on this program should be considered. Its effectiveness needs independent evaluation prior to expanding.	12/27/2017 12:23 PM
8	I have not kept abreast of this matter. However, if the judicial branch sees value in this, I support it.	12/27/2017 11:39 AM
9	Same concerns as in Q9.	12/26/2017 1:24 PM

10	We need to be sure that our model is producing the outcomes we expect before we expand. And, we need to consider what funding will support this. Currently, the Behavioral Health Program Fund is the primary funder, and has no more funds available to allocate.	12/22/2017 7:22 PM
11	Expand, consistent with program quality control and good outcomes.	12/22/2017 2:59 PM

Q11 Behavioral Health Committee: "Review resources available that can support expansion of behavioral health programs"

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1

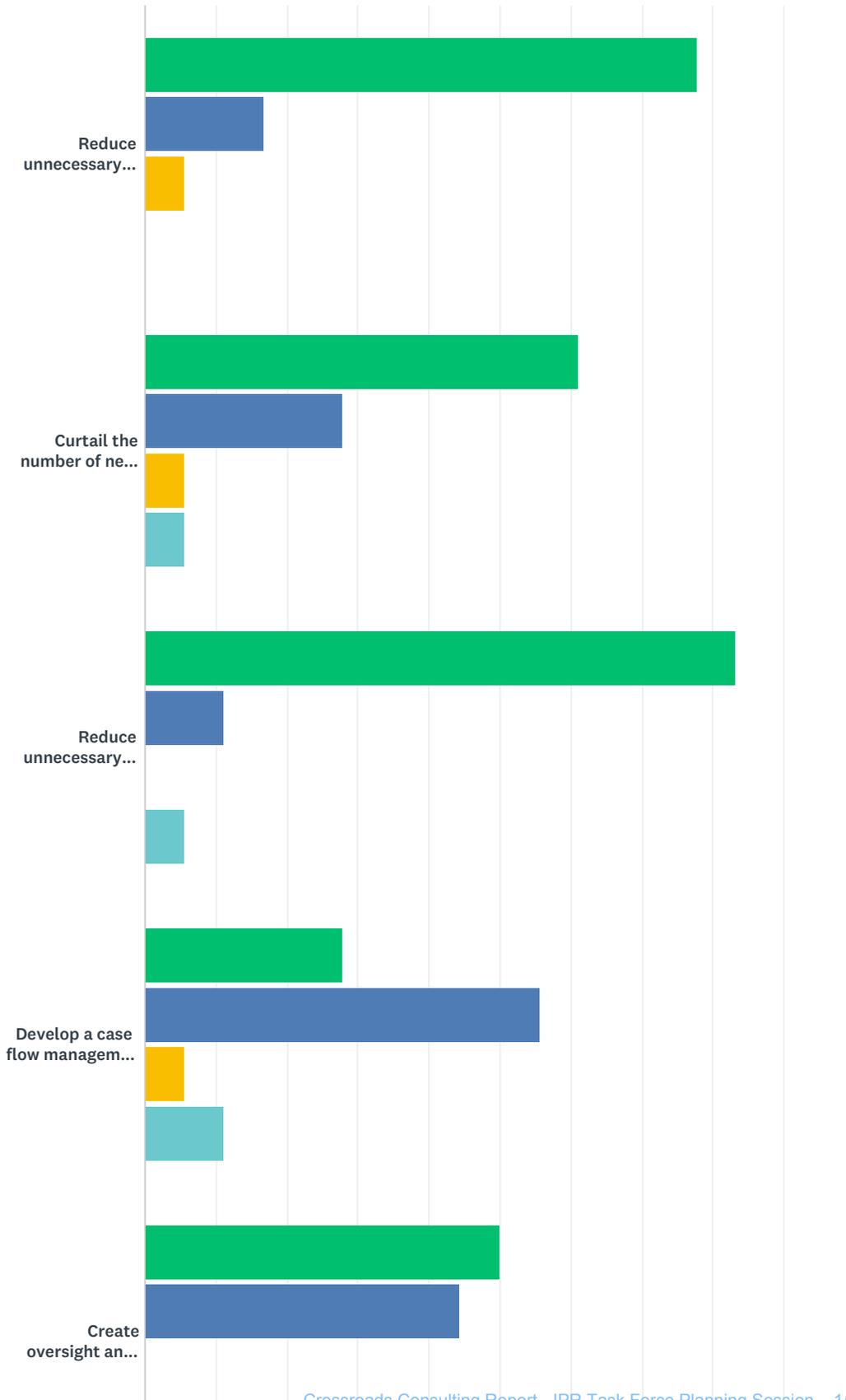


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I fully support this goal	70.59% 12
I support this goal with some minor questions or concern	29.41% 5
I have major questions or concerns about this goal	0.00% 0
If you selected Option #2 or #3 above, please share your specific questions or concerns here:	35.29% 6
Total Respondents: 17	

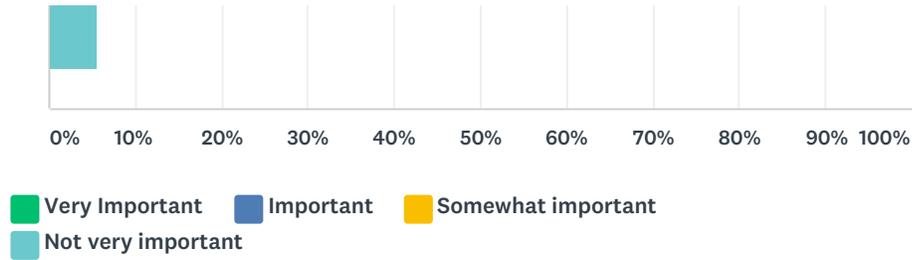
#	IF YOU SELECTED OPTION #2 OR #3 ABOVE, PLEASE SHARE YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HERE:	DATE
1	I believe that this is already being accomplished by behavioral health professionals in the community. I am not certain we have developed the information necessary to support this proposition.	1/2/2018 12:31 PM
2	I hope this includes serious mental illness too	12/27/2017 11:13 PM
3	Does expansion have to be our goal? what about better coordination with other agencies, better data sharing, more efficiency, etc?	12/27/2017 6:43 PM
4	Do we need to expand or do what we are doing better and more efficiently?	12/27/2017 12:23 PM
5	Again - we need to look at other newer programs.	12/26/2017 4:25 PM
6	Which programs? There is a need for analysis and prioritization to find programs with the best outcomes for the money.	12/22/2017 2:59 PM

