



King County

Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting

**Thursday, April 4, 2024
9:30am – 12:00pm**

Teams Meeting and Conference Room 245

AGENDA

1. Welcome

Attending virtually: Lou Frantz, Andres Muñoz, Chris Carney, Oloth Insyxiengmay, Kevin Hollinz, Sara Rankin, John Strait

Attending in Person:

Not present: Shrounda Selivanoff, Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers (chair), Nyema Clark, La Rond Baker

2. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on February 1, 2024

Approved.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Remarks from SEIU Representatives

Remarks by Austin Field:

- There has been a huge change in morale from the caseload standards being approved. Thank you all for the work you did to make it happen.

Remarks by Molly Gilbert:

- SEIU filed a demand to bargain re: new standards/qualifications. The Executive's Office responded that they don't have to bargain until next year. SEIU pushed back.

5. Remarks from Teamsters Representatives

Rachael Schultz unable to attend, email to the board advised no comments (voiced by Chris Carney).

6. Department of Public Defense Director's Report

Caseloads standards implementation – Anita and Gordon

Anita: Implementation of new standards is exciting, but also will be unanticipated challenges and already discovering some cleanup that needs to be done in the

standards after the vote – communicating with Bob and the CPD on the edits that need to be done. Also rolling out a new case management system at the same time as we change how we credit cases.

Gordon then reviewed monthly caseload data. Felony assignments almost reached DPD's FTE authority threshold to bring on additional attorneys in March. The return to high filings reveals the lower numbers of the previous few months to be an aberration, and 10% of Class A Felonies have now been assigned to contract counsel. Filings in Kent have also risen over the last two months, with a notable uptick in Class C and non-strike Class B felonies filed in Kent. Katie Hurley discussed the terms offered by SCAO for dispositional continuances on public drug use or drug possession charges that would be extremely difficult for clients to comply with. She is still in communication with SCAO about continuing negotiations for resolving these cases and is getting a monthly list of drug charges to track the issue.

ITA filings continue to approach or exceed the benchmark of roughly 400 filings per month, necessitating the use of assigned counsel for 10-15% of cases.

In DPD's juvenile practice, February filings were a significant pike, with only minor relief in March. If these assignment trends continue, DPD may need to resource these units with additional staff as the new caseload standards also apply to juvenile court. Gordon, Katie, and Stev clarified in response to a question from Oloth that this data doesn't reflect arrests and that assignments are still below 2019 levels – though the spike from 2022 to 2023 is concerning. DPD assured Oloth that the department is tracking the pushback from law enforcement in the media to the Youth Access to Counsel law and is working with partners at the ACLU and OPD on a strategy to defend the law.

Katie provided a recap of the legislative session with the passage of HB 2217 to expand jurisdiction for juvenile court and DPD's three proposed changes to criminal court rules. Public comment will close on the rule proposals at the end of the month.

7. PDAB Chair's Report

Shoshana advised the board that she will stay on as chair, but urged someone to step up to replace her for nominations at the June PDAB meeting. She also advised the board of people declining to continue their service, namely Lou Frantz whose last meeting will be in June. John Strait also advised that he's seeking to cut back on his PDAB involvement following his retirement from his law school job at the end of June. Lou represents WACDL and John represents WDA, which will need to submit new nominees to replace them.

8. Executive Session

None.

9. Adjourn

10:38 a.m.