

July 31, 2019

Task Force Meeting Two

Spokane, Washington

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Agenda

- Introductions & ground rules (9:00-9:15)
- Process update (9:15-9:45)
- JFA data presentation (9:45-11:00)
- Break (11:00-11:15)
- Subcommittee discussion (11:15-12:00)
- Public comment (12:00-12:30)

Introductions & ground rules

Ground rules

- Approach meetings with creativity & collaboration to solve problems
- Engage in thoughtful, honest, & respectful dialog – debate is a productive part of problem-solving
- Everyone shares ownership & responsibility in this process
- Assume best intentions of all who are present
- Recognize this process will require self-reflection, partnership, & compromise
- Ask questions you have for Vera, as well as for each other
- Give all members an opportunity to weigh in

Ground rules

- Hold each other accountable to these rules & commitments made throughout the process
- Others?

Process update


Process

- Three phases
 - Qualitative & quantitative data gathering
 - Task force meetings
 - Town halls
 - Meetings with jail staff
 - Focus groups with incarcerated people
 - Data sharing, collective analysis, & forecasting
 - Recommendations

Vision

- 2-3 core values or principles central for you & your work
- 2-3 core values or principles under which this collaborative operates
- If Spokane's criminal justice system were working ideally, what would it look like?

Ideal criminal justice system

- Less incarceration, especially pretrial
- Focus on treatment and rehabilitation
- Greater access to services
- Mental health and addiction treatment
- Less crime/crime prevention
- Safety in jails and courts
- Victims' rights and safety 
- Data driven and evidence based reform
- Bail/fines and fees reform

Current jail challenges

- Overcrowding
- Dangerous for incarcerated people and staff
- Indirect supervision - 46:1 ratio
- Large population in jail with mental health struggles
- Lack of important mental health and substance use services
- Lack of transparency and accountability
- Not cost-effective

Jail staff interviews

What, if anything, is working well with the current facilities?

- “Can’t think of anything ‘working well.’ We just do the best we can with what we have.”
- “Can’t say anything because it’s overcrowded and tense for staff and incarcerated people.”

Most significant challenges with the current facilities?

- “Outdated, falling apart, overcrowded, dangerous”
- “Difficult on staff’s mental health and morale”
- “All services are downtown – have to shuttle, which is time consuming, costly”
- “We make people worse, create more problems. Staff don’t know people because we never deal with them.”

Opportunities for immediate fixes?

- “We have done everything we can, don’t know what else we could do.”
 - “Not sure taxpayers would be okay with \$40m to fix up old, broken stuff.”
-

Jail staff interviews


What longer term fixes are needed?

- “More support staff and return to direct supervision design.”
- “We need Community Resource Center: one stop shop with resources.”
- “More programs for reform, used to have lots but laid off.”
- “40% mental health population shouldn’t be in jail. Something for them that is not incarceration.”

If system in Spokane were working ideally, what would it look like?

- “Treat people humanely, but we can’t because size of staff”
- “Fewer frequent fliers on low-level charges”
- “Programs for substance use, mental health, violence”

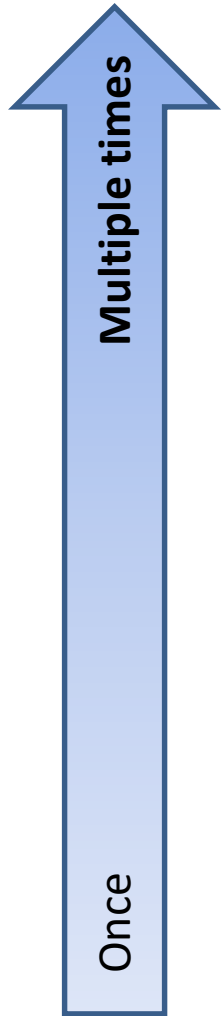
Solutions & opportunities: town hall

- Reduce incarceration, especially pretrial detention
- Diversion – mental health and substance use
- Expand crisis stabilization facility
- Follow Blueprint for Reform recommendations 
- Additional training for law enforcement/COs
- Bail reform/fines and fees reform

Solutions & opportunities: task force

- Pretrial and post-trial community supervision
- 24/7 court to reduce weekend incarceration
- Community Corrections Center
- Community Resource Center
- Data driven design and reform
- Decrease federal holds and immigration beds
- Day reporting

Future of jail facilities



- No new jail: update facilities, reduce incarceration, and continue reforms
- Community Resource Center
- Expansion of mental health crisis facility
- Direct supervision design
- Look at models for modern jails around country
- Increase space for attorneys to meet clients
- More pretrial services
- Make it easier for families and friends to visit
- More programming in jail
- Build a bigger jail

