



King County

Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, October 3, 2024
9:30am – 12:00pm

Teams Meeting and Conference Room 245

AGENDA

1. **Welcome**

Attending virtually: John Strait, Kevin Hollinz, Chris Carney, Sara Rankin
Guests with pending nominations: George Yeannakis, Jackie Walsh, Chris Petroni

Attending in Person: NONE

Not present: Shrounda Selivanoff, Nyema Clark, Oloth Insyxiengmay

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

Approved.

3. **Public Comment**

None.

4. **Remarks from SEIU Representatives**

Molly Gilbert:

- With the leadership transition, SEIU wants to convey that Anita was an incredible advocate for caseload relief and systemic reform.
- Three year implementation window is absolutely critical.
- Union wants someone who can tackle internal issues as next permanent director.
- Still seeing attrition among Class A attorneys and other morale concerns.
- Believe attrition and internal culture improvement will present obstacles to implementing caseload standards.
- SEIU still pushing for implementation of standards for 3 year phase-in through letter-writing campaign to Supreme Court and meetings with County Councilmembers.

5. **Remarks from Teamsters Representatives**

Rachael Schultz:

- Starting monthly LMC meetings with director's office, staffing for support staff positions a significant priority.
- Want to collaborate with the director's office on advocating for budget needed to implement caseload standards.

John Strait explained the timeline for the recruitment process and the Board's role in interviewing applicants forwarded to them by the Executive after 60 days. John stated that the Executive's Office has scheduled a meeting with the Board, any member can email Whitney Abrams with a request to join that meeting.

6. Department of Public Defense Director's Report

Interim Director Matt Sanders:

Last week, Executive's Office released its proposed budget. Allocated 14 FTEs to DPD in 2025: 4 attorney positions, 3 supervisors, and 5 support staff positions to meet Phase 1. Proposal only allotted 15 FTEs for October 2025 hiring. The difference between the proposed budget and our requests is significant: 24 FTE slots for attorneys, and 40 slots for 3L hires in October 2025 to prepare for Phase 2.

Matt reviewed the deficiencies in the early staffing model relied upon by the Executive's Office to arrive at their proposal, namely that transferred cases were not accounted for. More than 40% of 8,000+ felony cases from 2021-2023 were transferred, and they take twice as long to resolve. PSB model also rounded fractional FTEs down, which is an unworkable operational assumption as ethical requirements in WSBA caseload standards prohibit assignment beyond caseload caps.

Chris Carney asked for timeline to finalize the budget, and how the Board can help.

Sanders advised they need to get requests into Council in the next three weeks. If we don't get the FTE hiring authority we need, we'll be at risk of having to decline appointments as is happening in Yakima and Oregon right now.

Chris Carney expressed Board's appreciation for Sanders and Pang stepping into interim positions and offered support in any capacity they can provide.

Katie Hurley:

Working on three proposals to amend court rules. Reviewed successful adoption of prior proposal to amend 4.7 to expedite redacted discovery available to clients without a penalty in plea negotiations with KCPAO. A new proposal to tighten scope of definition of "interference with administration of justice" in rule 3.2 in response to recent trends of prosecutors and trial judges exploiting vagueness to improperly impose conditions of release. Also planning to propose a court rule following up on an unsuccessful proposal from last year to 8.3(b) to remove requirement to prove prosecutorial misconduct for dismissal under this rule. The new proposal will reflect feedback from the Court to provide more guidelines for that process. Final proposal is an amendment to shorten the timeline for arraignment so that clients don't spend two weeks in custody prior to arraignment. New proposal would limit that time to three days. Deadline for submission is October 15, so we're finalizing and then seeking cosponsors.

Also working on legislative work, open to questions but will elaborate in future meeting on proposals still in development.

7. PDAB Chair's Report

No Chair's report.

8. Executive Session

Moved to executive session at 10:08 a.m.

9. Adjourn

10:35 a.m.