



## Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards

### MEETING MINUTES

September 6, 2023 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 twelfth meeting of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards.</li><li>• Hailey Ockinga reviewed the agenda. The task force adopted the agenda for the September 6 meeting.</li><li>• Hailey Ockinga reviewed the July meeting minutes. The task force approved the minutes.</li><li>• Establishment of quorum. See list below.</li></ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Public Comment Period</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Molly Gilbert, a public defender from King County’s Department of Public Defense noted her office has been pushing for issues within the King County Jail to be resolved, and is excited to see that there might be some oversight of jails in the future. Molly added she reviewed the draft recommendations and believes the task force should consider adding a public defense position to the composition of the oversight board. Molly noted that defense attorneys have regular access to the people and conditions, understanding the impacts of understaffing, and know the needs of their clients from stabilization to re-entry.</li><li>• Hong Tran, a public defender from King County’s Department of Public Defense noted that she supports the comments of Molly Gilbert. Hong added that there is not funding for timely competency services, and that the legislature has funded things on a crisis to crisis basis. Hong concluded that the goals of the future oversight commission is laudable, but there needs to be more investments to meet the needs of the individuals in jails.</li><li>• Emily Willard, a public defender from King County’s Department of Public Defense stated she echoes Molly and Hong’s remarks. Emily added she also reviewed the recommendations and was pleased to see the composition of the oversight board included individuals who have experienced incarceration. Emily noted it’s important to prioritize those who spend the most time in jail, including the people detained, the correctional officers, and administrative staff. Emily concluded that defense attorneys also are within the top five people who spend the most time in jails, and asked the task force to consider adding a public defense position to the composition.</li><li>• Task force staffer, Kelly Richburg, summarized the comments received in writing from two individuals experiencing incarceration in the state. Mr.</li></ul>

	<p>Raymond Brown’s two letters can be found on pages 8 - 17. Mr. Robert Hill’s letter can be found on pages 17 - 25.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Subgroup Share-out and Initial Policy Recommendation Discussion</b></p> <p>Co-chairs reviewed the draft potential recommendations listed below that reflect the Task Force’s work and discussions since August 2022. Co-chairs read through four to five draft recommendations, pausing after each, to allow task force members to provide initial feedback on whether or not the recommendation can move forward as is or to provide suggestions on how to improve the recommendation. The bulleted items under each draft recommendation reflect key points made during the discussion of each item.</p> <p><b>The Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force on Jail Standards recommends:</b></p> <p><i>Oversight Authority</i></p> <p>The Oversight Agency should have the authority to promulgate and revise mandatory minimum standards through a rule-making process (34.05 RCW) for the construction, equipment, operations, and conditions of city, county, and regional jails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns about scope related to construction and equipping jails without the inclusion of architects and engineers.</li> <li>• Consider striking language “construction, equipment, operations, and conditions.”</li> </ul> <p>Mandatory minimum jail standards should be adopted within three years of the passage of legislation. All jails must comply with the mandatory standards within 1.5 years of when standards are promulgated. The Oversight Agency may grant a variance in compliance with mandatory standards when it determines that existing or alternative practices meet the intent of the standards, and the granting of a variance will not seriously affect the security of the facility, the supervision of people who are incarcerated, or the safe and healthful operation of the facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns about the language “meeting the intent” that could allow for too much localization of what is found to be acceptable in terms of conditions and operations. Consider having certain standards that can have variances, but other core operations and conditions should be standardized and mandatory.</li> <li>• Concerns about timeline of jails coming into compliance, would not allow for jails to properly plan for changes, allocate budgets, or request needed funding.</li> </ul> <p>The Oversight Agency should have the authority to petition the Superior Court for an order of partial or full closure of a jail. The orders of partial or full facility closures must be considered if the Oversight Agency determines that a jail is in noncompliance with jail standards and the conditions or operations jeopardize the safety or health of the individuals who are incarcerated in the facility. Upon such closure, all confined persons in the jail or portions thereof must be transferred to a suitable available jail or multiple jails, paid for by the transferring government entity.</p>

- Concerns about this being too prescriptive and could create further issues by moving individuals farther from their families and the court system. Suggestions for the court to explore orders of release or electronic home monitoring prior to the transfer of individuals.