Q12 How important are the five primary recommendations to you?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



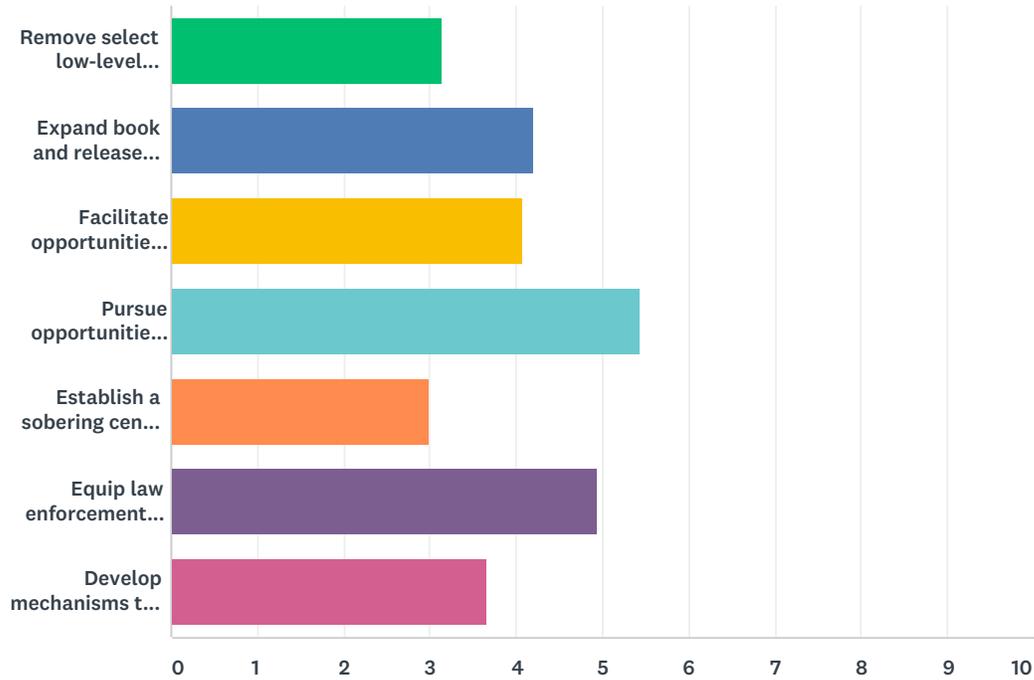
	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT VERY IMPORTANT	TOTAL
Reduce unnecessary admissions to the jail	77.78% 14	16.67% 3	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	18
Curtail the number of new and outstanding warrants for lower-level charges	61.11% 11	27.78% 5	5.56% 1	5.56% 1	18
Reduce unnecessary pretrial detention, create a pretrial release process that is individualized and based on data-driven risk assessments	83.33% 15	11.11% 2	0.00% 0	5.56% 1	18
Develop a case flow management plan to reduce time to disposition and shorten defendants' length of stay	27.78% 5	55.56% 10	5.56% 1	11.11% 2	18
Create oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure successful and sustained jail population reduction	50.00% 9	44.44% 8	0.00% 0	5.56% 1	18

#	COMMENTS:	DATE
1	Not sure how developing a case flow management plan will be accomplished. I support "accountability and oversight mechanisms" as long as it is consistent with public safety and the administration of justice	1/4/2018 9:09 AM
2	I have responded to VERA's recommendations in a separate report and will not recapitulate them here. However, the questions listed assume this committee or the county council can control judicial decisions. That can't be done and should not be done due to the separation of powers. The court system presently looks at every individual that comes before it and sets bail, release conditions in each case. We are at historically low jail incarceration numbers at the present time. The courts look carefully at pre-trial detention and examine each case closely. I don't agree at all with the suppositions contained in the above questions. In order to change the arrest of "low level charges" a change would have to come from the State Legislature, not this Task Force or the County Council.	1/2/2018 12:55 PM
3	I see #2 - curtailing warrants as a subset of #1. Case flow management is important but may not be the work of the taskforce? Oversight and accountability is important, and it's unclear to me what levels of accountability currently exist.	12/28/2017 12:22 PM
4	It's the details and implementation of all of these recommendations that will require coordination and work	12/27/2017 12:45 PM

Q13 Rank the importance of the following strategies for "Reducing Unnecessary Admissions to the Jail"

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Remove select low-level offenses from municipal codes	21.43% 3	0.00% 0	7.14% 1	7.14% 1	7.14% 1	21.43% 3	35.71% 5	14	3.14
Expand book and release practices, including from police stations	0.00% 0	35.71% 5	14.29% 2	7.14% 1	28.57% 4	7.14% 1	7.14% 1	14	4.21
Facilitate opportunities for individuals to pay off fines associated with previous moving violations	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	33.33% 5	13.33% 2	13.33% 2	26.67% 4	0.00% 0	15	4.07
Pursue opportunities to coordinate care between county agencies for people with behavioral health needs who come into contact with the justice system to prevent jail admissions.	31.25% 5	25.00% 4	6.25% 1	31.25% 5	6.25% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	16	5.44
Establish a sobering center to bring people arrested on DUI and other charges related to substance use.	6.25% 1	12.50% 2	6.25% 1	6.25% 1	18.75% 3	18.75% 3	31.25% 5	16	3.00
Equip law enforcement officers throughout the county with the tools needed to de-escalate and divert people experiencing behavioral health crises:	29.41% 5	17.65% 3	17.65% 3	11.76% 2	5.88% 1	11.76% 2	5.88% 1	17	4.94
Develop mechanisms to prevent jail admissions for technical violations of probation or parole	0.00% 0	20.00% 3	20.00% 3	13.33% 2	20.00% 3	6.67% 1	20.00% 3	15	3.67

Q14 Are there any specific concerns or suggestions related to any of these strategies you would like to mention, or additional strategies that you think should be considered relative to this recommendation?

