



King County

Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting

**Thursday, April 4, 2019
9:30 a.m. – noon**

Dexter Horton Building, Conference Room 245

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Attending in person – Chair Paul Holland, Matt Adams, Safia Ahmed, Sharon Armstrong, Lou Frantz, John Strait

Attending remotely – Vice Chair Kim Ambrose, Marc Boman, Sophia Byrd McSherry

Not Present – Adam Chromy, Jeff Robinson

Meeting called to order by Paul Holland at 9:34 a.m.

2. Chair's Report

Minutes from Feb. 7, 2019 were approved.

3. SEIU Report

Molly Gilbert, vice president from SEIU, attended the meeting and discussed several items the union is working on, including training of its shop stewards and an examination of the duties of the Legal Administrative Specialists across the divisions in an effort to ensure equity.

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:

- Hiring
- Budget
- Social media
- Strategic planning
- Policy issues
- Intern program
- Case management system
- Assigned counsel

Hiring. Anita noted that the Director's Office recently hired a training coordinator – Raymond Delos Reyes (an attorney from ACAD); that Adrien Leavitt is returning to NDD to practice in felonies; and that Katie Hurley will go on maternity leave in July. She also discussed the decision to combine the screeners and coordinators into one job classification.

Budget. Gordon Hill discussed the ratio between cases and case credits and its relationship to the staffing model. We've determined the correct ratio, which will result in no staff reductions and could bring us up by one attorney. He said that PSB agrees that our old data was flawed and our new data seems better. However, we're continuing to work on correcting errors.

Social Media: Facebook. Leslie Brown discussed DPD's new Facebook page and shared the Know Your Rights video, posted on National Public Defenders Day; the video has gotten more than 11,000 views.

Strategic planning and annual report. Anita discussed the strategic plan, which is close to final, and the annual report, due to the County Council on May 1. She also expressed her desire to do a report every other year rather than once a year.

The board discussed this idea, as well as the idea of PDAB issuing its report on alternating years. Jenny Giambattista, legislative analyst, said many departments and boards are moving to reports every other year to match the County's biennial budget.

Policy issues. Anita discussed concern over Judge McKenna's activities on the bench and the possibility of a letter to him addressing these concerns, signed by Anita and City Attorney Pete Holmes.

Intern program. Tara Urs provided an update on the interns who will start in June. We have 21 interns – an excellent crew. They'll attend a four-day training program and then head to their divisions on the fifth day. We'll schedule events for them over the course of the summer.

Case management system. Gordon said we're working with each job classification to find out what they'd like to see in a new case management system and expect to have that research completed by August 2019. An RFP will follow, with demos by the end of the year. We'll go live in 2020.

Assigned counsel. Burns Petersen said the recent increase in assigned counsel rates is making a difference. We're already seeing an increase in both the number of attorneys who want to be on DPD's assigned counsel panels and in the overall quality of these applicants. This has been particularly helpful in our juvenile practice, where we have a great need for assigned counsel qualified to handle Juvenile Class A Felonies, and in our civil commitment practice (or ITA court), where caseloads continue to climb.

5. **Executive Session:** The board goes into executive session at 10:47 a.m.
6. **Adjourn:** 11:45 a.m.