The Oversight Agency should have the authority to establish 1) maximum population capacities for each city, county, and regional jail; 2) maximum safe staffing ratios of incarcerated individuals to custodial, mental health, and medical staff, for each city, county, and regional jail; 3) require jails to establish booking restrictions to manage population and safe staffing levels. The Oversight Agency should be authorized to petition the Superior Court for an order authorizing the transfer of incarcerated persons to a suitable available jail upon determination that the jail has exceeded its maximum capacity or safe staffing levels.

- Concerns about establishing booking restrictions of operations that are under a purview of an elected official.

*Ongoing Oversight Functions and Features*

Monitoring – The Oversight Agency will monitor jails for compliance with standard by conducting routine, on-site inspections. The Oversight Agency must conduct at least annual inspections of all jails and issue public reports on the findings of those inspections. The first inspection will not be announced; however, subsequent inspections may be scheduled in advance. Inspection reports will be made available to leaders of the local criminal legal system including, but not limited to City or County Officials, City and County Prosecutors and Defense Offices, etc. The Oversight Agency will post inspection reports online within 30 days of the completion of the report.

- Confusion on the distinctions between the recommendations on monitoring versus auditing.
- Suggestions to strike language on prescribing a time to complete a report and requiring first inspections to not be announced. The body should have the ability to make unannounced visits, but they may choose to schedule.
- Suggestions to consider what additional routine reports should be provided to stakeholders on a more frequent basis than annually.

The Oversight Agency should have unfettered and unaccompanied access to the facility, records, incarcerated individuals as well as staff. At any time, the Oversight Agency should have the ability to confidentially communicate with people who are incarcerated, jail staff, and contractors.

- Suggestions to make recommendation more specific to include “all areas of the facility,” communication by any means including email, phone calls, video calls, and in-person. The ability to make audio and visual recordings was also suggested, with considerations for people’s privacy.
- Suggestions to change the word “unfettered,” and provide more guidance on access.

The Oversight Agency will focus on systemic issues, and not investigate individual complaints from incarcerated individuals or the public. To support the Oversight Agency’s systemic work, jails will provide monthly population statistics and the Agency will report on key indicators and trends.

- Jail populations can fluctuate. For example, holidays can lead to a spike in jail populations. Suggestion to change monthly reporting to quarterly to avoid skewed data.
- Concerns about the agency not investigating individual complaints. Suggestions that systemic work should be informed by individual events and experiences, but that the agency should not be involved in resolving individual complaints.

The Oversight Agency will conduct or commission a study of the state’s jail population, including the demographics of individuals in city and county jails, the charges they are being held on, and the bail amounts associated with each charge. The Oversight Agency will make recommendations regarding policies and programs and potential legislation to: 1) Enhance and establish diversion programs, including alternatives to pre-trial incarceration and treatment options; and 2) Reduce Washington’s pre-trial incarceration rate.

- Jail populations fluctuate, by the time a study is completed; it is likely to be out of date.
- Data collection on a regular basis supported.

Administer Jail Safety-Related Grant Funding – The Oversight Agency will administer applications and facilitate the selection processes for distributing any new state jail construction, renovation, and safety-related grant funding. Any funding appropriated by the Legislature for the renovation or construction of city, county, or regional jails must be tied to meeting or exceeding the established minimum standards.

- Concerns with scope of the agency being involved with construction as well as the funding of any renovations or construction.
- Suggestions for the agency to not administer grants but considerations for the body to have a role in providing information on conditions and operations in discussions on construction of jails.

#### *Funding and Sustainability*

The Task Force recommends that necessary funding be appropriated to properly staff and resource the Oversight Agency’s work, including creating and enforcing standards, performing data collection and analysis, auditing, inspecting facilities, facilitating multi-agency collaboration, and providing technical assistance.

Washington State currently has fifty non-tribal affiliated jails. In 2022, an estimated 130,000 people entered a Washington Jail, and nearly 3,000 people were employed in a facility. The Task Force recommends this initial funding in order for the Oversight Agency be at least four times the amount of the Department of Corrections Ombuds Program, and additional funding provided after assessing the needs of the Oversight Agency.

- Suggestions to not be prescriptive on the level of funding, however, it would be helpful to give the legislature some idea.
- Suggestions to combine the above two statements as a way to emphasize the needed resources to fulfil the agency's functions.

Funding should be allocated to jails to support emergency infrastructure fixes identified by the Oversight Agency.