Healthy community

- Healthy childhood for all
- Affordable housing, living wage
- Mental health and addiction treatment
- Sense of safety in entire county
- Restorative justice
- Good economy
- Lower number of crime victims
- Law enforcement working with community

Justice system support

- 24/7 courts
- Fund alternatives to incarceration
- Diversion programs
- Community Resource Center
- Make reentry services available and easily accessible
- Work release and workforce development programs
- Improve pretrial services and booking procedures
- Training for law enforcement, address burnout

Community resources

Necessary resources already exist – need to:

- Increase awareness of resources and how to access them
- Increase collaboration between resource providers

Resources exist but:

- Some are low quality, retraumatize rather than help people

There are gaps in available resources – need:

- Affordable and low income housing
- Affordable childcare services, resources for parents
- Treatment beds for substance use and mental health
- Workforce development programs

Victims advocate for rehabilitation, not increased incarceration

- **60%** of victims prefer shorter sentences & increased spending on prevention/rehabilitation
- **83%** of victims prefer more investment in mental health treatment instead of prisons & jails; **73%** preferred investment in drug treatment
- By a margin of **15:1**, victims support investing in education & schools over incarceration

BY A MARGIN OF NEARLY

== **3 TO 1** ==

victims believe that prison is more likely to make people commit crimes than to rehabilitate them. Victims are also more likely to believe that the U.S. sends too many people to prison (38%) than too few (29%).

Unpacking these findings

Victims of violence who received assistance from a victim service agency (2010-2015):

- Reported crime to police: **13%**
- Did not report: **5%**

People from marginalized communities are more likely to be victims of crimes:

- Low income people (annual household income <\$25,000)
- LGBTQ people
- People with disabilities & Deaf people
- Immigrants
- People of color
- Formerly incarcerated people

Barriers to victim services

National needs assessment:

- **118** informational interviews with service providers and victims
- **50** listening sessions with stakeholder groups
- Surveyed over **1,500** victim service providers

Findings:

- Mistrust of mainstream services and criminal justice system
 - Victim service providers lack relationships with local culturally-specific organizations
 - Lack of awareness of available services
 - Cultural barriers
-

Blueprint for Reform Update

- Three Member Criminal Justice Commission
- Published 2013
- 43 recommendations across 9 general areas/departments across the criminal justice system

JFA data analysis

Subcommittees

Subcommittees

- Three groups of 10-15
- Meet weekly – starting the week of August 12
- Conduct research on key questions – be creative
- Work together
- Provide findings and recommendations to the larger Task Force at final meeting
- You will have help!

Subcommittees

- *Rethinking incarceration*
 - What system changes need to be made?
 - What are other jurisdictions doing?
- *Increasing community collaboration & coordination*
 - What resources currently exist? Are they used to fullest extent possible?
 - What are the gaps?
 - What are other communities doing?
- *Costs*
 - Average daily costs and staffing at jail
 - Investments to be made, including in community

Challenges

- Challenge statements should be defined as a **specific problem**, not in a way that presumes a solution:
 - “County X needs to introduce a pretrial risk assessment” is not an appropriate challenge statement.
 - In contrast, “Pretrial detention decisions in County X do not systematically take into account objective indicators of risk of flight or rearrest.”

Key Takeaways

The jail population is driven by people held pretrial

71 %

of the jail population on a given day is held pretrial

Federal holds make up a large portion of the jail population



10 %

of the daily jail population is made up of people with federal holds

They are held in Spokane jails for an average of **68 days**

A significant portion of jail admissions are for low-level offenses

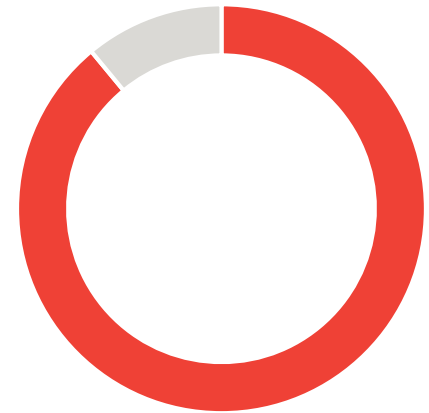


62 %

of people who left the jail were admitted on misdemeanor charges or holds

89 %

were admitted for misdemeanors, holds, and non-violent felonies



Even the lowest bail amounts keep people in jail

18 % of people who left the jail were assessed bond under \$1,000

They stayed in jail for nearly **one week** on average

Some people cycle through the jail many times in one year

15 % of people who left the jail were released **3 or more times**

Charges associated with **poverty and substance use**, such as possession, theft, and trespassing, were among their most common charges