Answered: 12 Skipped: 6

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

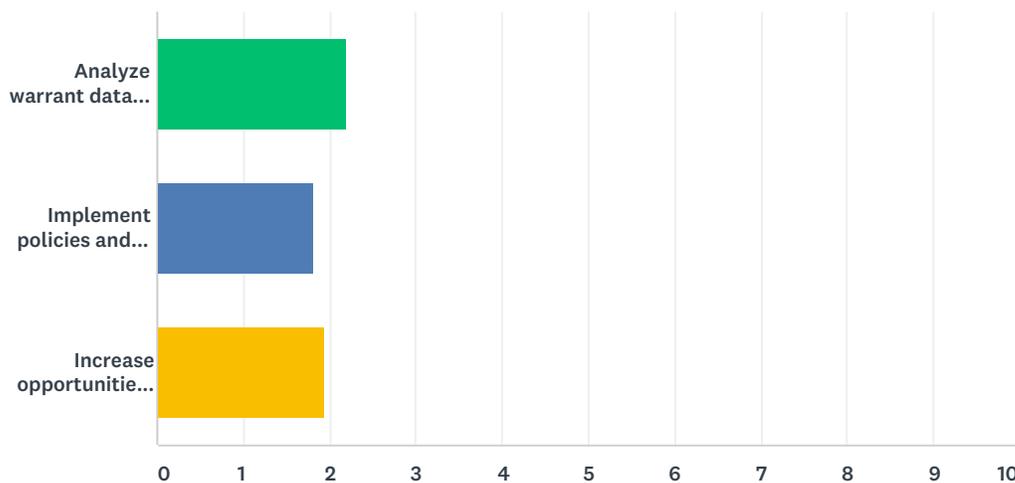
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	<p>Remove Low Level Offenses from City Codes p. 28 of Vera this would be very helpful. This was requested of former Bellingham Mayor Pike in 2011. A request was renewed in 2015 and 2016 and success was achieved. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office is moving ahead to decriminalize portions of Whatcom County Codes and other jurisdictions should follow suit. However, more needs to be done. For example, while the City of Bellingham decriminalized some portions of its code, (e.g. "failure to subscribe to garbage service"), some code-type violations remain criminalized. Recently a person was booked on a failure to appear on a warrant stemming from a violation of a city's building code. Expand Book and Release Practices, including tram police stations The Sheriff's Office seeks to divert as many people as possible from actual incarceration. It forwards "jail population status" reports to all law enforcement agencies three times a day. Population status reports include the notation: The Whatcom County Jail inmate population has been reduced to the point that we can accept bookings of offenders officers deem necessary to book. We appreciate your continued efforts at helping us maintain the inmate population at manageable levels and encourage the use of citations, referrals to prosecutors and diversion to the behavioral health system per RCW 10.31.110 when appropriate (emphasis added)." I was able to convene a meeting of the judges of courts of lower jurisdiction. They agreed to issuing "book and release" warrants in appropriate cases of failure to appear. These warrants will continue requiring officers to take the person into custody but permit their release after booking and the issuance of new court date. As for "book and release" from police stations, I previously comments to Vera on their draft report: "if this is fully implemented, local police departments will need to have the resources to conduct the necessary fingerprint and background checks as well as be sufficiently staffed to have adequate officers available during the process for officer-safety purposes." It would also be important that the police departments have the appropriate means to report the booking through the nationwide FBI data base. Facilitate opportunities for individual to pay off fines associated with previous moving violations. As I reported to Vera: The Sheriff's Office operates robust jail programs that, through cooperation with the courts, allow offenders to "work off" fines. I requested the Council modify the Code that provided for inmates to be credited with \$60 per day (approximately \$7 .SO per hour) to satisfy fines. The revised code now grants credit of \$102 per day and reflects an automatic annual adjustment based on the average of the Washington State minimum wage; the Washington State prevailing wage for landscape workers; the Whatcom County Parks Department wage for temporary groundskeepers; and the Bureau of Labor Statistics median wage for landscaping and grounds keeping work. See Whatcom County Code 1.18.030 (as amended in 2017). Pursue opportunities to coordinate care between county agencies for people with behavioral health needs who come into contact with the justice system to prevent jail admissions The Sheriff's Office is establishing a Crisis Intervention Unit wherein deputies will work closely with behavioral health professionals to de-escalate crises and divert persons from the criminal justice system to the behavioral health system. It is envisioned that Deputies assigned to the Unit will prioritize those individuals where safety issues require law enforcement involvement and use a system of case management (similar to what was implemented in Memphis) for repeat offenders. While original requested in the 2017-18 budget as a three deputy unit, the proposal was not approved. However, a supplemental budget requesting the implementation of a scaled-back pilot project was requested and approved during the 2018 supplemental budget process. This is being coordinated with the Health Department and we hope to have it functional by mid-2018. Establish a sobering center to bring people arrested on DUI and other charges related to substance abuse Whatcom County citizens are all too familiar with tragedies and the financial costs associated with releasing people arrested for DUI. Implementation would need to include legal mechanisms that would permit staff at the proposed sobering centers or hospital to hold people against their will and ensure they remain in custody until they no longer represent a threat to public safety. It is also requested that the requirements of Section 10.31.100(16)(a)of the RCW that mandates certain persons arrested for DUI be arrested and held in custody and taken before a judicial officer be addressed. Equip law enforcement officers throughout the county with the tools needed to de-escalate and divert people experiencing behavioral health crises The Sheriff's Office trained all deputies in de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques. The establishment of the Crisis Intervention Deputy (as noted in "Pursue opportunities to coordinate care between county agencies for people with behavioral health needs who come into contact with the justice system to prevent jail admissions (above)" is an integral part of that strategy. Develop mechanisms to prevent jail admissions for technical violations of probation or parole The courts sometimes sanction misdemeanor/gross misdemeanor violators with assignment to out of custody work crews as an alternative to jail. Parole has not existed in Washington State since the early 1980s and the jail receives very few, if any, parole violators . Some cases of violations of the conditions of community custody (administered through the Washington State Department of Corrections) mandate incarceration in jails so there may need to be some changes to the Revised Code of Washington to fully implement.</p>	1/4/2018 9:09 AM