- The oversight agency should not be involved with funding jails.
- Concerns about creating a system that could financially incentivize counties to neglect facilities to the point of needed emergency infrastructure fixes.

#### *Board/Commission Make-up*

The Board/Commission must be equally composed of jail administrators, medical and behavioral health services providers, persons with lived experience, and community advocates with representatives from east and west of the Cascades.

- Add public defense position, members to reflect rural and urban jurisdictions.

#### *Suicide Prevention and Intervention*

Any newly constructed or renovated city, county, or regional jail must be equipped with suicide-resistant furnishings and incorporate design concepts known to reduce stress and anxiety. This approach addresses the fact that 80 to 90% of people in jail have experienced some sort of trauma.

- Supports the concept of this recommendation, but concerns about how this could be at odds with other safety-focused issues. For example, requirements from the Prison Rape Elimination Act call for extra privacy which could include features that could increase opportunities for people to attempt suicide.
- We do not want to discourage jails from doing renovations, but this could lead to an expansion of costs if any renovation would trigger this change. For example, does renovating a visitation space trigger the whole facility to be re-designed to be suicide-resistant?

#### *Promoting Connectivity and Regulating Rates and Commissions in Telecommunications*

To assist with maintaining connectivity between families and their loved ones who are incarcerated and improve re-entry into the community, require city, county, and regional jails to provide telephone or other communication, such as video calls, to people who are incarcerated free of charge, for a minimum of 90 minutes per day. Beyond the 90 minutes provided free, any rates charged for subsequent call or videos must be capped at \$0.05 per minute with no additional fees added, the same rate charged in Washington's prisons.

- Supports the concept, but concerns that jails do not have the contracting power to negotiate these rates. Also concerns about the 90 minutes of phone time given the limited number of phones per people in the jail.

#### *Expanding ADA accessibility in jail telecommunications*

	<p>Require all city, county, and regional jails, regardless of size, to provide free video communication services for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, including point-to-point videophones, video relay services, and captioned telephones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggestions for grant funding to be provided to less-resourced counties.</li> </ul> <p><i>Ensuring In-Person Visitation</i></p> <p>To improve reentry into the community and promote safer correctional facilities, require all jails to provide free in-person visitation, and prohibit new contracts for emerging forms of telecommunications from supplanting in-person visitation at city, county, and regional jails.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns that not all jails have in-person visitation currently.</li> <li>• Would like to see additional background to support that these changes lead to safer facilities.</li> </ul>
4.	<p><b>Next Steps and Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second deadline to submit recommendations for discussion is on Monday, September 25, 2023. Revised recommendations reflecting today’s meeting will be circulated for review.</li> <li>• Next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 4, 2023. The meeting will be hybrid, with zoom available and in-person at the Seattle AGO office.</li> </ul>

Name	Task Force Affiliation	Organization	Present
Rep. Darya Farivar	House of Representatives	Washington State Legislature	Yes
Rep. Greg Cheney	House of Representatives	Washington State Legislature	Yes
Sen. Nikki Torres	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	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	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	Yes
Dr. Marc Stern	Medical and mental health providers	University of Washington, School of Public Health	No
Norma Tillotson	Prosecutors	Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys	No
Judge Sharonda Amamilo	Superior courts	Thurston County Superior Court	Yes
Chief Wendy Jones	Law enforcement	Whatcom County Sheriff's Office	Yes

(RCW 42.56.520) STATE I COULD NOT COPY ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS COULD YOU PLEASE RETURN AFTER REVIEW... THANK YOU

Dear MR. JAMIE TUGENBERG

July 23, 2023

STATE OF WASHINGTON ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE POLICY TEAM/  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON JAIL STANDARDS...

Thank you so much for returning information regarding conditions and deficient operating policies of the Spokane County Jail. I have shared your contacting information with others who have been trying to expose awareness to the unethical, fraudulent consistent deprivation of human as well as civil rights. I'm saddened that you are unable to investigate the fraud of our commissary welfare funds, excessive force, denial of medical services etc.

