



King County

Public Defense Criminal Justice Reform Advisory Task Force Meeting

Friday, August 9, 2013

Noon - 3 pm

King County Courthouse
516 3rd Ave, Seattle, WA
12th Floor, Horiuchi Conference Room

MINUTES

Attendees

Members: Christie Hedman (Chair), Sophia McSherry, Karen Murray, Jon Ostlund (by phone), Brenda Williams, and George Yeannakis (by phone)

Staff: Gwen Clemens and Patrick Hamacher

Invited Guests: N/A

Observers: Bob Boruchowitz, Seattle University School of Law; Dave Chapman, Dept. of Public Defense (DPD); Eileen Farley, NWS & DPD-NWD; Floris Mikkelsen, PDA & DPD-TDAD; Lisa Daugaard, PDA & DPD-TDAD; Kristina Logsdon, KCC; and Le'Jayah Washington, KCC.

Welcome and Action Item Follow up

- Welcome by Christie Hedman, PDAT Chair
- Introduction of Attendees
- August 1, 2013 minutes approved by consensus
- In response to the PDAT members' request for a county legal opinion on the question of whether county department can file a writ or any litigation with the county or other government organization as a defendant or respondent, staff indicated that PDAT could proceed on the assumption that a county department would not sue itself or another government entity.

Dolan Decision Discussion

The Task Force members reviewed and discussed the Dolan decision. The following assumptions were identified and added to the draft PDAT report:

- County could contract with an existing organization(s) and would need to consider:
 - Not setting salary or benefits, but providing funding that would allow for parity
 - Impact of how cases are assigned - percentage of caseload
 - Sources of organizational funding, both governmental and other

- The mix of work (defense, social justice, law reform, etc.) helps with the balancing of Dolan factors
- Organization(s) needs to be financially viable independent of the county

Discussion and Brainstorming

- Task Force members reviewed and discussed updated ESJ Activity Templates.
- Edits were made to the draft PDAT report, including:
 - Elaborating on how DPD could engage in social justice activities and involve an outside entity in social justice policy discussions, decision-making, reporting, performance measures, etc.
 - Identification of some desirable characteristics of an outside entity, such as aspects of independence, community and departmental relationships, flexibility, financial stability, clearly articulated social justice policy, and a holistic defense outlook.
 - Benefits of public corporations

The Task Force members agreed to continue making updates online during the week and continue options discussion at the August 16, 2013 meeting.

Action items

- PDAT staff will consolidate ESJ Activity templates and identify similar elements across agency templates for August 16 meeting.
- Task Force members will edit draft report on SharePoint or send edits to all task force members via email prior to August 16 meeting.