

Thurston County Law & Justice Council

2024 – 2026 Strategic Plan

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September 2023



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Membership

Voting Membership

Name	Organization/Department
Jon Tunheim, Chair	Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
Patrick O'Connor, Vice-Chair	Director – Thurston County Public Defense
Andy Scroggs	Washington Department of Corrections
Carrie Hennen	Director – Thurston County Pretrial Services
Chief Robert Almada	Municipal Police Chief – Lacey
Chief Rich Allen	Municipal Police Chief – Olympia
Chief Trevor Davis	Chief of Thurston County Corrections
Commissioner Tye Menser	Thurston County Commissioner – District 3
Councilmember Angela Jefferson	Tumwater City Council
Councilmember Dontae Payne	Olympia City Council
Councilmember Holly Smith	Yelm City Council
Councilmember Michael Steadman	Lacey City Council
David Bayne	Director – Thurston County Public Health and Social Services
Gary Warnock	Thurston County Coroner
Judge Kalo Wilcox	Thurston County District Court
Judge Mary Sue Wilson Judge John Skinder	Thurston County Superior Court
Kelly Olson	Civil Survival (Community-Based Organization)
Linda Myhre Enlow	Thurston County Clerk
Sheriff Derek Sanders	Thurston County Sheriff
Steve Tilley	Justice Not Jails (Community-Based Organization)
Tammy Devlin	Thurston County Risk Manager
Ted Bryan	Thurston County Juvenile Court

*Other organizations may be appointed by the BOCC with input provided by the Law and Justice Council.

Open Positions

Organization/Department
Representative – Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis
Washington Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families
Representative – JBLM/Military
Municipal Court Judge – Olympia
Municipal Prosecutor – Designated
Municipal Public Defense
Representative – Nisqually Tribe
Rainier City Council
Tenino City Council

Strategic Planning Subcommittee

Name	Organization/Department
Carrie Hennen	Director – Thurston County Pretrial Services
Chief Carla Carter	Thurston County Sheriff's Office
Christy Peters	Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
Councilmember Angela Jefferson	Tumwater City Council
Devi Ogden	Thurston County Racial Equity Program Manager
Elizabeth Ingersoll	Thurston County District Court
Jon Tunheim	Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney
Leah Landon	Thurston County Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager
Patrick O'Connor	Director – Thurston County Public Defense
Steve Tilley	Justice Not Jails (Community-Based Organization)

Law & Justice Council General Information

Purpose

Per our charter, the Council's purpose is to provide an inter-jurisdictional forum for consideration of initiatives and resources to improve criminal justice services, enhance public safety and fairness and reduce crime throughout Thurston County.

Authority

In 1987, the Washington State Legislature enacted legislation to establish local law and justice councils. (RCW 72.09.300). The role of the Law & Justice Council as defined by the state statute is to develop a local law and justice plan for the county, including issues related to proportionality, rehabilitative services and community services for juvenile offenders, data collection and reporting for both adult and juvenile offenders, alternatives to incarceration and services for offenders and current and future service/facility needs for local jail population.

Responsibilities

The Council is responsible for the following:

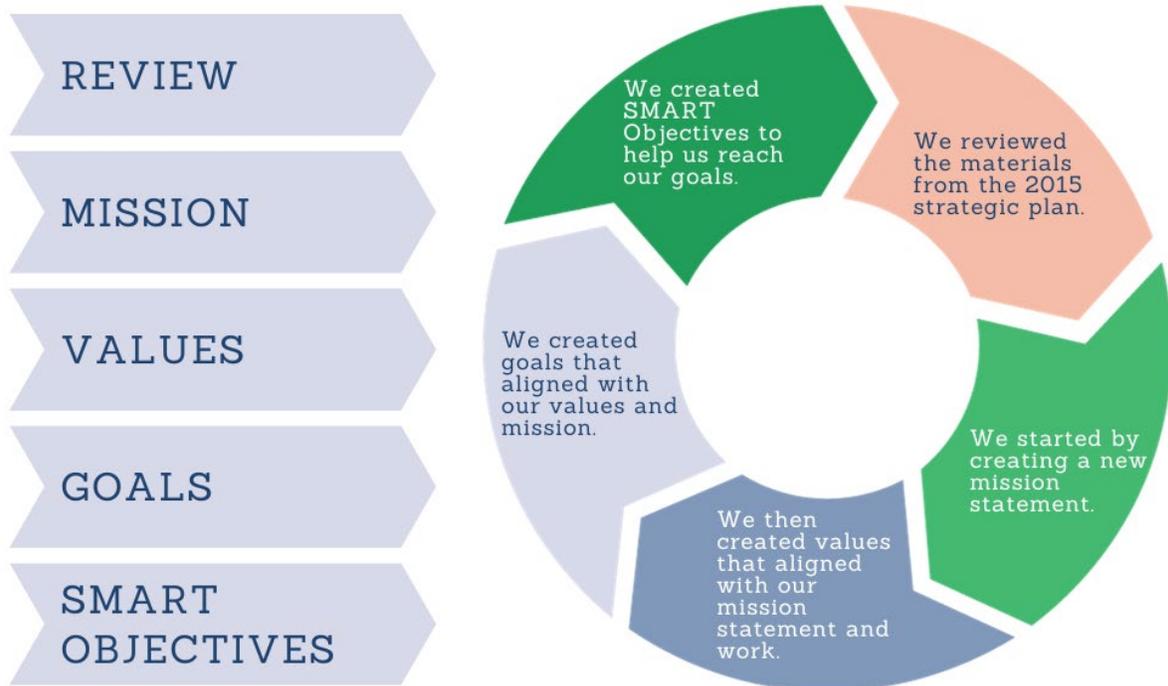
- Seeking resources and "best practice" approaches to addressing emerging public safety and Law & Justice issues.
- Monitoring impacts of changes in law enforcement staffing levels, countywide, on public safety.
- Monitoring impacts of changes in State Department of Corrections services to/supervision of parolees and making recommendations to local jurisdictions regarding appropriate responses.
- Monitoring the availability and effectiveness of community services and supports for Thurston County as those services impact crime and crime prevention.
- Reviewing crime trends and certain measurables provided by each supporting jurisdiction and suggesting interagency approaches as needed.
- Serving as the oversight committee for multi- jurisdictional law and justice projects with an intent to reduce duplication of services and recommend cost containment and service efficiencies (consider consolidation of interjurisdictional law and justice work group/task forces).
- Serving as a Thurston Thrives action body.
- Advising the Board of County Commissioners and City Councils on county-wide public safety issues.
- Fulfilling the requirements of RCW 72.09.300.

Law & Justice Council Strategic Plan

In November 2022 the Law and Justice Council moved to start strategic planning for the 2024 – 2026 biennium. The group was asked for volunteers to serve on a Strategic Planning Subcommittee that would complete the work. From December 2022 through September 2023, the subcommittee met about once a month to work through the creation of a strategic plan for adoption by the Law & Justice Council.

The subcommittee began by revisiting the Strategic Plan for 2015 and decided to start fresh to ensure changes since 2015 had been captured. The following strategic plan was created for the Thurston County Law & Justice Council and its associated elements.

Subcommittee Process



Mission

To uphold the rule of law and respect the rights of individuals while promoting rehabilitation and ensuring a safe community and justice for all.

Values

The Strategic Planning Subcommittee engaged in an extensive exercise to select and define values for the Thurston County Law and Justice system. The mission and values were approved by the Council on May 18, 2023.

Accountable

Individuals are held responsible for their actions, and the system is accountable to individuals involved in the system.

Collaborative

Agencies and partners work together to solve problems, create solutions, and maintain an effective law and justice system.

Equitable

Using a bias-free lens, people are treated with compassion and as unique individuals.

Innovative

Decisions are evidence-based, data-driven, trauma-informed, and aim to prevent involvement in the justice system.

Respectful

Stakeholders engage in professional behavior and demonstrate integrity.

Transparent

Agencies are clear and open about goals and objectives, and how they are being achieved.

Goals and SMART Objectives

After creating a mission and values, the subcommittee moved into formulating goals and SMART objectives that support the Council's mission and values.

Goal #1

Prioritize community safety while preventing entry into, deeper involvement in, or return to the criminal justice system.

SMART Objectives

- By June 2024, the Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager will have a status update on the Sequential Intercept Model's final report for the Law and Justice Council. This status update will include any progress that has been made towards addressing areas for improvement, as well as any barriers that have been encountered.
- By June 2024, Pretrial Services will have shared initial data on the implementation of the Public Safety Assessment.
- By September 2024, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office will lead law and justice stakeholders in working to identify ways to incorporate restorative justice into existing and forthcoming programs.

Goal #2

Identify and eliminate disparities in our criminal justice system.