We try to expose and investigate the fraud of price gouging by a vendor that surely has to be regulated by the State of Washington. Surely they can't buy these outdated Ramen Soups for 2¢ a piece and sell for a \$1.25. When I tried to file a public records request for commissary sales, profits, vendor purchases etc. under (RCW 42.56.520) by deception the Spokane County Office Supervisor Tami Bise sent back so small unreadable documentation... As well as not disclosing all information requested! By malice + deception, (1) commissary gentleman worker quit immediately after hearing you were contacted Jamie. And they immediately moved me to a lower security county facility  
\*SPOKANE COUNTY GEIGER CORRECTIONAL FACILITY\*  
(PAGE 1)



And what I found out was on July 4th 2023 all of the county detainees here @ GEIGER got hamburgers + the works, hot dogs + ice cream... But not us @ Spokane County Detention Center! Officers + staff did but not the detainees!

Inmate Welfare Funds are supposed to be spent only on us! As in enclosed Policy (1001, + 1001.4) Spokane County Detention Services. (They have never of 1001.4)

(1) NO EDUCATION PROGRAMS (2) NO CABLE @ JAIL OR SATELLITE SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR GENERAL POPULATION ONLY STAFF! (3) BOOKS ARE DONATED (C) Who knows who's getting salary but no work being done!

(D) THEY PURCHASE THE INDIGENT DEODORANT, SOAP / BUT SELL THAT FOR DEODORANT YOU HAVE TO BUY, TOOTHPASTE ETC. (E) NO ALCOHOL DRUG PROGRAM (F) ?? (G) THIS IS THE ONLY PACKAGE INDIGENTS GET (NO FOOD AS IN (D))

(H) ABSOLUTELY NO HEALTH AIDS (I) ONLY LAW LIBRARY (J) (NONE) (K) DUD PLAYERS YES (2) NO (3) NO (4) YES

BASKETBALLS / BOARD GAMES / HAIR CLIPPERS... (5) NO (6) NEVER @ SPOKANE COUNTY JAIL, ONLY GEIGER CHEESEBURGERS, HOTDOGS, ICE CREAM 4TH OF JULY (7) NEVER (8) NEVER (9) NEVER (10) DUD PLAYERS ONLY NO

CABLE OR SATELLITE FOR GENERAL POPULATION (ONLY STAFF) (11) DONATED ONLY!!

WHERE IS ALL THE MONEY GOING? WHO IS THE PROPER INVESTIGATIVE SOURCE? CERTAINLY FRAUD GOING ON!! ANYWAY YOU CAN GET THE (RCW 42.56.520) ITEMS I REQUIRE OR MAKE TAMI BISE COMPLY? THANK YOU JAMIE I WILL BE SENDING YOU LOTS MORE INFO

(PAGE 2)  
Sincerely  
Raymond D. Baw



**Spokane County**  
DETENTION SERVICES

July 11, 2023

**BROWN, RAYMOND #439988**  
**5 WEST 14**

In accordance with the Public Records Act, RCW 42.56.520, this message acknowledges receipt of your public records request. This request has been assigned reference No. **S014191-070623**. Please include this code in any communications concerning this request.

Specifically, you requested:

"This is a Public Records Request for any and all commissary purchases, sales, profits of monetary sales, vendor purchases, etc. of commissary bought and total monetary purchases, sales, profits... and where profits are spent."

Please find the records responsive to your request attached. No additional responsive records were located for this request. This request is now concluded and closed.

Tami Bise  
Office Supervisor  
Spokane County Detention Services



## Inmate Welfare Fund

### 1001.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Department is authorized to maintain a fund derived from proceeds from the commissary, telephones and other inmate-related commerce activities, to be used primarily to provide welfare and education programs for the benefit of the inmate population. This policy establishes guidelines for maintaining and administering the Inmate Welfare Fund.

### 1001.2 INMATE WELFARE FUND

The Inmate Programs Coordinator in cooperation with the Finance Department will establish and maintain an Inmate Welfare Fund where proceeds derived from inmate telephones, commissary profits and other income intended for the support of inmate programs, is deposited.

The Inmate Welfare Fund is allocated to support a variety of programs, services and activities benefiting the general inmate population and enhancing inmate activities and programs. This includes capital construction and improvement projects in support of such programs, services and activities.

### 1001.3 INMATE WELFARE FUNDING SOURCES

Revenues and funding from the following sources shall be deposited into the Inmate Welfare Fund account:

- (a) All proceeds from commissary operations
- (b) Proceeds from the operation of inmate telephones
- (c) Donations
- (d) Interest income earned by the Inmate Welfare Fund

### 1001.4 EXPENDITURE OF INMATE WELFARE FUNDS

The Inmate Welfare Fund shall be used solely for the welfare and benefit of the inmate population or as otherwise permitted by law.