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

2	Some of the recommendations are for the State Legislature and agencies such as Department Of Corrections, not this Task Force.	1/2/2018 12:55 PM
3	Did not know how to use the ranking mechanism	12/28/2017 8:49 PM
4	This was difficult to do - I think we need to spend more time understanding each of these options, which are most achievable and would be most impactful, which impact a smaller population and may be more difficult.	12/28/2017 12:22 PM
5	some of the strategies are particularly within the purview of the Municipal and District Court Judges such as incarceration as a response to technical probation violations and the expanded use of book and release. Each of the seven or so Courts has a different process for people who have outstanding fines to deal with their obligations. This process can be confusing and difficult to navigate.....coordination of these programs would make them more efficient and effective but again, this is within the control of local governments. The District and Municipal Court Judges and their commitment to this process are critical to the success of such strategies. As we move forward we will need to find a way to better involve them in our work.	12/28/2017 7:03 AM
6	Involuntary mental/behavioral health intervention, treatment and case management. The dangerous to self or others standard relies on involvement with law enforcement to build the case for treatment.	12/27/2017 11:22 PM
7	Instead of book and release, develop other pre-booking or pre-admission diversion tools such as work-crew or theft awareness classes, or behavior modification programs (or combine them all together). I would have ranked paying off fines higher if this is done in a centralized (e.g. statewide) manner.	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
8	Choose the least complicated and expensive ones to address first	12/27/2017 12:33 PM
9	The way that this survey was set up did not allow me to convey my actual priorities for these strategies. Several need to be done contemporaneously.	12/26/2017 1:29 PM
10	No	12/23/2017 2:58 PM
11	A sobering center is a costly program and should not be a priority at this time because we are in the process of expanding our Triage Facility, which can provide similar services.	12/22/2017 7:34 PM
12	I believe that for many jurisdictions the most low-level offenses do not usually result in jail time. Further research may be needed to validate this.	12/22/2017 3:15 PM

Q15 Rank the importance of the following strategies for "Curtailing the number of new and outstanding warrants for lower-level charges"

Answered: 17 Skipped: 1



	1	2	3	TOTAL	SCORE
--	---	---	---	-------	-------

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

Analyze warrant data to understand the scope of the problem and to target responses appropriately.	43.75% 7	31.25% 5	25.00% 4	16	2.19
Implement policies and practices that will reduce the number of bench warrants issued for FTAs.	17.65% 3	47.06% 8	35.29% 6	17	1.82
Increase opportunities for people to resolve outstanding warrants.	35.29% 6	23.53% 4	41.18% 7	17	1.94

Q16 Are there any specific concerns or suggestions related to any of these strategies you would like to mention, or additional strategies that you think should be considered relative to this recommendation?

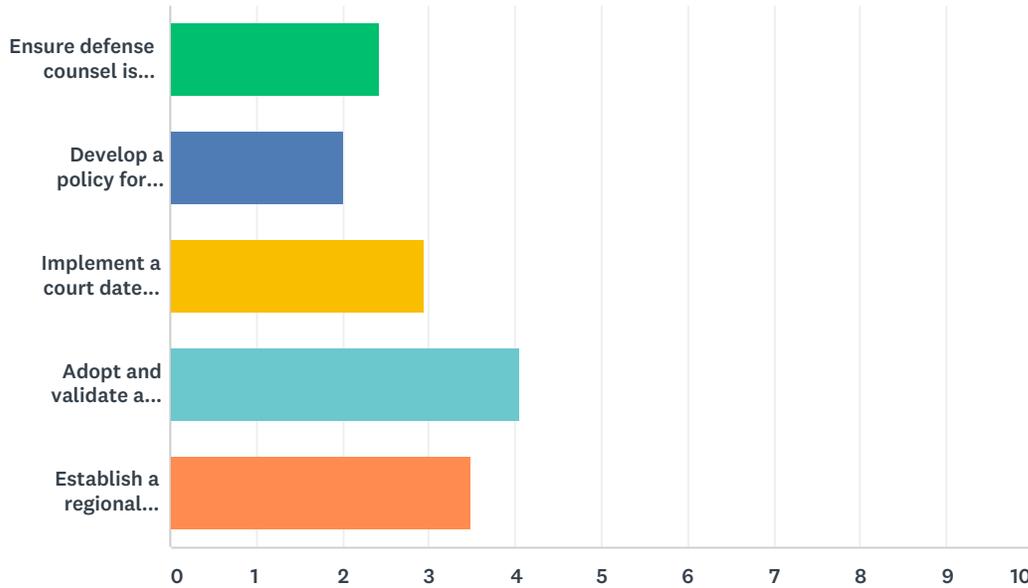
Answered: 8 Skipped: 10

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Defendants who know they have missed a court date, occasionally go to the court clerk's office to request a "warrant quash hearing." The time between the request and the hearing can be substantial. During this period, people are subject to being arrested on the warrant. I provided all of the judges of the courts of limited jurisdiction a copy of a King County District Court order that permits court clerks to quash warrants when the defendant requests the hearing. In King County, a defendant is still required to appear in court but will not be arrested on the warrant between the time of the clerk's quash and the court hearing. Some of the courts in small jurisdictions have adopted this practice. Others are considering it.	1/4/2018 9:09 AM
2	Couldn't use the ranking mechanism	12/28/2017 8:49 PM
3	Data analysis will help inform which priority should be next.	12/28/2017 12:22 PM
4	I do not feel strongly about this ranking. All three of these strategies can be performed at the same time and will have a major impact on jail admissions. All of this can and should be done immediately.	12/28/2017 7:03 AM
5	No. 3 (as I ranked it) seems to infringe directly on the judicial branch.	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
6	Same feedback as above.	12/26/2017 1:29 PM
7	No	12/23/2017 2:58 PM
8	no	12/22/2017 7:34 PM

Q17 Rank the importance of the following strategies for "Reducing unnecessary pretrial detention, create a pretrial release process that is individualized and based on data-driven risk assessments"

Answered: 16 Skipped: 2

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	SCORE
Ensure defense counsel is present at all bail determinations	7.14% 1	14.29% 2	21.43% 3	28.57% 4	28.57% 4	14	2.43
Develop a policy for early and meaningful bail review	0.00% 0	6.67% 1	20.00% 3	40.00% 6	33.33% 5	15	2.00
Implement a court date reminder system to allow for greater use of release on personal recognizance	18.75% 3	12.50% 2	37.50% 6	6.25% 1	25.00% 4	16	2.94
Adopt and validate a data-driven pretrial risk assessment system	43.75% 7	37.50% 6	6.25% 1	6.25% 1	6.25% 1	16	4.06
Establish a regional pretrial services program to serve all Whatcom County courts	25.00% 4	31.25% 5	18.75% 3	18.75% 3	6.25% 1	16	3.50

Q18 Are there any specific concerns or suggestions related to any of these strategies you would like to mention, or additional strategies that you think should be considered relative to this recommendation?

