

Washington State Criminal Sentencing Task Force
DRAFT Meeting Summary: June 17, 2021
[Virtual Meeting via ZOOM](#)

All Task Force meetings are recorded and available on TVW. This summary is a high-level overview of the meeting. For detailed information, please see video recording linked above.

Task Force Members & Alternates Attendees:

See Appendix A. for members and alternates attendance list.

Additional Participants:

- Damon Brown
- Bruce Glant
- Lauren Knoth (WSIPP)
- Kelly Leonard
- Davina Kerrelola
- Carsen Nies
- Joanne Smieja

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

MEETING GOALS: Check-ins and updates • Review workplan for remainder of 2021 • Debrief of public safety dialog • Sentencing Grid subgroup update•

WELCOME, REVIEW AGENDA and GROUNDRULES

Amanda welcomed Task Force members, alternates, and guests. She reviewed the agenda and goals for the meeting, reminded folks they can send questions through the chat to Molly, and explained that there would be time at the end of the meeting for public comment. Chris reviewed key ground rules.

INTRODUCTIONS

Amanda shared that there is a new member, Rep. Carolyn Eslick who now has the seat representing for House Republicans. Members and alternates introduced themselves and their constituencies.

FACILITATION TEAM UPDATES

Amanda shared the draft workplan and that it may change as the Task Force continues through the year. Noted that the goal is to have a first package of recommendations ready to discuss at the August meetings. The July meetings will not be formal Task Force “business” meetings, but instead function as workshops, led by Dr. Caprice Hollins with Cultures Connecting.

CO-CHAIR UPDATES

Rep. Goodman told members and alternates that reappointment letters will be sent out to the 16 members that need to be reappointed. The co-chairs shared they are looking forward to sharing more about the grid subgroup discussion.

DEBRIEF OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIALOG

Chris and Amanda shared the themes that arose from May 20th breakout groups and noted that more detailed notes from each breakout are included in the May 20th meeting summary. Members and alternates shared thoughts on what was missing from the themes, including victims’ concerns, the harm to communities done by removing people, and a suggestion to look at a [report by the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights](#).

SENTENCING GRID SUBGROUP UPDATE & DIALOG

Lauren Knoth reviewed a mock grid that the Grid Subgroup has been discussing. Discussions have included adding sentencing alternatives to the grid, addressing the lower left or “southwest” corner where most sentences occur, reducing sentence lengths, and judicial and prosecutorial discretion.

Grid subgroup attendees shared that they have had conversations about

- what the line should be between a jail and prison sentence
- incorporating diagonal zones onto the grid
- how to distribute resources without unfunded mandates
- the Graduated Reentry program and if a direct pathway could be created from jail to reentry services without transferring an individual to state custody

Members and alternates shared thoughts on having community-based options included (not solely services provided by DOC). There was discussion about having a dashboard where data from the courts about sentencing decisions gets shared to the public to provide a mechanism for checks and balances. Lauren shared information about the dashboard Oregon has through their statistical analysis center.

The grid subgroup asked the Task Force if any members and alternates would be willing to join a separate working group focused on sentencing alternatives. Several members agreed to join; the facilitation team will work on scheduling.

Members and alternates shared comments and questions based on the discussion. They included

- comments about the importance of supportive housing and the barriers that exist to get housing
- sharing that a jail standards task force is being created (outside of this Task Force) and that it might address some of the concerns of the group

QUESTIONS FROM OBSERVERS

- **Q:** If you pay a private attorney on appeal and you win, can you get costs back? **R:** Yes, that is correct.
- **Q:** Is there a certain statute that says beginning at a specific Offense Seriousness Level (OSL), prison will be required? **R:** There are statutes that outline the ranges, but no statute that says a certain OSL is prison sentences.

Comment: The best support is a family home. It is difficult to find our son a place for housing because of restrictions.

Comment: I’m active in reunifying families with kids and finding housing for people with kids is very difficult. I think it is an important issue that needs to be considered on the reentry side.

NEXT STEPS

- Next meeting July 1 at 1pm-4:30pm
- The Facilitation Team will contact those interested in the sentencing alternatives workgroup.

ADJOURN**All Upcoming Meetings:**

- July 1, 1pm-4:30pm
- July 15, 9am-12:30pm

- August 5, 1pm-4:30pm
- August 19, 9am-4:30pm
- Sept. 2, 1pm-4:30pm
- Sept. 16, 9am-12:30pm
- Oct. 7, 1pm-4:30pm
- Oct. 21, 9am-12:30pm
- Nov. 4, 1pm-4:30pm
- Nov. 18, 9am-12:30pm
- Dec. 2, 1pm-4:30pm
- Dec. 16, 9am-12:30pm

**APPENDIX A.
ATTENDANCE: TASK FORCE MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES**

CSTF Members & Designated Alternates	Affiliation/Perspective Represented	Attendance:
Jon Tunheim	Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys	x
Russell Brown (alternate)		x
Lydia Flora Barlow	Statewide Reentry Council	x
(Christopher Poulos)		x
Rep. Roger Goodman	Washington State House of Representatives	
Sen. Chris Gildon	Washington State Senate	
Sen. Manka Dhingra	Washington State Senate	
Rep. Carolyn Eslick	Washington State House of Representatives	x
Sonja Hallum	Washington State Office of the Governor	x
Elaine Deschamps	Washington State Caseload Forecast Council	
(Clela Steelhammer)		x
Julie Martin	Washington State Department of Corrections	
(Mac Pevey)		x
Judge Wesley Saint Clair	Washington State Sentencing Guidelines Commission	x
(Keri-Anne Jetzer)		x
Suzanne Cook	Statewide Family Council	
(Melody Simle)		x
Judge Josephine Wiggs-Martin	Superior Court Judges' Association	x
Gregory Link	Washington Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys; Washington Defender Association	x
(Kim Gordon)		
Chief Gregory Cobb	Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs	

(Chief Brian Smith)		
Councilmember Derek Young	Washington State Association of Counties	x
Judge Veronica Alicea-Galván (Frank Thomas)	Washington State Minority and Justice Commission	x
Chief James Schrimpsher	Fraternal Order of Police, Labor Organization Representing Active Law Enforcement Officers in Washington State	
Nick Allen (Nick Straley)	Columbia Legal Services, Representing Interests of Incarcerated Persons	x
Waldo Waldron-Ramsey (Ginny Parham)	Washington Community Action Network, Representing Interests of Incarcerated Persons	x
Martina Kartman (Dashni Amin)	Collective Justice, Representing Interests of Crime Victims	x
Riddhi Mukhopadhyay (Tiffany Attrill)	Sexual Violence Law Center, Representing Interests of Crime Victims	x

