

Whatcom County Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

1:45 PM

Council Chambers

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan

Tyler Byrd

Carol Frazey

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 1:58 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd and Carol Frazey

Absent: None

Also present: Rud Browne, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kathy Kershner

Special Presentation

1. [AB2020-009](#) Report from the Incarceration Prevention & Reduction Task Force

Stephen Gockley, Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force Co-Chair, gave a report about the work of the task force done in 2019, and work they are looking to do in 2020.

Work in the later part of 2019 included:
 - ~Recognition of the Task Force with a Peace Building Award by the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center
 - ~Groundbreaking of the Crisis Stabilization Center in October and entering into service provider leases
 - ~Completion of a service inventory which utilized the sequential intercept model
 - ~Coordination with Dr. Andrew Peterson concerning pre-trial diversion efforts
 - ~Expansion of staffing for the Superior Court Pre-Trial Services Unit
 - ~Working with the Arnold Foundation on criminal justice reform measures
 - ~Improvements in drug court
 - ~Advancement in goals for coordinated data gathering
Work in 2020 will include:
 - ~Focusing on prevention measures
 - ~Looking into best practices for re-entry services and continuing work on jail diversion efforts
 - ~Continuing work on adopting a pre-trial risk assessment tool for use in Superior Court
 - ~Working on adopting the Public Safety Assessment from the Arnold Foundation
 - ~Monitoring the increase and meeting with the specialized law enforcement officers

- ~Working with the Health Department on the Grace Project
- ~Working on treatment protocols and funding for the Crisis Stabilization Center
- ~Continued work on the construction of a rehabilitation center
- ~Improving community awareness on the work of the Task Force with a communications plan

He answered questions about the status of the Superior Court Pre-Trial Risk Assessment as it concerns racial bias and whether there is any data that shows costs and how many people that have been touched by the programs that are in place so far.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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