



## King County

### Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, June 6, 2024  
9:30am – 12:00pm

Teams Meeting and Conference Room 245

#### AGENDA

1. **Welcome**

**Attending virtually:** John Strait, Kevin Hollinz, Chris Carney, Andrés Muñoz, Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers, Lou Frantz, Sara Rankin, Oloth Insyxiengmay

**Attending in Person:** NONE

**Not present:** Shrounda Selivanoff, Nyema Clark

2. **Approval of Minutes from Meeting on April 4, 2024**

Approved.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Remarks from SEIU Representatives**

**Tamara Gaffney:**

- We been going to collaborative meetings with management on the new caseload standards/case weighting.
- We're happy to hear the County has purchased the Dexter Horton Building (DHB), which hopefully will help our space issues.
- We hope the new qualifications won't lead to overwhelming the new attorneys and that they receive adequate training and mentorship.
- There may not be a new Big Table negotiation labor process this year so there may be a one-year extension of the current contract.

5. **Remarks from Teamsters Representatives**

**Rachael Schultz:**

- We've also been working with DO on the new caseload standards using case weighting and are aware of the likely one-year extension of the current contract.

## 6. Department of Public Defense Director's Report

### **Anita Khandelwal:**

Now is a time of intense change. We are hard at work with activities on understanding how case weighting will work and how our CMS will connect to it. We are also having challenges meeting caseloads in ITA, and have filed for postconviction relief for clients in Green Hill School knowing that our older juvenile clients will go to Green Hill if they are sentenced to JR time.

We drafted the preliminary case weighting policy and sent it to OPD converting felonies and misdemeanors into a single currency to enable when we're transferring lawyers between both and because juvenile has mixed caseloads of misdemeanors and felonies. We're trying to roll out case weighting and the new Case Management System at the same time because it doesn't make sense to do it one way and then change it later, but it is a heavy lift. We also requested that the supreme court suspend Standard 14 on qualifications and the court decided they would suspend those qualifications for a year pending further feedback.

### **Gordon Hill:**

Because juvenile combines both misdemeanors and felonies, we created a universal credit converting everything to misdemeanor credits multiplying for felonies by 2.55. Felony low would be 2.55 credits (instead of 1.0), the annual maximum would be 280, and instead of 9 credits a month, it would be 23.333 credits.

### **Stev Weidlich:**

There was a large increase in felony assignments in May, especially felony As, and high assignments in ITA. We're expecting this large pace of Felony and Felony A (80 Felony As in May, most of which we kept in-house) assignments to continue into June, which is the highest we've seen in 4 years.

Felony filings in Kent are way up as opposed to Seattle. We're at 90% to capacity in Kent.

ITA: Very high assignments in May, we're over capacity.

Juvenile: Still high number of cases, although not as high as April.

Felony assignments in May went into our FTE Hiring Authority band. Our FTE hiring authority doesn't kick in until we're in the band two months in a row. We expect this to continue next month.

### **Anita Khandelwal:**

Our attorneys are all redlined in ITA, this will be a recurring problem because there are new beds coming online that require additional attorneys/staff and we are still catching up to the existing work. We may get a new attorney to represent us in our litigation concerning the court rule: does rule actually mean the caseload is 250 or is 250 just aspirational?

### **Shoshana Kehoe-Ehlers:**

If you need assistance from us, the PDAB will call a special meeting to assist you.

### **Katie Hurley:**

We have grave concerns for clients who have been adjudicated out of King County who are at Green Hill School about dangerous conditions for the last several months,

including being cells for a long time, lack of bathroom access because in the Hawthorn Unit the cells are dry, so each resident has to call for a staff member to take them to the bathroom individually. Sometimes they are waiting many hours, being given bottles to pee in, kicking at their doors and defecating in their rooms. And the conditions in Willow Unit, which is called "the hole" and is solitary confinement 23 hours per day. Sometimes they are waiting many hours. Many people had been speaking to DCYF, demand letters have been sent. Willow Unit, which is also called the hole, solitary confinement.

22% of the residents were adjudicated in King County. 71% of clients are youth of color. There were 236 people incarcerated there as of last month. Out of our meetings with Green Hill residents, we selected 3 young people and filed PRPs on their behalf asking for conditions to be remedied or for their release. The Department (DCYF) asked for 30 days to investigate. They moved the one who was in the hole within two hours of our filing the PRPs. We filed a reply. The Department is supposed to reply by July 15. It's ongoing work.

7. **PDAB Chair's Report**

La Rond Baker is stepping down from PDAB. This is Lou Frantz's and Andrés Muñoz's last meeting. John Strait is wanting to be replaced.

8. **Executive Session**

None.

9. **Adjourn**

11:00 a.m.