



Law and Justice Council of Thurston County
Thurston County Courthouse Building 1, Room 280
Minutes Thursday October 17, 2019

Welcome and Introductions:

Patrick O'Connor called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm. Welcome and introductions were made, and a sign-in sheet is on record.

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

Community Based Member Applications:

The council received 3 applications for 2 open positions, intended for representatives from criminal justice organizations. The council recommends Kelly Olsen and Steve Tilley be appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

Arnold Ventures Pre-Trial Update:

The 5-year pretrial justice project has 3 major objectives: maximize public safety, maximize court appearances, maximize release. Research site visit occurred; researchers conducting interviews and surveys of stakeholders to create a report on diversion opportunities and current system. Data sharing agreements are in process to allow researchers to analyze and validate our data for public safety assessment tool. The group aims to share experiences and research with other jurisdictions.

Sentencing Reform Task Force:

Prosecuting Attorney Jon Tunheim is co-chair for state-level sentencing reform act review and update. Originally enacted in early 1980's; changes over time have made it unwieldy and difficult to use. The task force aims to refine the act to better

coordinate components and assess if it reflects current sentence policy, as well as assessment of reentry programs and role of community supervision.

ICE update:

Superior Court Judge Schaller shared both courts adopting interim policy until AG publishes statewide policy. The courts do not support arrests around the courthouse and are working on document for shared understanding of what information is shared. Senior Deputy PA Elizabeth Petrich reviewed the Keep Washington Working Law and Thurston response to ICE arrest at courthouse. The new law speaks to law enforcement and court policies, as well as other functions of local government, but does not impact criminal investigations.

Legal Financial Obligations Reconsideration Day:

There is interest by public defense, PAO, pre-trial services, and superior court to host Thurston LFO reconsideration event; no date set yet, will try to coordinate with City of Olympia.

Individual Council Member Updates:

Commissioner Menser discussed:

- His office is gathering law and justice data from across local jurisdictions to increase understanding of trends in community.
- Potential of creating subcommittees with increased membership to maximize impact of council.
- Flex unit meeting Oct 30, 3:30pm in room 280.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Please note: All minutes & materials from the Law and Justice Council meetings can be found online: <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/bocc/Pages/law-and-justice.aspx>