



Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards

MEETING MINUTES

January 19, 2023 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

1.	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-chair Devon Schrum welcomed Task Force members to the sixth meeting of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards.• Devon Schrum reviewed the agenda. The task force adopted the agenda for the January 19 meeting.• Devon Schrum reviewed the previous meeting’s minutes. Meeting minutes were held until the end of the meeting for approval.• Establishment of quorum. See list below.
2	Reviewing Operating Procedures and Updating Communication Practices <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devon Schrum shared updates regarding task force operations to make participation easier for members.• Co-chair Hailey Ockinga walked the group through the proposed communication practices to update the task force’s operating procedures. Task force members approved the revisions to the operating principles.
3.	Models of Oversight & Developing Jail Standards in Louisiana <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michele Deitch, Director; Alycia Welch, Associate Director; and Ana Gonzalez, Research Analyst/Project Manager from the Prison and Jail Innovation Lab (PJIL) presented to the task force on the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ An introduction to PJIL;○ Correctional oversight, its functions, and the use of standards;○ Jail oversight models across the United States;○ The Louisiana Jail Standards Project; and○ Collaboration opportunities for Washington state.• PJIL works to transform the way individuals in prisons and jails are treated, improve correctional oversight, and serve as a national policy resource center. Michele noted that PJIL provides policymakers, corrections officials, advocates, and family members with resources to improve conditions, develops resource material on oversight, and engages in projects, such as the Louisiana Jail Standards Project, where they are working to strengthen jail standards and oversight.• Michele provided the group with an overview of the goals of oversight – to improve transparency and increase accountability. Michele emphasized that oversight is not a goal, but a means towards providing information to the public,

policymakers and families on what goes on inside correctional facilities, and as a means of holding institutions accountable.

- Michele walked the group through the various functions of correctional oversight – regulation, audit, accreditation, reporting, legislative, investigation, and monitoring – and emphasized that every jurisdiction should have all of these functions, but it does not necessarily need to be in one entity. She noted that monitoring is not typically done in the U.S, as we have looked to the courts as a backstop, a reactive approach.
- Michele also discussed the critical features an oversight entity needs to be effective – independence, a clear mandate, unfettered access to facilities and records, confidential communications, full cooperation from correctional officials, adequate funding and operational resources, community involvement, the ability to identify systemic issues, and the ability to resolve individual complaints. She noted that responding to individual complaints can overwhelm other functions.
- Michele emphasized that is not necessary for every oversight body to have enforcement authority, unless it is a regulatory body with standards. Rather, she offered that an oversight body can have “teeth” rather than sanction authority. For example, an entity with “teeth” has authority to access people and records, alerts the appropriate authorities to the corrective actions that need to be taken, or has authority to require corrections officials to develop written action plans in response to monitoring reports. Michele noted that the oversight body should not function as a supra management agency over the facility.
- Michele provided the group with an overview of jail standards and discussed the relationship between standards and oversight. She stated that jail standards establish the acceptable minimum conditions, and set a floor for jail operations. In some cases, non-compliance with standards can result in enforcement action. Aspirational standards can be used to set a ceiling; however, these standards are be enforceable.
- Michele noted that, across the U.S., there is not a great example or model of jail standards or oversight. Standards tend to focus on what is measureable and are not necessarily tied to how people are treated. Michele walked through pros and cons of the various oversight models– Department of Corrections (DOC), Independent Commission, Sheriff’s Association, Department of Health, Non-Standards Based. For example, while the DOC model likely has more resources and subject matter expertise, there may be a potential conflict of interest and community distrust of this model. On the other hand, an independent commission can allow for greater objectivity and independence, yet these entities are easy targets for budget cuts. Michele cited Texas as the best example of an independent commission model.
- Ana introduced the Louisiana Jail Standards Project in which PJIL is drafting jail standards and oversight recommendations for the state. She outlined the comparative analysis used to identify key topic areas and inform a crosswalk analysis of the individual standards. Ana then walked the group through a crosswalk analysis of intake, classification, and housing standards and showed a working draft of the recommendations.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alycia discussed what a collaboration between PJIL and Washington could look like, noting that the standards they are developing can apply to any state. PJIL's crosswalks and recommended standards can be used as a building block and tailored to meet the needs of the state.
4.	Public Comment Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No members of the public in attendance provided a comment.
5.	Next Steps and Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Devon Schrum brought forward approving the meeting minutes. Meeting minutes were approved by the task force. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 15.

Name	Task Force Affiliation	Organization	Present
Vacant	House of Representatives	Washington State Legislature	NA
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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	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	Yes
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	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