



Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards

MEETING MINUTES

May 18, 2023 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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| 1. | <p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-chair Rebecca Saldaña welcomed Task Force members to the tenth meeting of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards.• Rebecca Saldaña reviewed the agenda. The task force adopted the agenda for the April 19 meeting.• Rebecca Saldaña held the review of the April meeting minutes until the end of the meeting as quorum had not been established. |
| 2. | <p>King County Correctional Facility Report Out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devon Schrum facilitated a discussion offering members who toured the King County Correctional Facility an opportunity to share their takeaways with the group.• Task force staffer, Jamie Tugenberg, shared some background on the goals of the jail tours: to understand each jail’s physical conditions, speak with staff and incarcerated individuals who are willing, and observe specific areas of the jail.• Members who toured the facility offered their reactions to the staff, facility, and its operations. Several noted that they were pleased by the welcome they received from staff, and that they found them to be professional throughout the tour. However, several members voiced disappointment in being unable to speak with the individuals who were incarcerated during the tour.• Members noted that the facility is aging and several found the conditions to be worse than other jails they have seen. There was a discussion on a video visitation area in one housing area, in which a stool had been removed. Members noted how this would require a person to kneel to speak with family members, which is extremely punitive and dehumanizing. Another member offered that sometimes when older jails are renovated to meet new standards, it can lead to items, such as the stool to be removed, as to allow for a wheelchair. It is not known why the stool was removed in this particular case.• A task force member provided this resource on professionalism for the group to consider. |
| 3. | <p>Jail Standards Breakout Discussions</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task force members and guests participated in facilitated breakout room sessions to discuss initial takeaways from previous meetings on jail standards and oversight, what additional information is needed to make recommendations, and feedback on how to improve the task force’s operations. • The first breakout room noted that the group agrees that it would be beneficial to have standards and independent oversight that enforces and helps counties meet standards. They noted that it is critical for jails to be held accountable to standards; however, it is important to help jails achieve those standards, recognizing this may not be easy. The group offered that oversight could function as a resource for jails, and as a support to smaller communities. • The second breakout room also indicated that there is a need for standards across all jails as well as external oversight. They stated that they do not need additional information to help draw those conclusions. This group also discussed what role the task force could play in reducing jail populations to improve conditions. • The third breakout room was an opportunity for members of the public to discuss the task force’s work with staff. The group reflected on telecommunications and commissary. The group expressed the need to properly resource facilities to provide appropriate services. |
| <p>4.</p> | <p>Public Comment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Larsen, the Deputy Director of King County’s Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention noted that he has appreciated hearing everyone’s perspectives. He added that he wants the same things that the individuals with lived experience want – to be able to provide quality services during incarceration and for people to come out healthy when they are released. He concluded that many jails struggle to do this around the state, but there are a lot of things that the group can consider to help improve conditions. • Juliana Roe, with the Association of Counties, noted that she is aware that there are a lot of issues within jails. She noted that there will be an upcoming study of jails and juvenile facilities, as well as a task force to modernize the facilities. Juliana added that the other group might be able to address things that are out of scope for this task force. She noted that counties struggle with funding, and there are a lot of competing interests for those funds – and pointed to that in the past the state paid for new facilities. |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Next Steps and Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of quorum. See list below. • Co-Chair Devon Schrum reviewed the previous meeting’s minutes. The Task Force approved the April meeting minutes. • Next meeting will be June 21, 2023. • First subgroup meeting on June 28, 2023. |

| Name | Task Force Affiliation | Organization | Present |
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| Vacant | House of Representatives | Washington State Legislature | NA |
| Vacant | House of Representatives | Washington State Legislature | NA |
| Sen. Nikki Torres | Senate | Washington State Legislature | Represented by Justus Phelps |
| 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 | Yes |
| Christopher Swaby | Defense attorneys | The Swaby Law Firm | Yes |
| Devon Schrum | Jail administrators | Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs | Yes |
| Eliana Macias | Cities | Yakima City Councilmember | No |
| Ethan Frenchman | State designated protection and advocacy agency | Disability Rights Washington | Yes |
| Hailey Ockinga | Persons with lived experience | Beyond These Walls | No |
| Judge Jeffrey Smith | District and municipal courts | Spokane County District Court | No |
| 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 | No |
| Dr. Marc Stern | Medical and mental health providers | University of Washington, School of Public Health | No |
| 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 |