

Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force
Meeting Summary: December 17th 2020 | 8:45am-1:00pm
 Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

Task Force Members & Alternates Attendees:

- Nick Allen
- Russ Brown (alt. for Jon Tunheim)
- Chief Gregory Cobb
- Sarai Cook (alt. for Tarra Simmons)
- Lew Cox
- Sen. Manka Dhingra
- Judge Veronica Alicea-Galvan
- Keri-Anne Jetzer (alt. for Judge Rumbaugh)
- Martina Kartman
- Lauren Knoth (research/data support),
Washington Institute for Public Policy
- Gregory Link
- Mac Pevey (alt. for Sec. Sinclair)
- Chris Poulos
- Melody Simle (alt. for Suzanne Cook)
- Tarra Simmons
- Clela Steelhammer (research/data support),
Caseload Forecast Council
- Jon Tunheim, Co-Chair
- Judge Josephine Wiggs-Martin
- Councilmember Derek Young

Additional Participants:

- Damon Brown
- Virginia Barry
- Kelsey-anne Fung
- Bruce Glant
- Jaime Hawk
- Carla Lee
- Noreen May Light
- John McGrath
- James McMahan
- Kelly Olson
- Ginny Parham
- Lauren Shaver
- Joanne Smieja
- David Trieweller
- Waldo Waldron-Ramsey
- Kehaulani Walker

Facilitation Team: Amanda Murphy, Chris Page, Molly Stenovec, Hannah Kennedy, Maggie Counihan – William D. Ruckelshaus Center

MEETING GOALS: • Review of draft 2020 Report • Legislative Working Group Update

WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW and GROUND RULES

Amanda welcomed Task Force members, alternates, and guests and reminded participants that the meeting is recorded for TVW. She reviewed meeting goals and agenda and the Task Force purpose. Chris thanked members and alternates for their focus and dedication to the ground rules during all the consensus-deliberation meetings.

INTRODUCTIONS

Task Force members and alternates introduced themselves and shared organizational affiliations and the constituencies they represent. Amanda and Chris reminded observers to send questions for the Task Force to the facilitation team or save them for the time reserved at the end of the meeting for questions.

FACILITATION TEAM UPDATES

Amanda reminded the Task Force of what the group accomplished over the year, including consensus on 47 recommendations! The work continues into at least the first six months of 2021 and potentially beyond, with research underway to assess current and potential future impacts of changes to the sentencing grid.

REVIEW OF 2020 REPORT

The Facilitation Team summarized comments from members and alternates on the draft 2020 report. The Task Force discussed nuances between post-conviction review and retroactivity, the proposed timeline for the research on the grid, and noting in the report that the SGC has had discussions on earned time.

Amanda reminded the Task Force that the final version of the 2020 report would contain links to all meeting summaries and relevant RCWs.

REFLECTIONS

The Facilitation Team asked members and alternates to describe what they are taking away from the year of work. Common themes mentioned include:

- Appreciation for different perspectives
- Enjoyed building relationships
- High level of engagement in work
- Successful shift to a virtual environment
- Working hard to find middle ground to move issues forward
- A desire to have conversations that address power dynamics
- Appreciation for people's willingness to share information and be open to research and data
- Thankful to be part of the group

INPUT/FEEDBACK FOR 2021

Members and alternates provided suggestions and guidance to the Facilitation Team. These suggestions included:

- A request to have recurring email updates during the Legislative session on the status of the bills that are based on consensus recommendations
- Inviting a currently incarcerated individual to give a presentation to the Task Force,
- The importance of having lots of voices involved in the sentencing grid conversations,
- Having one or more presentations early in 2021 that provides background about the sentencing grid,
- Possibly expanding membership of the Legislation Working Group.

LEGISLATIVE WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Senator Dhingra updated the Task Force on the Legislative Working Group, noting that the 2021 session will be held virtually and that the number of bills passed is likely to be lower than usual because of the challenges with holding a remote session. Bills related to the Task Force's recommendations include an enhancement bill, mental health alternative bill, restitution bill, amending county of origin (included as one of multiple topics in a bill), and a potential bill on failure to register as a sex offender. The priorities areas for the Legislature include COVID recovery, police reform, childcare, and criminal justice reform.

Tarra Simmons shared that she is leaving the Task Force due to her new elected position in the Legislature. She is working on an omnibus bill to address issues around legal financial obligations, an earned early release bill, and a voting rights bill.

Senator Dhingra plans to share her draft bills that come from Task Force recommendations. Also noted that a justice reinvestment account will be difficult to pass this session.

QUESTIONS FROM OBSERVERS

Q: Is there support in the Legislature for addressing good time? **R:** There is theoretical support in the Legislature; people see it as an opportunity to capture budget savings.

An observer commented that the laws affect all incarcerated individuals and that it is important those people have a voice in the process.

NEXT STEPS

The first meeting of 2021 will occur on January 21, 2021.

ADJOURN