

Review of the Washington Statewide Reentry Council

Legislative Auditor's Conclusion:

The Council has performed most of its statutory duties. However, without a strategic plan or measurable goals, the focus of its efforts is unclear and its impact cannot be evaluated.



JLARC directed to review the Reentry Council every 6 years

- 15-member volunteer council.
- Two staff members.
- Supported by Department of Commerce.

2016 Council created (2SHB 2791)

2022First JLARC review

2028 Second JLARC review



Legislative Auditor's Recommendations

The Council should:

- 1. Develop a stakeholder engagement plan.
- 2. Develop a strategic plan with performance benchmarks and measures.

Commerce and Council concur



The Council was created to improve public safety and reentry outcomes through collaboration.

The Council does not operate reentry programs.



Council has performed most of its required functions

Performed additional duties permitted by statute.

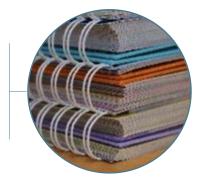
Spent \$1.27 million, primarily on staff and grants to nonprofits.

(FY 2017-22)

Held 4+ meetings per year



Issued 3 biennial reports



Sought input from some stakeholders





The Council had limited interaction with most of the stakeholder groups named in statute

Frequent

Individuals who have experienced reentry

Department of Corrections

Governor's Office

Limited

Jails House and Senate caucuses

Educators Behavioral health providers

Local governments Evidence or research-based reentry experts

No interaction

Specialty courts

Managed care organizations

Behavioral health administrative service organizations



It is unclear whether the Council's activities affected public safety or reentry outcomes

The Council has discussed, but not adopted, objectives and benchmarks.



The Council does not have a strategic plan to focus its efforts

Strategic priorities and policy recommendations do not identify:

- · Goals and related activities.
- Performance measures.

Council adopted a racial equity statement.

 Unclear how racial equity will inform the Council's activities.





Legislative Auditor's Recommendations

- The Council should develop a stakeholder engagement plan that demonstrates how it will solicit input and participation from all stakeholders identified in statute.
- The Council should develop a strategic plan to guide its activities, recommendations, and spending.
 - The plan should have performance benchmarks and measures so the Council can track its progress toward achieving its goals.

Commerce and Council concur
OFM had no comment





Contact Us

Research Analysts

Amanda Eadrick 360.786.5174 amanda.eadrick@leg.wa.gov

Rebecca Connolly 360.786.5175 rebecca.connolly@leg.wa.gov Ashley Trunnell 360.786.5181 ashley.trunnell@leg.wa.gov

Project Coordinator

Valerie Whitener 360.786.5191 valerie.whitener@leg.wa.gov

Legislative Auditor

Eric Thomas 360.786.5182 eric.thomas@leg.wa.gov