Answered: 11 Skipped: 7

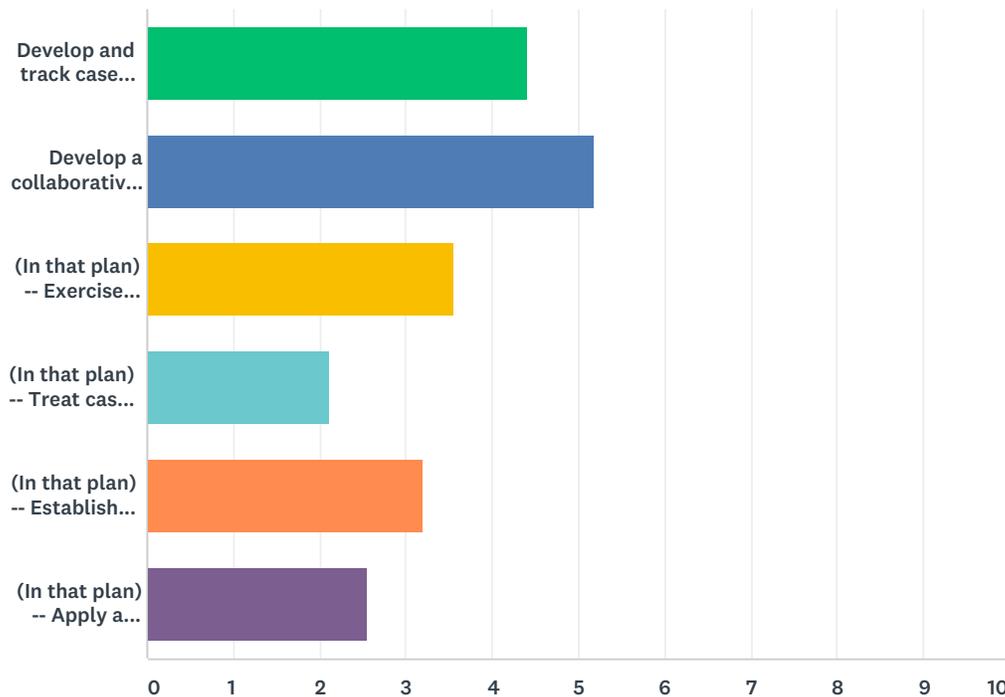
#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	While all are important, the courts are in the best position to prioritize to conduct the ranking and I would defer to their wisdom and judgement.	1/4/2018 9:09 AM
2	Any recommendations by VERA should follow State law. Some of the above do not. We are governed in the Criminal Justice system be a complex system of laws and court rules. These have not been considered in many of these recommendations.	1/2/2018 12:55 PM
3	Ditto	12/28/2017 8:49 PM
4	I would hope some of these could be advanced concurrently.	12/28/2017 12:22 PM
5	While I assigned numbers to each of these strategies, this is not a true ranking as they can and should be done at the same time. We can have defense counsel present at all bail hearings (even on weekends) at the same time that we implement a reminder system for greater use of PR. These are all important facets of reducing the numbers of people being held in custody pretrial and we should embark on a comprehensive approach to this problem immediately.	12/28/2017 7:03 AM

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

6	If they are too dangerous to release on PR, why does the payment of bail get them their release? Does paying money make them less dangerous?	12/27/2017 6:49 PM
7	I believe that Nos. 1 and 2 above have to go together. I believe that No. 4 and 5 is true already for the most part, at least for Bellingham. In general, though not mentioned by VERA, greater use of SCRAM and GPS can be used pretrial (and possible for pre-charging diversion). I know the County has concerned about the City's contract provider, but that should not hold things up.	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
8	Eliminate cash bail - New Jersey just did and Wash DC has never had it.	12/26/2017 4:54 PM
9	Same feedback as above. Several of these need to be done at once.	12/26/2017 1:29 PM
10	No	12/23/2017 2:58 PM
11	Court date reminders and already being used in some jurisdictions -- this just needs to be made universal.	12/22/2017 3:15 PM

Q19 Rank the importance of the following strategies for "Developing a caseflow management plan to reduce time to disposition and shorten defendants' length of stay"

Answered: 12 Skipped: 6



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Develop and track case processing performance measures	16.67% 2	41.67% 5	25.00% 3	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	8.33% 1	12	4.42
Develop a collaborative plan to ensure efficient and fair caseflow management	45.45% 5	36.36% 4	9.09% 1	9.09% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	11	5.18
(In that plan) -- Exercise early court involvement and continuing control	11.11% 1	11.11% 1	44.44% 4	0.00% 0	22.22% 2	11.11% 1	9	3.56
(In that plan) -- Treat cases proportionately	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	33.33% 3	44.44% 4	22.22% 2	9	2.11
(In that plan) -- Establish a practice of meaningful court events	30.00% 3	0.00% 0	10.00% 1	10.00% 1	20.00% 2	30.00% 3	10	3.20

(In that plan) -- Apply a continuance policy with reasonable consistency	0.00%	11.11%	11.11%	33.33%	11.11%	33.33%	9	2.56
	0	1	1	3	1	3		

Q20 Are there any specific concerns or suggestions related to any of these strategies you would like to mention, or additional strategies that you think should be considered relative to this recommendation?

