



Work Release Expansion Project

Pierce County

August 2021



Agenda

Meeting Objectives:

- ✓ Introductions and Review Contacts
- ✓ Review Work Release Program Overview
- ✓ Review Expansion Project Process/Timeline
- ✓ Review AHJ Outreach Follow Up
- ✓ Review Site Specific Progress
- ✓ Discuss Next Steps
- ✓ Questions and Closing

Time	Topic	Lead
4:00 – 4:10	Introductions & Review Contacts	Mike Schindler, <i>Facilitator</i>
4:10 – 4:20	Work Release Program Overview	Mark Kucza, <i>DOC Reentry Division Senior Administrator, Project Lead</i>
4:20 – 4:30	Expansion Project Process/Timeline	Tony Lindgren, <i>KMB architects Consultant</i> Brian Little, <i>KMB architects Consultant</i>
4:30 – 4:35	Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Outreach Follow Up	Tony Lindgren
4:35 – 4:45	Site Specific Progress	Tony Lindgren Brian Little Gar Rodside, <i>DOC Leased Facilities Senior Planner</i>
4:45 – 4:55	Next Steps	Tony Lindgren Mark Kucza
4:55 – 5:30	Questions & Closing	Mike Schindler

Mike Schindler, *Facilitator*



Introductions & Review Contacts

LAC Member Contact Information

Last Name	First Name	Company	Email	Phone
Harris	Cornell	Progress House Program Director	cornellharris@progresshouse.us	253-389-8008
Quintana	Larry	DOC Navigator	lquintana@tacomacc.edu	
Scruggs	Assistant Chief	City of Tacoma - Assistant Police Chief	FScruggs@cityoftacoma.org	253-591-5596
Thomson	David	DOC Field Administrator	david.thomson@doc.wa.gov	253-680-2778
Turner	Rachel	Goodwill	RachelT@goodwillwa.org	253-254-3868

Mike Schindler, *Facilitator*



DOC Mission and Vision

DOC Mission: To Improve Public Safety by Positively Changing Lives

DOC Vision: Working Together for Safe Communities

- Work Release Expansion
 - Work release facilities serve as a bridge between life in prison and life in the community. Incarcerated individuals who complete the work release program are more likely to be successful in maintaining employment, stable housing, and in paying legal financial obligations. Recent research conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy indicates that work release programs have a positive cost/benefit impact.

Work Release Overview

- Program created by the legislature in 1967
- Up to last 12 months of total confinement time
- Function as reentry centers; community-based work, school, treatment required
- 12 existing facilities across the state
- Most work releases house both males and females
- Current statewide capacity +/-740 (waitlist +/-1300)



Work Release Program Overview

Program Description

- From **prison to community** while:
 - Under DOC authority
 - In partial confinement

- Focus on **reentry, transition, and stability** by:
 - Finding/retaining employment
 - Re-connecting with family members
 - Becoming productive citizens
 - Learning/refining life skills such as:
 - Using public transportation
 - Shopping
 - Managing personal finances

Work Release Program Overview

Placement Criteria

- **Eligibility is an earned privilege**
 - Good behavior and program compliance
- **Screening Criteria**
 - Defined in law and established in policy*
 - Trained staff identify participants based on identified risk and needs
 - Multiple levels of review required to approve some cases
- **Can be ineligible due to:**
 - Misconduct
 - Outstanding legal issues
 - Community concerns such as:
 - Victim concerns
 - Prior failure or rules violations at work release
 - Excess or serious pattern of criminal history
 - Heinous or notorious crime(s)

* Screening criteria are listed in policy DOC 300.500

Mark Kucza, *DOC Reentry Division Senior Administrator, Project Lead*



Work Release Program Overview

Participant Expectations

- **Participants must:**

- Work, attend school or vocational training or transitional programming
 - Monitored to ensure approved movements prohibit making any unauthorized stops
- Contribute financially (room and board and legal financial obligations)
- Remain in the facility unless there is specific, prior written approval to be in the community
- Undergo frequent UAs for drug/alcohol use
- Continue programming, treatment or therapy to address identified risk/need areas associated with criminal activity
- Cooperate with monitoring and behavioral expectations in the work release facility, workplace and other locations in the community



Work Release Program Overview

Progression Through Program

- **Three phase program**
- **“Step down” approach***
- **Gradual community access based upon:**
 - Following all rules
 - An individualized case plan
 - Compliant time in the facility
 - Meeting individual case plan objectives

...in order to increase public safety.

