

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Legal & Justice Systems Subcommittee

Meeting Summary for July 13, 2021

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1. Call to Order

Committee Co-Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. The meeting was held remote-only via Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Arlene Feld, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Eric Richey, Donnell Tanksley, Bruce Van Glubt, Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Bill Elfo, David Freeman, Moonwater, Darlene Peterson, Flo Simon

Also Present: Anne Deacon, Caryl Dunavan, Jake Wiebusch

2. Committee meeting schedule ([00:01:14](#))

Richey moved to change schedule to one hour on a trial basis to the end of the year, and to increase joint meetings with Behavioral Health Committee to quarterly for one and a half hours. The motion was seconded, and carried unanimously (Vanyo absent).

Committee members discussed revisiting the meeting length later in the year to see how it works with an hour, or to schedule a meeting for one and a half hours when necessary.

3. Domestic violence offender treatment ([00:09:03](#))

Van Glubt and Wiebusch submitted and read from a presentation on the Domestic Violence Perpetrator Opportunity for Treatment (DVPOTS) program, including:

- 20 percent of the cases they monitor are domestic violence and/or assault offenses
- The Domestic Violence Unit is a specialized unit with reduced caseloads with trained officers, allowing them to provide a higher level of service to indigent offenders
- DV unit offenses and caseload
- Program components
- Funding from the County and City of Bellingham
- Enrollment, completion, and success statistics

The committee discussed ([00:17:20](#)) funding allocated from the City and County in the amount of \$250,000 when the program originally began; whether additional funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is possible; moral reconnection therapy; State requirements for treatment provided to the program participants; whether the treatment is clinically successful; whether behavioral health diagnoses are typical with domestic violence offenders; access to treatment; making DV offender treatment available throughout all the jurisdictions in the county, including small cities' offenders; diversions due to the Blake fix law; opportunities to help program participants who have difficulty

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reading and writing; how to track domestic violence charges and data; the need for a dedicated staff person for data collection and analysis throughout the criminal justice system in all jurisdictions; the cost to provide treatment to meet the demand throughout the county; the possibility of partnering with the small cities to provide the service; housing for DV offenders who become homeless due to charges; local capacity for DV treatment; County liability; DVPOTS is a funding source only, not a treatment provider; restorative justice for cases where there isn't necessarily danger; whether the State-required DV protocols are effective; cultural beliefs that may impact domestic violence, and; the importance of trying some type of treatment protocol to see what works and what doesn't.

4. Recent State legislation and impacts on the criminal justice system (00:00:00)

Committee members discussed:

- HB1223, which requires recording of all types of interrogation, even those that happen on the street. It is a mandate to provide body cameras, which are beneficial, but the mandate is not funded. Some jurisdictions don't have funding for body cameras. Additional records personnel would have to be hired to manage the data and recordings.
- HB 1310, and whether implementation is required by July 2021. There is concern that police officers may be liable for not following its intent, so the laws are being interpreted very conservatively.
- Upcoming discussion of these measures at the full Task Force meeting on July 19, including trying to understand the legislature's intent, potential effects, and possible benefits.

5. Other Business ([01:18:27](#))

King reported on topics for future meetings.

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.