

# Justice Project Implementation Planning Update

April 11, 2023



## The Implementation Planning Process

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Implementation Planning started in March and will continue through early June.

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The Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force (IPRTF), acting as the Law & Justice Council, is overseeing this planning process.

# WHATCOM COUNTY JUSTICE PROJECT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
for the Public Health, Safety,  
and Justice Facility Needs Assessment

January 2023



## Our Scope of Work

- Actions and projects to advance the 16 Needs and 32 Recommendations in the Needs Assessment
- 1-3 year time frame

# Scope

as per the  
County Council  
Resolution passed on  
Feb. 21, 2023

- Proposed systems and services efforts and costs
- Proposed facilities concepts for community services and costs (i.e., ideas for building size and configuration to accommodate desired activities)
- Jail facilities concept, including location and planning level costs
- Identification of county departments, community leaders, and organizations to guide implementation
- A funding approach, including elements in a proposed sales tax ballot measure

# Implementation Planning Process

MODELS FROM OTHER PLACES

WORKSHEETS & WORKSHOPS

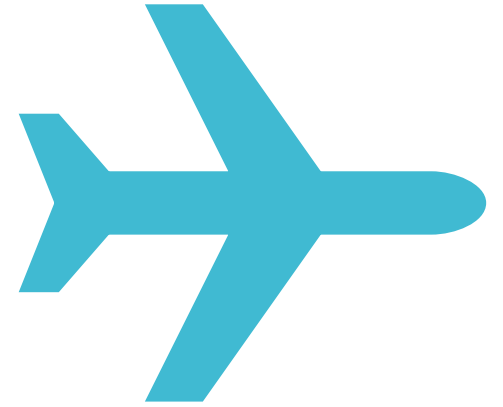
PUBLIC INPUT

POLLING FOR PREFERENCES

REVISE & REFINE

FINAL PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Studying  
Models  
from  
Other  
Places



# Some Lessons from Nashville Trip

# Nashville Downtown Detention Center





# Nashville Behavioral Care Center





# Workshops & Worksheets

- Participants: IPRTF and subject matter experts
- Schedule:
  - March 9 – Systems
  - March 17 – Services
  - March 23 – Facilities - Community Services
  - March 30 – Facilities - Jail & Accessory Services
  - Wednesday, April 12, 1:00-3:30 – Funding



# Process

- Compiling content from Worksheets & Workshops
- Sending questions to groups/individuals
- Refining and synthesizing implementation plan ideas

## Process

- Aiming for 8-10 projects in total, that can be accomplished in the next 1-3 years
- Each will address multiple needs & recommendations
- Polling workshop participants for feedback & priorities



# Potential Implementation Plan Projects

## Increase Access to Behavioral Health Services

- Build a 23-hour Crisis Relief Center
- Establish a Behavioral Health Resource Center
- Increase capacity of effective existing programs to divert people from incarceration
- Address workforce shortages
- Explore and develop outpatient competency restoration services

**Advocate  
with  
Regional &  
State  
Partners for  
Increased  
BH Services**

- Advocate for a state waiver to allow use of Medicaid funds
- Increase access to inpatient competency restoration services
- Research feasibility and desirability of building a secure detox facility in the region

# Address Housing Needs

- Ensure existing supportive housing programs are adequately staffed and equipped
- Expand the number of permanent supportive housing options
- Advocate to address “the 90-day rule”



# Build a New Jail & Accessory Services

- Build a new jail
- Build a Behavioral Care Center attached to new jail

# Measure Progress Toward Desired Outcomes

- Collect data to measure progress toward desired outcomes
- Develop a data dashboard

# Polling for Preferences

Just completed first poll

Discuss findings at April 12 workshop

Revise & refine the potential  
implementation projects

Poll again

# Next Steps

- ❖ Next workshop: Funding Sources – April 12
- ❖ Focus Groups with priority audiences – April 24-28
- ❖ Town Hall, May 24

# Implementation Planning Process

## Check-ins

- **With IPRTF/Law & Justice Council**
  - April 17
  - May 15
  - June 12
- **With County Council**
  - **April 11**
  - May 9
  - May 23
  - June – Complete Implementation Plan Present to Council