



## Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards

### MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2022 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Co-chair Hailey Ockinga welcomed Task Force members to the third meeting of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards.</li><li>• Hailey Ockinga welcomed newly appointed member, Chief Wendy Jones, from the Whatcom County Jail, to the task force.</li><li>• Hailey Ockinga reviewed the meeting agenda. The task force adopted the agenda for the October 19 meeting.</li><li>• Hailey Ockinga reviewed the previous meeting's minutes. The task force approved the September meeting minutes.</li><li>• Hailey Ockinga solicited an additional volunteer to serve as the third Co-Chair as suggested by Senator Saldaña. Devon Schrum volunteered to serve as a third co-chair. Task force members voted and approved Devon Schrum to serve as co-chair.</li><li>• Establishment of quorum. See list below.</li></ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Meeting Norms and Agreements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Task force Chair, Senator Saldaña, facilitated an exercise to establish group agreements and norms.</li><li>• The task force reviewed a proposed set of operating principles to be added as an addendum to the group's charter.</li><li>• Task force members presented edits and revisions to the principles, before voting and approving the addendum to the charter. Refer to page 4 for operating principles.</li></ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Physical Plant, General Safety, and General Welfare Conditions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff member, Jamie Tugenberg, presented an expanded history of physical conditions, standards, and oversight in Washington. Refer to page 5 for more details.</li></ul> Follow-up items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Task force members expressed interest in learning more about the present day physical conditions of the jails, design type, and costs associated with rebuilding or renovating facilities.</li><li>• Members inquired if there is additional information about the number of deaths in-custody and the design and security type of jails.</li></ul>

<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Facilitated Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-chairs, Ethan Frenchman and Hailey Ockinga facilitated a discussion among task force members and staff from the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.</li> <li>• Members who toured the South Correctional Entity (SCORE jail) offered their reactions to the facility and its operations. Members and staff discussed how the SCORE jail’s operations and physical design differ from other jails across the state.</li> <li>• The task force discussed how implementing jail standards and oversight might improve jail operations and the conditions for those incarcerated.</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Public Comment Period</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethan Frenchman welcomed the members of the public in attendance to offer public comment.</li> <li>• A concerned citizen noted that this task force should consider the voices of those working on the front lines within the jails throughout the course of group’s work. They also underscored that jails hold people for varying times—sometimes years—which deeply affects the jail’s abilities to plan for and provide care.</li> </ul>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Next Steps and Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Next meeting will be on Thursday, November 17</li> <li>• Spokane County has offered to host the Task Force on December 14 for a tour of its facilities and monthly meeting.</li> </ul>

Name	Task Force Affiliation	Organization	Present
Rep. Jesse Young	House of Representatives	Washington State Legislature	No
Rep. Kirsten Harris-Talley	House of Representatives	Washington State Legislature	Yes
Sen. Perry Dozier	Senate	Washington State Legislature	No
Sen. Rebecca Saldaña	Senate	Washington State Legislature	Yes
Chanel Rhymes	Entities involved with or interested in the operation of local jails	Northwest Community Bail Fund	No
Christopher Swaby	Defense attorneys	The Swaby Law Firm	No
Devon Schrum	Jail administrators	Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	Yes
Eliana Macias	Cities	Yakima City Councilmember	No

Draft pending approval of task force

Ethan Frenchman	State designated protection and advocacy agency	Disability Rights Washington	Yes
Hailey Ockinga	Persons with lived experience	Beyond These Walls	Yes
Judge Jeffrey Smith	District and municipal courts	Spokane County District Court	Yes
Jordan Landry	Persons with lived experience	Community Representative	Yes
Laurel Jones	Statewide civil legal aid organization	Columbia Legal Services	Yes
Lisa Janicki	Counties	Skagit County Commissioner	Yes
Dr. Marc Stern	Medical and mental health providers	University of Washington, School of Public Health	Yes
Norma Tillotson	Prosecutors	Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys	Yes
Judge Sharonda Amamilo	Superior courts	Thurston County Superior Court	Yes
Chief Wendy Jones	Law enforcement	Whatcom County Sheriff's Office	Yes

## **Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards** **Operating Principles** *Adopted October 2022*

### **CENTERING THE VOICES OF IMPACTED INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS**

Those currently facing jail incarceration and our disjointed state jail standards are the ones who will be most directly impacted by the work of this task force. Those voices will be uplifted and centered in the considerations and deliberations of our work.

### **CONSIDERATIONS OF JAIL WORKERS**

Those who work in our jails and work to be in compliance with the legal standards and protocols of state jail standards are to be taken into consideration, as administration and implementation of these laws and standards is essential for change to occur.

### **NEUTRALIZE AND RECOGNIZE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES**

Policy, program, implementation, practices, and budget decisions can have adverse and unintended consequences if equity is not intentionally and systematically considered. We, as a government entity, understand that our decisions have long-term impacts. We commit to using an equity lens in the development of recommendations as a Task Force and in our decisions as individuals members.

### **COMMIT TO BOLD ACTION**

Inequities exist because of racism, ableism, economic injustice, and systemic oppression, which impact our jails, incarcerated individuals, and their loved ones. These inequities hinder opportunities for individuals and communities to thrive. Eliminating racism, injustice, and oppression requires transformative, not incremental, change. We commit to using the authority we have and our collective influence to push for bold changes and resources that interrupt and dismantle historical systems of oppression and create systems of fairness and justice.