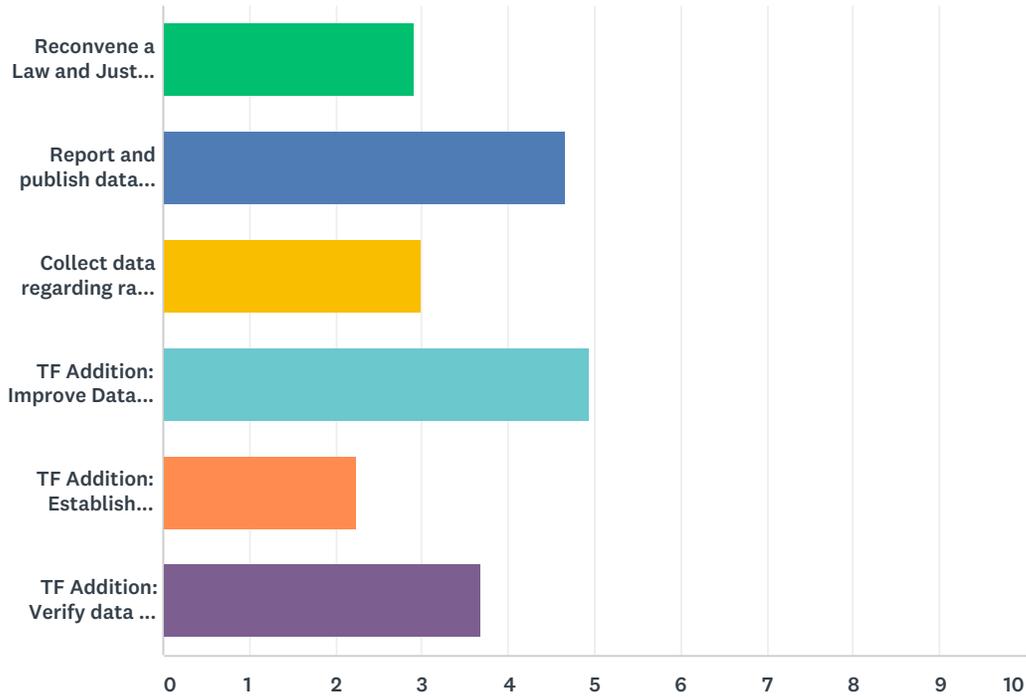
Answered: 11 Skipped: 7

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	The requested ranking should be left to the judgement and wisdom of the courts. Lay people do not necessarily have the knowledge of legal requirements, workloads, etc. to make meaningful suggestions. I do wholeheartedly agree that expediting the resolution of cases should help lower the population of the jail. · It should also be noted that many defendants have multiple criminal cases in the same or other court systems.	1/4/2018 9:09 AM
2	The above recommendations are being accomplished by the Courts. This Task Force cannot make decisions for the Judicial Branch of government. The goals specified are being accomplished by the Courts. It is not up to this task Force to direct the Court system. I believe that the questions listed presuppose conclusions in the VERA report	1/2/2018 12:55 PM
3	I'm not sure what #6 means -- if it means require defendants to attend fewer pretrial scheduling hearings (for example, on motions to continue trial date), I'd support that.	1/2/2018 12:10 PM
4	Ditto	12/28/2017 8:49 PM
5	If the TF will be involved, I'd like to learn more about what's needed.	12/28/2017 12:22 PM
6	This set of suggestions really defies a 'ranking'. While VERA identified case delay as something that impacts our jail population, I think that we would need to have additional information about strategies that have been successful in other communities before we begin to answer question 19.	12/28/2017 7:03 AM
7	I did not rank these because I believe the overall goal is no particularly helpful, i.e. that this is not a major problem for Bellingham municipal court. It may be a problem, but the VERA report did not really support this with substantive, localized, and particularized data and realistic bench-marking.	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
8	Above all, the practice of continuances - allowing a case to lag on for excessive months and even years, must be stopped! It causes undue trauma and stress, deliriously harms individuals, families and the entire community.	12/26/2017 4:54 PM
9	No	12/23/2017 2:58 PM
10	disregard my ranking - I don't know enough to weigh in on this section	12/22/2017 7:34 PM
11	I am less familiar with this area and found it difficult to rank the solutions -- other than starting with analysis to see where the problems are. If a multijurisdictional group were set up to review current processing bottlenecks and issues, prioritized actions could result.	12/22/2017 3:15 PM

Q21 Create oversight and accountability mechanisms to ensure successful and sustained jail population reduction

Answered: 15 Skipped: 3

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies



	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
Reconvene a Law and Justice Council and institutionalize the Council with regular meetings, sufficient staffing, and research capacity	18.18% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	36.36% 4	27.27% 3	18.18% 2	11	2.91
Report and publish data regularly to ensure transparency and accountability	33.33% 5	33.33% 5	13.33% 2	6.67% 1	13.33% 2	0.00% 0	15	4.67
Collect data regarding race and ethnicity at all system points	0.00% 0	7.14% 1	42.86% 6	14.29% 2	14.29% 2	21.43% 3	14	3.00
TF Addition: Improve Data Collection System	35.71% 5	35.71% 5	14.29% 2	14.29% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	14	4.93
TF Addition: Establish Consumer and Victim Focus Panels	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	0.00% 0	30.77% 4	46.15% 6	13	2.23
TF Addition: Verify data on number of people in jail who seek out or are referred to behavioral health services	7.69% 1	23.08% 3	23.08% 3	30.77% 4	7.69% 1	7.69% 1	13	3.69

Q22 Are there any specific concerns or suggestions related to any of these strategies you would like to mention, or additional strategies that you think should be considered relative to this recommendation?

Answered: 9 Skipped: 9

#	RESPONSES	DATE
---	-----------	------

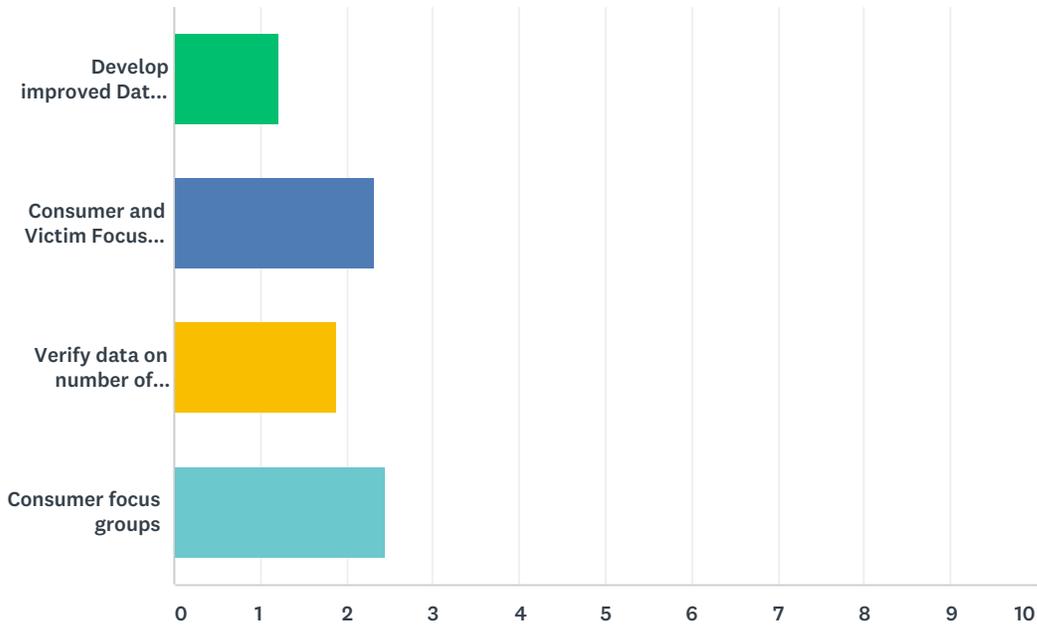
Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