Expenditures permitted from the Inmate Welfare Fund include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Education programs
- (b) Recreational goods and services, such as:
  - 1. Recreational equipment, games and sporting goods
  - 2. Televisions and cable/satellite subscriptions, video players and content media
  - 3. Library books

Dear JAMIE TUGENBERG

July 26, 2023

Many have complaints here in Spokane County Jail over conditions. Most are terrified to voice comments regarding the discriminatory rights violations encountered daily. Because of retaliation that is common for anyone who grieves any wrongdoing. But I feel I'm obligated to say something to help the safety and welfare of those in Spokane County jails. Concern of those I speak with about the legislative task force on jail standards. Is who or what organization will be the oversight authority to maintain policies and complaints? Because all the time when I speak with them <sup>you</sup> can't investigate complaints. They become very discouraged and believe any recommendations will be a waste of time! I on the other hand believe it's a start! Even though I know retaliation is expected by intercepting mail denying family photos, banned from on facility or offsite trustee status, cutting off Wi-Fi to Securix tablet etc.

PLEASE KNOW THE FOLLOWING TO DISCUSS...

Spokane Policy states no inmates shall be treated diff  
It is also a federal civil rights violation to do  
so as well....

(NEXT PAGE PLEASE)

\*PAGE 6

(SPOKANE COUNTY JAIL)  
1100 W. MALLOW AVE

\* GETS 3 HOT MEALS AS LAW REQUIRES

\* NO COFFEE PACKS WITH BREAKFAST

\* NO ICE CREAM ON FRIDAY TO ALL GENERAL POPULATION (NO ICE CREAM EVER)

\* (NEVER) SPECIAL HOLIDAY MEALS EVERY HOLIDAY INCLUDING THANKSGIVING + CHRISTMAS (NO HOLIDAY MEAL) ONLY SCHEDULED MENU MEALS!!!

\* FEMALE LAUNDRY WORKERS, MALE KITCHEN WORKERS... (GET COMMISSARY WELFARE FUND PROVIDED FOOD PACKAGES AS WELL AS NON INDIGENT SOAP + SHAMPOO... (CHIPS, COOKIES PROVIDED BY COMMISSARY PROFITS).

(COUNTY SHOULD BE PAYING NOT MONEY TAKEN FROM COMMISSARY PROFITS)

\* GET TABLETS IN CELL @ (3:00 PM TO 9:30 PM)

(IT'S SO IMPORTANT THAT MEALS ARE PROVIDED (AMOUNT) AS DIETITIAN REQUIRES. IF MENU CALLS FOR 2 EGGS OR 2 SANDWICHES SPOKANE COUNTY ONLY GIVES (1) UNLESS AWARE AHEAD OF TIME VISITORS ARE COMING...)

(SPOKANE COUNTY JAIL  
GEIGER CORRECTIONAL CENTER)

\* 1 COLD SACK LUNCH BREAKFAST  
1 COLD SACK LUNCH  
(1 HOT DINNER MEAL) <sup>SMALL CIAM SHELL</sup>

\* GETS 2 COFFEE PACKS \*

\* ICE CREAM GIVEN WITH SUPPER MEAL ON FRIDAYS TO ALL

\* 4TH OF JULY SUPPER MEAL WAS CHEESEBURGERS/HOT DOGS/ICE CREAM

\* GET SAME ... PLUS WRITING TABLE AND CHAIRS IN THEIR ROOM... GENERAL POPULATION HAS NO WHERE TO WRITE LETTERS

\* GET TABLETS @ (10:00 AM TO 10:30 PM)

# SECURUS TECHNOLOGIES

SECURUS IS THE STATEWIDE PRISON SYSTEM AS WELL AS COUNTY JAIL CHOSEN + APPROVED PHONE · TABLET · MEDIA CORPORATION.

(FACTUAL COMPLAINTS)

(1) INDIGENT INMATES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GETTING

(A) FREE 15 MIN PHONE CALLS PER WEEK OR MORE.

(B) INDIGENT INMATES ARE SUPPOSED TO BE GETTING FREE (PRE-PAID FROM COMMISSARY WELFARE FUNDS) ZOOM VISITATION PER WEEK!!!

