

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force: Legal and Justice Systems Committee

Meeting Summary for January 11, 2022

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1. Call to Order

Committee Chair Raylene King called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was held via remote-only Zoom Webinar.

Members Present: Bill Elfo, Arlene Feld, David Freeman, Stephen Gockley, Deborah Hawley, Raylene King, Jackie Mitchell, Donnell Tanksley, and Maia Vanyo

Members Absent: Darlene Peterson, Eric Richey, Flo Simon, and Bruce Van Glubt

2. Current jail use statistics and restrictions

This item was not discussed because the planned presenter was not able to attend. Item will be rescheduled to a future meeting.

3. [Competency and restoration \(00:02:54\)](#)

King asked members for their ideas on what the committee can do to help solve some of the problems surrounding competency and restoration issues.

- Committee members discussed the issue of jail inmates waiting months for competency evaluations and then waiting again between competency evaluations and treatments.
- King suggested the idea of doing evaluations in groups on a designated day each month or every couple of weeks. Vanyo added that that has been done in the past and her office tries to contact all their clients to get them in for their evaluations.
- Vanyo stated that this is a well-documented problem, there is a class-action law suit regarding this issue, and they still have clients who remain in jail even though they are not competent and have not had an evaluation or treatment. She said that she does not think there is anything the committee can do about this issue.
- King brought up transportation issues surrounding getting individuals who are not in custody to their evaluations. Committee members also acknowledged other barriers to getting individuals to their evaluations.
- Committee members discussed what was happening on the state level surrounding the issue.
- Committee members discussed developing a list of concerns they have, including the fact that there is often a dual diagnosis creating questions of which court, drug court or mental health court, is more appropriate.
- Hawley recounted her son's experience with evaluation at Western State.
- Vanyo described where evaluations and treatments take place. She explained that evaluation can happen anywhere the client and evaluator can meet, including her office or over video. She also stated that treatment can only occur at Western or Eastern state hospitals, but in the future there may be out-patient options available.

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4. [Reentry services \(00:33:00\)](#)

Mitchell gave an update on the reentry staff position for the jail behavioral health team and explained that they are delayed in hiring for the position.

Feld gave an overview of the Harvard article outlining reentry studies. Committee members discussed various aspects of the points Feld summarized as well as other reentry issues they see currently. Topics introduced included:

- Insurance for inmates and recently released people
- The difference between reentry from prison and reentry from the jail
- The population they are currently seeing in jail during COVID compared to the people who have historically been in the jail
- Local reports and resources that may be relevant
- The need for reentry services in any new jail or justice campus to be built in the future
- The importance of building or rebuilding social networks as a part of reentry
- The need for affordable housing
- The impacts of language barriers on reentry success
- The idea of having a one-day event for former inmates where multiple services are available in one place.

5. Regular meeting length for 2022

This item was not discussed. It will be discussed at the next Legal and Justice Committee meeting.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.