1	Reconvene a Law and Justice Council and institutionalize the Council with regular meetings, sufficient staffing and research capability. I previously recommended that Council (2013-1017) consider legislative action to reduce the size of the law and Justice Council and establish a smaller and more task oriented group that continues to include stakeholder representatives. It should be noted that Section 72.09.300(1) of the Revised Code of Washington that mandates the establishment of such a Council and Chapter 2.19 of the Whatcom County Code that specifies the local composition. The L&J Council has not been functioning in at least six years. Some of the impediments to the effectiveness of the Council include: • Over the years of its existence, member participation dwindled and it is difficult to assemble a quorum; • The largest city in the County did not provide governmental representatives in the last several years it was functioning; • Some representative positions did not conduct any meetings for over a decade; • A quorum to conduct business often was not present; • Judges do not participate due to separation of power issues; • Despite elements of a coordinated and agreed upon plan, some municipalities pursued independent courses of action (that were not consistent with the agreed upon plan) as they saw necessary to meet needs and/or desires in their own communities; • The Law and Justice Plan has not been updated in recent years. The most recent proposed revisions were not adopted; • Local governmental entities do not have responsibility to fund elements of the plan. Improve Data collection and Report and publish data to ensure transparency and accountability Vera outlined court data from the "Whatcom County Superior and District Courts and Bellingham Municipal Court, to learn about case processing." The Lummi Nation, five other municipal courts and another tribal jurisdiction utilize the jail. The cumulative volume of cases processed by these jurisdictions significantly impacts the jail population. I had strongly urged Mr. Longman to ensure data from these jurisdictions be included in the scope of work performed by Vera. It is important to collect data from these points as well to ensure full context and to make any published data meaningful.	1/4/2018 9:09 AM
2	We had a Law & Justice Council for year until it expanded to the size of this Task Force and lost its ability to function. A small group could work well.	1/2/2018 12:55 PM
3	Ditto	12/28/2017 8:49 PM
4	Reconvening the Law and Justice Council feels very important to me. I believe we are out of compliance with state law by not having one. Having served on it for many years - it has the potential to be a valuable tool and forum for collaborative efforts to improve the justice system. I don't know that its intention or purpose would be oversight and accountability, although one of its purposes can be to address issues of jail management. If I understood that as it's intent, I would likely prioritize it higher in this exercise. I think its composition, designated purpose, and influence are all factors that would impact its relevancy and need.	12/28/2017 12:22 PM
5	I would have ranked the law and justice council strategy higher if it was not framed as such. I recommend a board or commission with an executive director, that will have ongoing oversight, review, and a forum for getting the systems to collaborate. The DV Commission model would work. It should be created by Interlocal Agreement. In short, you need the right policy makers on a board, with the right number and the right representation, but you also need this to be in someone's job description, i.e. to reduce and prevent incarceration while maintaining public safety.	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
6	Behavioral Health - many people do not know they have a mental health diagnosis. It is believed there are upwards to half of our jailed citizens fit this category. Many of our homeless fit here as just the stress of homelessness causes mental health issues.	12/26/2017 4:54 PM
7	No	12/23/2017 2:58 PM
8	We have recently verified data on jail inmates who have serious mental illness.	12/22/2017 7:34 PM
9	Re-instituting the Law and Justice Council could make sense as a goal for 2019. Moving to create that now would result in redundancy and slow progress of the TF.	12/22/2017 3:15 PM

Q23 One issue that has been raised is the need for better data collection. The Ordinance clarifies that one of the functions of the IPR Task Force is to: Review of the diversion programs of the County and all cities, and establishment of benchmarks to measure the effectiveness of the programs in reducing incarceration. Which of these strategies do you think are important for the TF to pursue towards that end?

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

Answered: 18 Skipped: 0



	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Develop improved Data Collection System	83.33% 15	11.11% 2	5.56% 1	0.00% 0	18	1.22
Consumer and Victim Focus Panels	22.22% 4	38.89% 7	22.22% 4	16.67% 3	18	2.33
Verify data on number of people in jail who seek out or are referred to behavioral health services	23.53% 4	64.71% 11	11.76% 2	0.00% 0	17	1.88
Consumer focus groups	25.00% 4	18.75% 3	43.75% 7	12.50% 2	16	2.44

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I agree, we need better and more data. Even more clarity on what data we need would be helpful. Do we have a complete list of teh diversuion programs? How far upstream are we going in the scope of the TF? What do we know about the efficacy of each of these programs? Depending on the scope of what we are listing as diversion programs, there may be multiple agencies - public, prvate, nonprofit, involved in the data and assessment of their efficacy.	12/28/2017 12:28 PM
2	we will not know if our efforts to improve systems have been effective unless and until we create better data systems. I do not believe that having victim focus groups are important. In my opinion, these voices have been represented at the table with the Public Defender, former defense attorney, consumer and citizen representatives. As for data on the number of people seeking behavioral health services, we actually know these numbers but do not understand them.....whether they are seeking 'sleep medication' or are having true medical needs that need to be addressed. It is this analysis that would be helpful to our work.	12/28/2017 7:10 AM
3	Improve data collection, what we collect, and how we manage it and retrieve it and present it. We are failing.	12/27/2017 6:52 PM
4	We should look into implementing the AOC Odessey RMS system in all courts in Whatcom County	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
5	Each alternative would need to be analyzed separately, and in comparison with others, with a focus on goals and on the data for specified outcomes.	12/22/2017 3:31 PM