* DOC Policy 300.550 Monitoring Graduated Community Access

Mark Kucza, *DOC Reentry Division Senior Administrator, Project Lead*



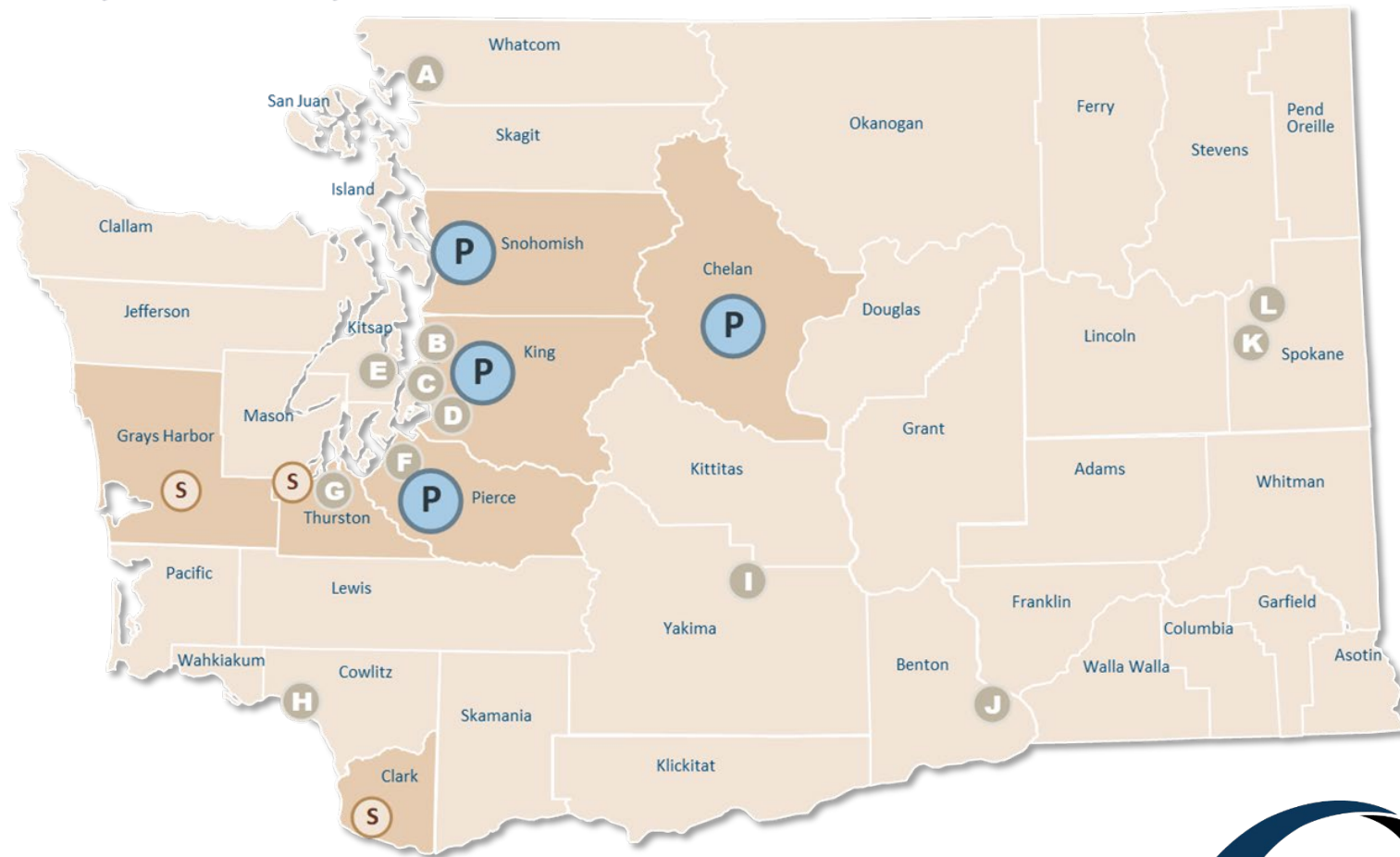


Work Release Program Overview

Work Release Expansion and Existing Facilities

Department of Corrections

Primary and Secondary Work Release Service Areas



Mark Kucza, DOC Reentry Division Senior Administrator, Project Lead



Current DOC Work Release facilities

- **12 separate facilities:**

- Ahtanum View (Yakima)
- Bellingham (Bellingham)
- Brownstone (Spokane)
- Bishop Lewis (Seattle)
- Eleanor Chase (Spokane)
- Longview (Longview)
- Olympia (Olympia)
- Peninsula (Port Orchard)
- Progress House (Tacoma)
- Helen B. Ratcliff (Seattle)
- Reynolds (Seattle)
- Tri-Cities (Kennewick)

Work Release Program Overview

Building Components

BUILDING COMPONENTS

- Controlled building access
- Normative street presence
- Clean, organized, safe sleeping space
- Supervised lobby and dayroom
- Room for administration and programs
- Robust service space (storage, laundry, etc.)
- Transportation, equipment, and supplies for work

Work Release Program Overview

Ahtanum View Work Release (Yakima)



Work Release Program Overview

Bellingham Work Release (Bellingham)



Work Release Program Overview

Bishop Lewis Work Release (Seattle)



Work Release Program Overview

Olympia Work Release (Olympia)





