



Law and Justice Council of Thurston County
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 15, 2021
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Welcome & Introductions

The Council Meeting was conducted over Zoom for Council members, and over the phone via conference call for members of the public to call in. Public Defense Director Patrick O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. Welcome and introductions were made and an electronic sign in sheet is on record.

The minutes from April 15, 2021 were approved.

Introduction of Leah Landon

Patrick O'Connor introduced the County's new Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager, Leah Landon. Ms. Landon started on July 6, 2021 and comes to up from the Office of Financial Management. She expressed that she is excited to be here and she looks forward assisting with initiatives and being a part of the Law and Justice Council.

LEAD Program Update

Patrick O'Connor introduced Jason Bean-Mortenson, Integrated Care Coordinator at Thurston Mason BH-ASO, and Joe Avalos, Administrator, Olympic Health and Recovery Services to provide some updates on the progress of the LEAD program. Mr. Bean-Mortenson was selected as program manager, and Mr. Avalos was selected as case management services provider. Updates provided by both included the following: coordinating meetings, social contact referrals, governing board contract approval, identifying an Outreach Intake Coordinator, the completion of hiring rest of staff, cold calling, outreach to the community and relationship building with law enforcement. There has been much success on getting this going so quickly because there was an existing team providing LEAD services already.

Mr. Bean-Mortenson explained that the core concepts for the LEAD program involves a harm reduction person centered approach, meeting people where they are at the respecting their dignity and there is self-determined growth. He also explained to please reach out and that updates will be provided as the program get's further down the road.

Law Enforcement Legislative Update

Patrick O'Connor announced that Sheriff John Snaza was not able to attend as planned as he is attending a Sheriff's Association Conference. City of Olympia Interim Police Chief Aaron Jelcick provided an update on the legislative changes involving law enforcement. HB 1310 use of force, HB 1054 regarding tactics, HB 1410 regarding juvenile access to attorneys, and HB 1223 regarding uniform electronic recordation of custodial interrogations were discussed. Most discussed were HB 1310 and HB 1054. Thurston County Sheriff John Snaza will be provided an opportunity to lead a discussion on this for our October meeting.

Tracking Defendants Discussion (

Patrick O'Connor introduced Molly Carmody, City of Yelm Council member to start the tracking defendant discussion. Ms. Carmody described a scenario where an attorney was unable to locate their client that had been civilly committed through the involuntary treatment act without the attorneys knowledge of the clients location. She explained multiple holes in the system regarding the lack of communication and procedural issues and how it negatively affected the attorney's client case. Outreach procedures, collecting collateral info were some challenges discussed. Patrick O'Connor to send out email inviting council members to continue conversation to come up with a solution.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 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.