



King County

Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019
9:30 a.m. – noon

Dexter Horton Building, Conference Room 245

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Attending in person – Chair Paul Holland, Vice Chair Kim Ambrose, Matt Adams, Sharon Armstrong, Marc Boman, Lou Frantz, John Strait

Attending remotely – Sophia Byrd McSherry, Safia Ahmed

Not Present – Adam Chromy, Jeffery Robinson

Meeting called to order by Paul Holland at 9:38 a.m.

2. Chair's Report

Minutes from Dec. 19, 2018, were approved.

3. SEIU Report

Representatives from SEIU (Abbey McMahon, Molly Gilbert, and Baily Mullins) attended the meeting and raised issues of concern, including on-call duty and job descriptions and expectations. Abbey also said they would like an SEIU report to be a standing item at board meetings.

4. Department of Public Defense Director's Report

Director Anita Khandelwal noted that she and other members of her management team would discuss the following topics:

- Job classifications
- Community court
- Client notification by text messaging
- Outreach at career fairs
- Strategic planning
- Hiring
- DPD's budget

Job classifications. Susan Eddy said the Director's Office will be reaching out to SEIU shortly to discuss inconsistent job classifications. The goal is to work with the union

openly and respectfully and to gather feedback as the Director's Office develops job descriptions and classifications that can work across divisions.

Community Courts. Katie Hurley discussed the new Community Court in Redmond and DPD's work to get a community court started at Seattle Municipal Court, using lessons learned from Redmond to inform the effort.

Text messaging system. Stev Weidlich discussed the status of DPD's text messaging system, which will enable DPD to send court date reminders via text to clients. DPD is about to contract with a company to develop the system, which will interface with the department's case management system.

Outreach materials. Leslie Brown handed out a new flier that attorneys are using when they attend job fairs and other recruitment events and showed them a table-top poster they can set up to add to their display.

Strategic planning. Anita describes the process to date, which has included multiple unit-level conversations, focused on the mission statement and strategic objectives. Her goal is to complete the plan by early April.

Hiring. Anita says the training coordinator position has been posted. This position will likely be a lawyer but not a member of the management team. Anita is also gearing up to begin recruiting three managing attorneys to fill positions now held on an interim basis (NDD, SCRAPD, and TDAD).

DPD's budget. Laura Federighi said DPD ended the year with a small surplus. This year will be tighter. Anita discussed supplemental credit use and our effort to get better data so that we can understand why there are discrepancies in use. We're also re-examining our misdemeanor credit policy.

5. Discussion of Board Role, Responsibilities, and Work Plan

Board Chair Holland led a discussion of two topics: (1) the purpose and scope of the Board's Annual report and (2) board composition. The Board debated how to have the most impact in reporting on public defense while acknowledging the board's limited resources. The Board will consider designing its report mainly as a response to the Director's Annual report on the Department's compliance with the ABA's Ten Principles. Acknowledging that turnover is likely over the coming years, Chair Holland expressed the desire that it be managed with foresight. The Board also discussed whether the county should also consider a different appointment process to the board: Instead of board members who reflect certain issue areas (as is the case now), the executive could appoint people with a keen interest in public defense and place a priority on community representation.

6. Executive Session: The board goes into executive session at 11:10 a.m.

7. Adjourn: 12:10 p.m.