Expansion Project Process/Timeline

Expansion Project History

- Legislative Report, Implementation Plan
 - September 1, 2019
- Formed Local Advisory Committees in King, North Central, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties
 - Started: October 2019. Paused due to COVID-19, May 2020.
 - Restarted: February 2021
- Request for Proposals (RFPs) to lease space for Work Release facilities preferably in the four counties listed
 - Publication: December 27, 2019
 - Due Date: February 13, 2020
 - 6 submittals, 2 deemed responsive in North Central (Chelan County)
- Additional ongoing searches by DOC and LAC members to identify viable sites

Tony Lindgren, *KMB Consultant*
Brian Little, *KMB Consultant*

Expansion Project Process/Timeline

Site Selection Steps

1. RCW 72.65.220 Facility siting process

- When DOC has selected three or fewer sites for final consideration, DOC shall make public notification and conduct a public hearing in the local communities of the final three or fewer sites.
 - Provide for opportunities for written or oral comments and wide dissemination of proposals and alternatives.

2. WAC 137-57-050 Site selection

- After the preliminary public hearing and an initial review, the advisory committee shall submit its recommendations to the Secretary, and the Secretary may give preliminary approval to one of the recommended sites.

Site Selection Steps (continued)

3. RCW 72.65.220 Facility siting process
 - An additional public hearing after public notification shall also be conducted in the local community selected as the final proposed site.
 - Provide for opportunities for written or oral comments and wide dissemination of proposals and alternatives.
4. WAC 137-57-060 Public notice, hearing requirements
 - After the Secretary gives preliminary approval to a site, the Department shall either apply for or assist others in applying for any permits which may be required by local zoning laws with respect to the operation of a work/training release facility.
 - After the required zoning permits, if any, have been obtained, and the Secretary has considered the comments expressed by members of the public during any zoning process or during the public hearing conducted by the Department, the Secretary may grant or withhold final approval of the proposed site.

Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) Outreach Follow Up Follow Up to Outreach



- Results of follow-up wherein we:
 - Provided Work Release Program detail.
 - Informed of the process.
 - Requested assistance to identify allowable zones and likely land-use requirements to site a new facility.

May 10, 2021

SUBJECT: Department of Corrections State Work Release Bed Expansion

The Department of Corrections (DOC) is expanding its Work Release program. Pierce County is an area that DOC has identified as underserved or unserved for work release beds available for incarcerated persons to transition to the community and is being considered for work release bed expansion.

Washington's work release institutions serve as a bridge between life in prison and life in the community for Washington inmates nearing the end of their sentence. In short, work release facilities are separate and apart from Washington state prisons. They exist to provide participating inmates the opportunity to engage in paid employment or vocational training programs in the community while remaining under DOC supervision at an appropriate facility when not at their job or other pre-approved activity. Incarcerated individuals who complete the work release program are more likely to be successful in maintaining employment, stable housing, and in paying legal financial obligations. Recent research conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy indicates that work release programs have a positive cost/benefit impact; for every dollar spent, \$3.82 is returned to the state.

In 2019, DOC formally initiated a public Work Release (WR) facility site selection process in King, Pierce, Snohomish, and North Central Counties. As required under WAC 137-57, the site selection process began with the formation of a search committee, establishment of a Local Advisory Committee (LAC) within each of the counties, and ongoing efforts to identify suitable sites. A public web site containing general information and records of the LAC public presentations and minutes are available online at <https://www.doc.wa.gov/about/business/capital-planning/capacity-work-release.htm>.

A DOC WR facility is defined as a "State correctional institution" per the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 72.65.010(3). Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 137-56-010 (8) defines a "Work/training release facility" as "an establishment approved for housing and monitoring of work/training release residents during the resident's stay in a work/training release program." State correctional facilities are identified as essential public facilities under WAC 365-196-550 (1)(d)(vi).

At this time, no specific site within Pierce County has been selected for a new WR facility. DOC is reaching out and seeking assistance from your department to identify allowable zones and likely land-use requirements for siting a WR facility within your City. This information would allow us to focus our search for suitable sites.

Thank you for your help and assistance with this important initiative. If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact us at our program email: docwrexpandpc@doc1.wa.gov.

Tony Lindgren, *KMB Consultant*



Fife – 6416 Pacific Highway E

- City of Fife – Community Development Department
 - Development Review Committee (DRC) Meeting held Wednesday, July 28.
 - Representatives from the Planning, Building, Engineering and Public Works departments were present.
 - DOC, KMB architects, and Investors were present.
 - Next steps:
 - Continue to evaluate site viability.
 - Develop conceptual layout.
 - Schedule additional time with City staff to further explore site development requirements.

Questions

- Open discussion
- Action Items

Closing

- Local Advisory Committee materials
 - On DOC website: <https://doc.wa.gov/about/business/capital-planning/capacity-work-release.htm>
 - Materials available within 2 weeks
- Email questions
 - Pierce County
 - docwexpandpc@doc1.wa.gov
- Next Meeting
 - Wednesday, September 22, 2021
 - Typically occurs recurring 3rd Wednesday of each month

Thank you!