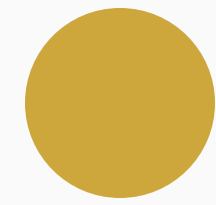
### **CENTER COMMUNITY**

We recognize that we can only achieve equity if communities impacted by inequity are at the center of our work. We acknowledge that communities know best their assets, needs, and solutions. We strive to recognize and share power and structure in our meetings to foster meaningful engagement. For this reason, we have two (2) community co-chairs in the leadership of the taskforce. We will strive to incorporate stories of lived experience into our reports and recommendations.

### **MEETING FACILITATION & ORGANIZING**

This taskforce shall be led by four (4) co-chairs, which include one (1) legislator, two (2) community members/organizations represented, and one (1) jail administrator representative. These co-chairs will facilitate meetings online, in-person, and on-site visits. Staff from the Office of the Attorney General will support the chairs with materials development, background research, communications, and meeting documentation. The co-chairs and Office of the Attorney General staff share responsibility for outreach and engagement.

\*We acknowledge and thank the Social Equity in Cannabis Task Force for their leadership in building Operating Principles that center collaboration and community and have based this document, in part, on that work.



# A History of Jail Conditions, Standards, and Oversight in Washington State



# 1970's A Task Force, Temporary Commission, and Formal Commission



1973

Governor Dan Evans establishes a task force on jail reform.

1974- 1975

The temporary commission works with the Department of Social and Health Services to develop proposed standards.

# 1970's A Task Force, Temporary Commission, and Formal Commission

1976

The Department of Health and Social Services, working with the Jail Commission, submits a report to the legislature outlining proposed standards, proposed legislation, and estimated costs to bring jails to compliance.

## 1976 Washington Jails Report

No jail was found to be in full compliance with proposed standards.

Jails lacked adequate budgets and staffing.

Physical conditions were substandard.

Inadequate programming.

Almost non-existent in jail medical care.

Menus rarely reviewed by dietitians.

# 1970's A Task Force, Temporary Commission, and Formal Commission



1977

The legislature formalizes the Washington State Jail Commission.

1977 - 1978

The new commission drafts physical plant and custodial standards.

1979

Legislature approves first set of standards. Jails have until October 1, 1979 to comply.





# 1980's The Washington State Correction Standards Board

1980

The State Jail Constuction Program begins to assist local jurisdictions in remodeling and building.

## The State Jail Construction Program

\$250,300,000 appropriated.

Thirty-five jail construction or remodeling projects funded.

Prior to the program, the state's jail capacity was 3,212 beds and facilities averaged thirty-five years old.

Upon completion, the overall state jail capacity was 4,996 beds.

These facilities were thought have sufficient capacity through the year 2000.



# 1980's The Washington State Correction Standards Board



1981

The legislature passes the Corrections Reform Act, creating the Corrections Standards Board.



1983

The Board assumes the functions of the Jail Commission on July 1.



1985

The Board begins to collect all admissions and releases from 38 detention and correctional facilities.



# 1980's The Washington State Correction Standards Board

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1986

The Board hires an additional inspector and completes inspections of all holding, detention, and correctional facilities.

## 1986 Correction Standards Board Annual Report

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**Capacity and Overcrowding** - The most serious problem jails were facing was overcrowding.

**Technical Assistance**- Included on-site meetings, statistical analysis, contract assistance, and crowding-reduction strategies.

**Data Collection and Reporting**- Used to identify population trends, enforce crowding standards, and inform state and local level policies.

**Litigation and Compliance** - 21 of the 38 correctional facilities were in full compliance. Eight were in non-compliance.

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# 1980's The Washington State Correction Standards Board

1987

A Legislative Budget Committee Program and Fiscal Review finds no compelling reason to continue board. The Legislature votes to not extend Board's functions.

## 1987 Program and Fiscal Review of the Corrections Standards Board

The Corrections Standards Board should be terminated on January 1, 1988.

Completion of the program should be transferred to the Department of Community Development or the Office of Financial Management.

The Department of Corrections and the Department of Social and Health Services should be required to adopt mandatory standards for the operation of local and adult juvenile detention facilities.

The jail population data collection function should be transferred to the Department of Corrections

# Responses to the 1987 Program and Fiscal Review

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A January 1, 1988 deadline would not allow for adequate time to properly realign the Boards function across the criminal justice system.

Standards are not static, but constantly changing to reflect court actions and litigation.

Defining and maintaining standards for the operations of local jails are important and necessary functions.

Without standards, local governments operating jails may be faced with lawsuits.

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In 2021, the overall state's jail capacity was 14,077.

Thirty-one, or 58% of jails in the state were constructed over 30 years ago.

Olympia - 1966  
Garfield County - 1970  
Kittitas County - 1982  
Island County - 1983  
Lincoln County - 1984

Asotin County - 1984  
Klickitat County - 1984  
Chelan Regional Justice Center - 1984  
Enumclaw - 1985  
Aberdeen - 1988

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**Questions?**

# Sources

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1976 Washington Jails, Report to the 45th Legislature, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services - Adult Corrections Division.

1984 Annual Report, Washington State Corrections Standards Board

1986 Annual Report, Washington State Correction Standards Board

1987 Program and Fiscal Review of Corrections Standards Board, Report to the Washington State Legislature, State of Washington - Legislative Budget Committee.

2021 Jail Statistics, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chief's

2022 Office of the Attorney General survey of Washington Jails.

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