Behavioral health concerns affect over half of people admitted to jail



59 %

of people admitted to jail in 2018 had received mental or behavioral health treatment at any time

35 %

received treatment within the last year



People of color are incarcerated at rates much higher than white people

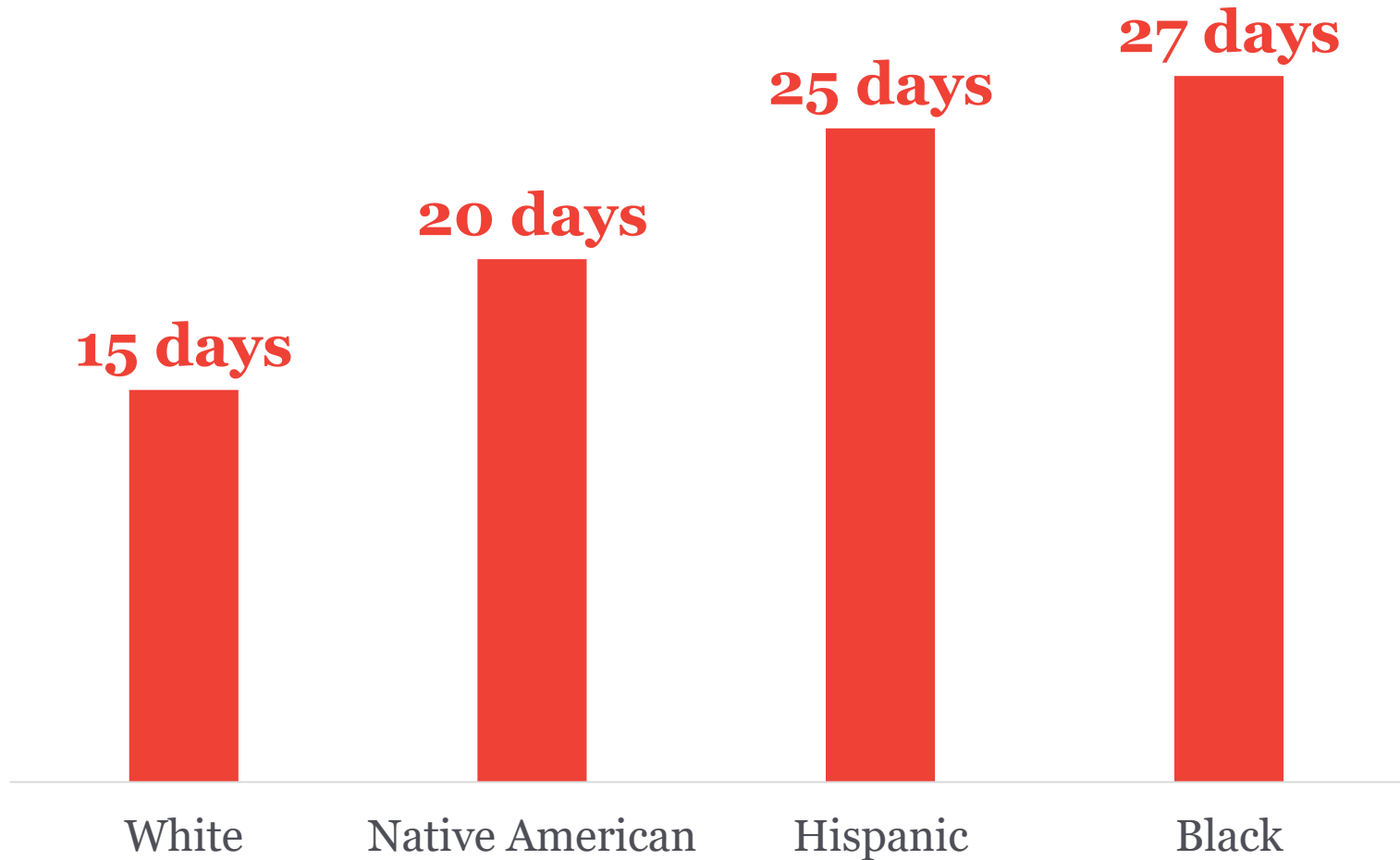
White people are jailed at a rate of 165 per 100,000

Hispanic people are jailed at a rate **1.5 times** higher

Native American people are jailed at a rate **6.5 times** higher

Black people are jailed at a rate **13 times** higher

Average length of stay is greater for people of color than for white people



Next steps

- Community town halls
- Jail town halls
- Forecasting
- Subcommittee meetings

Thank you!
