

Law and Justice Council of Thurston County Thurston County Courthouse Building 1 Room 280 Minutes Thursday, January 23, 2020 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Welcome and Introductions:

Patrick O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Welcome and introductions were made and a sign in sheet is on record. Steve Tilley and Kelly Olson (community-based members) were introduced to the Council.

There was a motion to renew the chair and co-chair for 2020. Motion was voted and approved. Patrick O'Connor will serve as chair and Jon Tunheim will serve as co-chair.

The minutes from the October 17, 2019 meeting were approved.

Jail Expansion:

Thurston County Sherriff John Snaza discussed the expansion project (flex unit) at the Thurston County Correctional facility. The Board of County Commissioners approved the planning phase of the flex unit and it has gone to architecture. Decisions are still in process for whether or not an additional shell for hold cell units will be approved or not.

Patrick O'Connor lead a discussion about possible opportunities to partner with other municipalities for a regional corrections program. Originally it was turned down by voters but given the flex unit, and other jurisdictions issues with compliance with Keep Washington Working this concept could be introduced. Opportunities for quality, training and standardization is a possibly. More discussion to come.

Arnold Ventures Update:

Pretrial Services Director Marianne Clear provided an update on the Arnold Ventures Grant. This will be a standing agenda item. Data sharing agreements have been put in place, and have collected two years of Superior and District court data. Anticipate having AOC and WA State Patrol data around March. Working to have the risk assessment tool ready September 2020. Communication strategy and a one-pager for information is in process.

Criminal Justice Data:

Patrick O'Connor provided an introduction to OpenGov. Executive Aide Thomasina Cooper collected data on referrals from different agencies. Looking for feedback as to what data the Council would like to see every quarter. Feedback received: hard to get the data, crime mapping or demographic data would be good to see. Steve Tilley sent data to Commissioner Menser and Patrick O'Connor from the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, info is measured nationally. Might be useful in the development of what data to track.

Law and Justice Regional Program Manager Discussion:

Patrick O'Connor opened discussion and provided a position description for a Law and Justice Regional Program manager. This is an ongoing issue that is going to grow, the County needs a point of contact for Law and Justice. This is a shared responsibility, looking for feedback on need. Originally had someone performing this work years ago and since the role has not been restored. Council shared consensus, more discussion to come.

LFO Update:

Patrick O'Connor discussed the planning of a Legal Financial Obligation day for Thurston County. Planning is underway, there is a strategy map in place, hoping to host 350 people in one day. More to come.

Lead Grant:

The Thurston County Prosecutor's office and the City of Olympia are submitting applications for an Arrest and Jail Alternatives Law Enforcement grant with the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) National Support Bureau. The council is hopeful that the County and the City of Olympia could receive funding. Patrick O'Connor asked the Council if it would authorize letters of support for the County and the City of Olympia. Motion to approve was heard and approved.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Please Note: All minutes & materials from the Law and Justice Council meetings can be found online. Go to www.co.thurston.wa.us at top of page, click on commissioners and on left hand side, scroll down and click on Law and Justice Council.