(NOTE) VISITATION IS ONLY DONE BY ZOOM PROVIDED BY SECURUS IN SPOKANE COUNTY JAIL... BY FAMILY PRE-PAYMENT OF (\$5.00)

(NOTE) COMMISSARY WELFARE PROFIT FUNDS ARE SUPPOSED TO PAY!!! (shouldnt be charged to visit period)

(MOVIES) (C) CAN BE PURCHASED AND VIEWED ON TABLETS...

(STATE FACILITY'S CHARGE)

(SPOKANE COUNTY)

\* OLD WESTERNS · 70'S MOVIES  
CHRISTIAN CONTENT MOVIES  
(\$2.99)

\* (\$4.99) + (\$5.99)

\* NEW RELEASES (\$4.99)

\* (NEW RELEASES)  
(\$7.99 + \$8.99)

\* MOST MOVIES ARE DVR RECORDED MOVIES FROM (FOX) (NBC) ETC.

\* (PHONE) PHONE CALLS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE 15 MIN PER CALL..

LATELY PHONE HAS BEEN GIVING (1 MINUTE REMAINING)

WARNING @ 15 MIN IN THE CALL AND THEN INSTEAD OF A \$1.50 CALL IT CHARGES YOU DOUBLE (\$3.00) A CALL!!!

(PAGE 3)

Where is all the money going from our COMMISSION?  
Someone has to be able to investigate that. Someone  
impartial and unbiased... We are certainly NOT reaping  
benefits from the profits!!! These issues have been  
overlooked by REGULATING AUTHORITY FOR YEARS...  
But I know that your office is unbiased  
and will regulate wrongdoings MR. TUGENBERG  
and may you and the legislative task force  
be blessed for regulating standards and policies  
statewide. Your greatly appreciated indeed.

Sincerely,

Raymond D. Brown

\* Again, what authority org. can we contact to actually  
investigate ??? \*

And I was asked by several who can be contacted to  
investigate the discriminatory practices of the  
\* SPOKANE COUNTY Public Defenders Office \* ??

Thank you

(PAGE 4)



# (JAIL TASK FORCE OVERSIGHT)

## ISSUES

- \* LAUNDRY
- \* COFFEE (GEIGER)
- \* LITTLE HYGIENE ITEMS

x lockdowns

## (SERIOUS ISSUES)

- \* MEDICAL
- \* EXCESSIVE FORCE

# PUBLIC COMMENT

TO → Washington State Joint Legislative Task Force  
on Jail Standards, and Subgroups

ATTN → Sen. Soldato, Devon Schrum, Etha Frenchman,  
Haley Ockinga, Sarah Fathi, Kelly Richburg, & Jeannie

FROM → The Hon. Mr. Robert Hill  
DOC #358-440, @ "W.S.P.I."  
1313 THIRTEENTH AVE N  
WALLA WALLA WA  
99362-9999

U.S.A.

MON-2023-AUG-14

ITEM #1 →

I wish to emphatically state that I believe that this task force should be extended in life, and mission, to be a full-fledged Commission, Board, or other agency of State government that has authority to shut down a whole jail or just one cell.

There is no oversight of any kind over

the county and city jails in Washington. The public has to rely on lawyers and lawsuits to incrementally fix problems, and remedy the harms brought upon inmates. There should be a narrow jurisdiction provided to this Commission in regards to the physical plant of a facility, initially. At some point thereafter I support adding regulations that control and advise the staff and care, including medical, dental, mental health, and legal assistance. I do not believe a database, or spreadsheet, exist of which jails adopt and follow A.C.A. standards. This should be a task of this task force. I do not know what the pre-existing Washington State Jail Commission did differently, but it researched LEXIS NEXIS, and there are two reported cases mentioning them:

- Clarke County Sheriff v. Dept. of Health Services  
95 Wn.2d 445, 626 P.2d 6, 1991 Wash LEXIS 991
- Southwest Wash. Chapter v. Pierce County  
100 Wn.2d 109, 667 P.2d 1022, 1983 WASH LEXIS 1653

Also, there used to be regulations of WAC 275-40 (repealed D.S.H.S. - Institutions), and WAC Title 289 (Correction Standards Board Jail Commission, 1984 c 110.)

I would like to receive the documentation that discusses why the Jail Commission went away.

