

**Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice System Committee Meeting**

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., April 13, 2021, Remote-only virtual meeting

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AGENDA

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 jnixon@co.whatcom.wa.us. Audio recordings are the official meeting record and can be found on the IPRTF and committee [website](#).

Topic	Requested Action	Presenter	Packet Page(s)
1. Call to Order 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.			
2. Committee's Annual Plan	Discussion	Co-Chairs	N/A
3. Identify agenda items for the May joint meeting with Behavioral Health Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reentry • Behavioral health crisis response program 	Discussion	Co-Chairs	N/A
4. Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction on plans to develop an IPR Task Force communications strategy 			
5. Public Comment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you would like to speak, virtually "raise your hand." <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 			
6. Adjourn			

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

At this time, all meetings are held via remote-only virtual Zoom webinar

<u>IPR TASK FORCE</u>	COMMITTEES				
Monthly on various Mondays 9-11 AM	<u>BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</u> Monthly, 3rd Tuesday 9:00-10:30 AM	<u>LEGAL & JUSTICE SYSTEMS</u> Monthly, 2 nd Tuesday 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<u>CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITY</u> Bi-monthly, 3 rd Thursday 9:30-11:00 AM	<u>INDEX</u> Bi-monthly, 1 st Thursday 1:30-3:00 PM	<u>STEERING</u> Various Thursdays 11:00 AM-12:30 PM
April 19 May 17 June 14 July 19	April 20 May 11, 11:30 (Joint) June 15 July 20	May 11 (Joint) June 8 July 13 August 10	May 20 July 15	May 6 July 1	May 6 June 3 July 8

**The most up-to-date meeting schedule can be found online at:
<http://wa-whatcomcounty.civicplus.com/calendar.aspx?CID=40>,**

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force
Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee
Meeting Summary for March 9, 2021

Note: Agenda item links to YouTube video are functional at the time this meeting summary was created, however YouTube links may change. Links will not be updated. Please refer to time notation on each agenda item.

1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. in the Whatcom County Courthouse Conference Room 514, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Moonwater, Eric Richey, Donnell Tanksley, Maia Vanyo, Kristin Hannah (Proxy for Deborah Hawley)

Members Absent: Deborah Hawley, Darlene Peterson, Flo Simon, Bruce Van Glubt

2. Raylene King and Judge Mark Kaiman on [Senate Bill \(SB\) 5226 \(2020-2021\) concerning the suspension of licenses for traffic infractions and concerns about the current law of DWLS 3rd RCW 46.20.342.1C](#) [\(00:01:14\)](#)

King reported on the history of the Committee's review of statutes around Driving While License Suspended 3rd Degree (DWLS3) introduced Judge Mark Kaiman, presiding judge for the City of Ferndale.

Kaiman reported on the extraordinary amount of court resources taken up by the DWLS3 charge, which is a relatively minor charge and the need for a different approach that's more effective at modifying people's behavior. A proposed Senate Bill may reduce the impact on courts, but may also create other problems because there is no disincentive to driving without a license.

The committee members and Judge Kaiman discussed the status of the bill, amendments to the bill, possible repercussion of policy changes, refocusing on traffic safety instead of fines, transportation issues for people who live in more remote areas, the cost of getting a license reinstated, child support and license suspension, finding positive reinforcements to incentivize compliance, and creating amnesty days to set up payment plans.

3. Washington State [Supreme Court ruling on State v. Blake](#) on RCW 69.50.4013 (1), Washington's simple possession of controlled substance statute [\(00:32:52\)](#)

The Committee members discussed the specifics of the decision and its overall impact, cost impacts, reduced incentive to get into treatment, impacts to the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program and drug court, recalculating sentences and sentencing alternatives that rely on prior conviction of simple possession in the sentencing scheme, releasing inmates who are incarcerated solely on simple possession conviction, dismissing 200 cases locally, communicating the change to the public, tracking treatment and other statistics as a result of the decision, Drug Offender Sentencing

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Alternative (DOSAs), the possibility of transitioning from sentenced treatment to volunteering treatment, and the community safety net for individuals who will be leaving the system and need resources.

4. [Discuss content to be included in the committee report for the IPRTF Annual Report \(01:21:26\)](#)

The committee discussed the content for the annual report, to include: reentry, impacts from legislative action and Supreme Court rulings, bringing in speakers to provide information to committee members this past year, and next year think about how to convert information into action items and recommendations from this committee to the Task Force and Council.

This item will be held to the next meeting.

5. Introduction on plans to develop a strategy for external communications: Identify local agencies and groups who may be interested in receiving information on the work of the IPRTF

This item was not discussed and will be rescheduled.

6. Identify a committee point person to operationalize GARE toolkit for the LJS Committee

This item was not discussed and will be rescheduled.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 p.m.