Q24 Which strategy, or strategies, are you personally most interested in working on in the coming year?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	legal and justice systems	1/4/2018 9:11 AM
2	Changes to Superior Court pretrial procedures	1/2/2018 12:13 PM
3	Triage facility construction	12/29/2017 2:31 PM
4	Common countywide strategies and budget. Data development and screening tool.	12/28/2017 8:55 PM
5	Exploring Restorative Justice/Restorative Practices	12/28/2017 12:28 PM
6	I am excited to work with the groups that will be focused on reducing the pretrial population in our jail and improving and expanding our current therapeutic courts.	12/28/2017 7:10 AM
7	DATA	12/27/2017 6:52 PM
8	I am interested in working on pre-arrest diversion programs and practices as well as pre-trial diversion. I am also interested in making Bellingham's SCRAM and GPS system better which can be a model for other jurisdictions.	12/27/2017 12:58 PM
9	Triage facility and data collection for the courts. As well as working on budget and departments on implementing the pre-trial programs	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
10	Focus groups, Restorative Justice and newer programs and techniques.	12/26/2017 5:10 PM
11	Triage center development; drug court housing; would like to learn more about restorative justice practices.	12/26/2017 4:41 PM
12	All of them.	12/26/2017 1:31 PM
13	Those assigned to the Legal and Justice System committee.	12/23/2017 3:03 PM
14	Triage Facility, GRACE, and the Opioid Epidemic	12/22/2017 7:36 PM
15	Helping to conceptualize and create regular reports (monthly and annual) summarizing jail populations, characteristics, outcomes, etc.	12/22/2017 3:31 PM

Q25 Which strategy or strategies do you have the most concerns about, and what specifically is your concern?

Answered: 13 Skipped: 5

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Data was not collected from all participating jurisdictions	1/4/2018 9:11 AM
2	Getting agreement of court judges and staff, prosecuting and defense bars is difficult.	1/2/2018 12:13 PM
3	Evaluating Behavioral Health programs and making informed decisions with limited resources regarding which Behavioral Health programs to fund.	12/29/2017 2:31 PM
4	That we allow the budget or lack of to prevent us from identifying what we need. identify resources and re prioritize 1st	12/28/2017 8:55 PM
5	none	12/28/2017 7:10 AM
6	Victim/users panels seem pointless. The idea should not be to sensationalize or inject emotion into the the decisions.	12/27/2017 6:52 PM

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

7	I am concerned that the case management system goal may be a red-herring. I would also not want to see a decriminalization of those laws that are community has developed to ensure quality of life. This is in part due to the quality of life perspective, but also because a criminal code can be used as a diversion mechanism for those offenders who otherwise would not participate. If you eliminate the tool, you eliminate the tool.	12/27/2017 12:58 PM
8	Timelines and steps towards implementation	12/27/2017 12:49 PM
9	When Restorative Justice/practices are used the victim is the center of the issue. The perpetrator has the opportunity for learning how their actions effect others, how to heal a harm done and educates them for a lifetime. Everyone wins. Focus groups - There are victims of the 'justice system'. In my work I go with our clients to court and observe the rigors they face at the hands of the court. It is unintended tho it exists. Many people have to plead guilty to crimes they did not commit just to get out of jail - 'probable cause'. The people who navigate the court system need to heard. Many lives are ruined just by an arrest. It is said by Vera, that just one or two days in jail can effect ones life adversely for the rest of their life.	12/26/2017 5:10 PM
10	Implementation of GRACE.	12/26/2017 1:31 PM
11	I am not clear on how proponents of consumer and victim panels expect to use those forums and the information coming from them.	12/23/2017 3:03 PM
12	Sobering Center - simply not feasible at this time given the population size of Whatcom County.	12/22/2017 7:36 PM
13	There needs to be clear prioritization of the analysis tasks that are precursors to program improvement. For example, improving the basic availability of data, and creating a regular report on how many are in the jail and for what reason, should be prioritized over detailed analysis of existing programs, in most instances. Both activities are important but we need to understand the basics first.	12/22/2017 3:31 PM

Q26 There has been some discussion of consumer focus groups, as being a valuable source of data for the Task Force. If the TF pursued this research, what would you most hope we would learn?

Answered: 15 Skipped: 3

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	23. Information about impediments to successful re-entry into the community. However, I would also hope this would include victim focus groups and result in the collection of information about the impact of crime on victims (including fear and the achievement of justice).	1/4/2018 9:11 AM
2	I'd hope we'd learn more about the realities of incarceration and release from incarceration, with an eye toward reducing incarceration.	1/2/2018 12:13 PM
3	How to meet consumer needs more effectively.	12/29/2017 2:31 PM
4	Needs from the consumer perspective. What works, doesn't work. Then analyze what is possible from an evidence based perspective.	12/28/2017 8:55 PM
5	What was their path? What additional barriers did the system create for them? How did the system help or harm them? Their families? What can be improved? What works well?	12/28/2017 12:28 PM
6	I do not think that they would be an important use of our resources and do not favor their creation.	12/28/2017 7:10 AM
7	Presently the task force members represent large institutions and interests. The views from people that this system acts upon may better gauge future oriented opportunities that could reduce incarceration.	12/27/2017 11:28 PM
8	corruption within the system	12/27/2017 6:52 PM
9	I really do not know. I feel that we already have advocates at the table that provide this information and perspective.	12/27/2017 12:58 PM
10	Specifics ideas to improve the justice system	12/27/2017 12:49 PM

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force January 2018 Planning Retreat Survey: Task Force Members and Proxies

11	The above - that just one or two days in jail can effectively set someone on a derailing course. We all need to understand how this happens. We have diagrammed this process.	12/26/2017 5:10 PM
12	Factors that lead to recidivism amongst offenders, impacts of victimization among victims	12/26/2017 1:31 PM
13	Where policies and practices are not being implemented as intended or where unanticipated effects or outcomes are undermining the expected value to be gained.	12/23/2017 3:03 PM
14	Would want it well-balanced with victim input.	12/22/2017 7:36 PM
15	Provide qualitative information on processes or procedures that result in problems in the justice system and that result in worse outcomes for the system and anyone who is in it. Also, FGs may identify issues that may have been missed through data analysis and interviews conducted to date.	12/22/2017 3:31 PM

Q27 Are there any other comments, questions, or requests you would like to share, regarding our planning effort?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 10

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Thank you for your help!	12/29/2017 2:31 PM
2	Clear focus on action.	12/28/2017 8:55 PM
3	no	12/28/2017 7:10 AM
4	Focus on transferring WHATCOM COUNTY inmates to jails in other jurisdictions - Yakima, etc. Why are we only asking Bellingham and others to do this?	12/27/2017 6:52 PM
5	Good luck.	12/27/2017 12:58 PM
6	Glad we are having the conversation.	12/26/2017 5:10 PM
7	No	12/23/2017 3:03 PM
8	Good questionnaire!	12/22/2017 3:31 PM