The new agency (as Board or Commission) should also be provided with funding from the general fund in the budget to help jurisdictions pay for the construction and maintenance reforms that it imposes on the custodians of the jails. This is similar to the Dept. of Commerce helping fund business projects, and the other loan programs that the Constitution allows. Because one government entity is assisting another, there should be fewer legal hurdles.

I also want this task force to interview staff from Dept. of Labor and Industries, about their contacts in the last ten years with jails, and their compliance with electrical and other standards, the department has jurisdiction over.

I have a lot of "experience" in city and county jails - approx four years cumulatively:

- A) Pierce County Jail
- B) King County Jail - Seattle
- C) King County Jail - Kent
- D) Snohomish County Jail
- E) Skaneateles Jail
- F) Fife City Jail

- (2) Wapato City Jail
- H) Sunnyside City Jail
- F) Bellevue City Jail
- J) Thurston County Jail
- K) Kitsap County Jail
- L) Yakima County Jail
- M) Nisqually Tribal Jail
- N) Kitsap County Jail
- O) Lynden City Jail
- P) Puyallup City Jail

I heard that Wapato and Fife recently, finally shut down! This is wonderful. They shouldn't have been allowed to exist for so long.

I hope all of your members have the opportunity to make MULTIPLE in-person trips to the county and city jails in the state. I hope your members talk to at least one-third of the inmates at each facility.

I hope that your task force decides to make out a SURVEY of some kind to every inmate in a county, city, or tribal jail; or at least a post card, letting them know of your existence.

## ITEM # 2 →

I have noticed a problem with:

- MEDICAL EMERGENCY CALL-BUTTONS.  
in jails... and even Dept. of Corrections prisons,  
mainly the I-MU units ("Intensive Management").

A. They need to be no more than 30  
inches off the ground.

If I'm having a heart attack, or asthma attack,  
or seizure, I'm going to be laying on the ground,  
and my fingers can't reach 44 40 or even  
36 inches easily. At the W.C.C. prison in  
Stelton, my cells have a button 76 inches  
high, built into the light frame! Incredible  
that architects in the 1950s were so clueless...  
or malicious.

B. They need to be one inch (2.5 cm)  
in diameter, and easy to push, but  
with a ring around it to make it  
recessed.

If the button is big, it's hard to miss  
and easy to push when necessary. The "ring"

helps prevent accidental pushes by the hand or other body parts

C. They need to be coloured red, make a click when pushed, and have a little LED light (red or white) come on (or blink).

The red colour makes it easier to distinguish from the button for Non-Medical Emergencies or simply Routine/Non-Medical needs.

If there's a 'click' noise, it lets me know "I have successfully pushed it; it's called HAPTICS."

If there's a light indicator, that backs up the sound indicator. One or more bodily functions may be deficient during an emergency, so "redundancy" is necessary.

D. They need to have a sticker near them marked "MEDICAL EMERGENCIES" white or a red background, with the international logo "⚠" included.

This helps remove any confusion about what the nature or function of the button is for.

E. There should be a new separate speaker of intercom for the buttons.

This prevents confusion to the jail employee at the booth, knowing exactly, immediately that conversation, or sounds, from this particular speaker is a Medical Emergency. They can also still use the pre-existing speaker to help give enhanced simultaneous coverage/reception.

F. There should be a unique separate alarm system, ~~visible~~ visual & and auditory, in the booth, indicating a call.

I don't know what all beeps and chirps go off in a computer-intercom system. Perhaps a voice calling "ALERT" every five seconds is sufficient, and better, than a chime or beep.

Again, the light indicator should be separate from the pre-existing speaker/button system, because a whole new category of notification is being added & utilized.

G. There should be logging of all button pushes, and a supervisor shall be



required to "clear" all emergencies; and the total time that an emergency is active should be recorded by software; and a daily report should be given to the senior jail staff.

This procedure allows for qualitative review of reaction times to emergencies. There is a natural instinct of the floor/bench officer to quickly turn off the alert indicators, because they're bothersome. Well, that could have an effect on liability later on for that jurisdiction.

★ I believe these seven suggestions should be adopted by the Task Force as an independent recommendation to the legislature, whether or not it recommends the creation of a Board or Commission to continue the operation of the task force with functional responsibilities. Separately, I ask that you send these ideas to every jail for review and comment; and ask if they currently implement any of them. Further, I would like to know if the A.C.A. has implemented any in their policies & standards.