



King County

Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, May 5, 2016

**Southwest Conference Room
King County Courthouse, 12th Floor
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA**

MEETING MINUTES

Board Members Present: Matt Adams, Kim Ambrose, Sharon Armstrong, Marc Boman (Chair), Leo Flor, Tom Hillier, Paul Holland, John Strait (Co-Chair)

Board Members Attending By Phone: Sophia Byrd McSherry, Jeff Robinson

1. Welcome

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Chair's Report

- a. The Chair led a discussion of the development and timing of the Board's report on the Executive's proposed 2017-2018 biennial budget for the Department of Public Defense (DPD). The Board subcommittee that will draft the budget report will be chaired by Kim Ambrose and will also include Sharon Armstrong, Marc Boman, Sophia Byrd McSherry, Tom Hillier, and John Strait. It was agreed by consensus that the final report will be submitted to the County Council and the County Executive on October 10, which is two weeks after the County Executive transmits his proposed budget to the Council.
- b. The Chair reviewed with the rest of the Board the many persons which whom Board members have met during the past year in furtherance of the Board's work in preparing the Board's annual report to the Executive and the Council. The dominant theme that ran through the meetings was the substantial change that DPD has experienced in the past three years. A key takeaway from the meetings has been the importance of effective communication. The sufficiency of resources has also been a concern that many have expressed.

3. Public Defender's Report

The Public Defender's report was given by Deputy Public Defender Floris Mikkelsen on behalf of Lorinda Youngcourt, who was away at a training. Ms. Mikkelsen discussed the following issues with the Board:

- a. The ongoing development of a staffing model that can be understood and agreed upon by both DPD and the Executive Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget (PSB);
- b. The challenges with DPD's recently deployed case management system;
- c. The potential for a supplemental appropriation request for the current biennium to cover costs associated with expert witness fees and assigned counsel fees. This had been forecast by PSB during the Council's consideration of DPD's supplemental budget request in 2015.
- d. The ongoing process of department review of applications for Senior Attorney status, which is proceeding as prescribed in the applicable collective bargaining agreement.
- e. Negotiation of an extension of the Seattle Municipal Court. The current contract expires at the end of June 2016;
- f. The challenge of achieving full cost recovery of the state contract to represent indigent persons against whom petitions are filed for commitment as sexually violent predators.

4. Executive Session

The Board went into executive session at about 11:05 a.m. and remained in executive session until about 12:20 p.m.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:20 p.m.