SMART Objectives

- By March 2024, the Law and Justice Council will have engaged with the Thurston County Racial Equity Council and added a delegate of theirs to the Law and Justice Council's voting membership.
- By December 2024, the Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager will have worked with the Racial Equity Program Manager to develop and implement guidelines for collecting, analyzing, and using law and justice data. This will include a data governance plan and structure, and a list of variables and demographic factors that should be considered when assessing equity.
- By December 2025, the Law and Justice Council's Data Subcommittee will have collected data on disparities in Thurston County's criminal justice system.
- By June 2026, the Law and Justice Council's Data Subcommittee will have analyzed data on disparities in Thurston County's criminal justice system.
- By June 2026, the Law and Justice Council, in collaboration with the Racial Equity Council, will have identified additional goals and strategies for eliminating existing disparities.

Goal #3

Build trust in the criminal justice system among the public, community organizations, and participating agencies.

SMART Objectives

- By December 2024, the Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager will have worked with law and justice partners to create infographics and visuals to help explain the legal process.
- By March 2025, the Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager will have worked with Thurston County's Communications team to develop short videos to be added to the website that explain the legal system.
- By December 2025, the Law and Justice council will have conducted two different projects to engage community members and local organizations.
 - The first project will include a survey that will solicit feedback from community members, victims, families, and those employed by the justice system on their level of satisfaction and potential improvements to our system. Our goal is to better understand the experiences of the those who are justice-impacted, those employed in the justice system, and perceptions of the public.
 - This survey will be translated into other languages and will be available in several formats.
 - The second project will include a survey and focus groups with community organizations and other participating agencies to solicit feedback on how the county's criminal justice system can build and improve trust.
- By December 2025, the Law and Justice Council will have held two forums that are open to the public and offer the opportunity for a panel of law and justice partners and community members to converse on different topics. Topics will be determined using information gathered from surveys and focus groups.

Goal #4

Use data and evidence-based practices to build a more effective and efficient criminal justice system.

SMART Objectives

- By March 2024, the Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager will have assisted the Law and Justice Council with hosting a "Data Workshop". At this event, law and justice partners are asked to bring and present highlighted data their organizations have collected.
- By December 2024, the county will have worked with Justice Counts to review data elements that each department collects, and how we can strengthen data collection to align with best practice.
- By December 2024, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office will have launched their data dashboard for the public and on an ongoing basis will work to identify strategies to address identified disparities.
- By June 2025, the Law and Justice Council's Data Subcommittee will have collected and analyzed data on recidivism for those involved in Thurston County's criminal justice system.
- By December 2025, the Law and Justice Council will have identified additional goals and strategies for reducing recidivism in Thurston County.

2024 – SMART Objectives

Objective	Completed By	Responsible
Add a voting delegate from the Racial Equity Council to the Law & Justice Council.	March	Law & Justice Council
Host a data workshop on behalf of the Law & Justice Council.	March	Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager
Update the Law & Justice Council on the status of the Sequential Intercept Model’s final report.	June	Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager
Share initial data on the implementation of the Pretrial Services Public Safety Assessment.	June	Pretrial Services Director
Work with law and justice stakeholders to identify ways to incorporate restorative justice into existing and forthcoming programs.	September	Prosecuting Attorney’s Office
Develop and implement guidelines for collecting, analyzing, and using law and justice data.	December	Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager and Racial Equity Program Manager
Create infographics and visuals on legal process.	December	Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager
Work with Justice Counts to review data elements that each department collects, and how to strengthen data collection to align with best practice.	December	Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager
Launch data dashboard and work to identify strategies to address disparity on an ongoing basis.	December	Prosecuting Attorney’s Office

2025 – SMART Objectives

Objective	Month	Responsible
Add short videos describing the legal system to the website.	March	Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager
Collect and analyze data on recidivism.	June	Law & Justice Council – Data Subcommittee
Complete collection of data on disparities in Thurston County’s criminal justice system.	December	Law & Justice Council – Data Subcommittee
Complete two survey-based data collection projects.	December	Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager
Hold two public forums and offer the opportunity for a panel of law and justice partners and community members to converse on different topics.	December	Law & Justice Council
Identify additional goals and strategies for reducing recidivism in Thurston County.	December	Law & Justice Council

2026 – SMART Objectives

Objective	Month	Responsible
Analyze data on disparities in Thurston County’s criminal justice system	June	Law & Justice Council – Data Subcommittee
Identify additional goals and strategies for eliminating existing disparities.	June	Law & Justice Council

Reporting

The Law & Justice Council will submit an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners each November to update the Commissioners and community on their work. Additional reports may be provided throughout the course of the year when specific SMART objectives are met, or projects are completed. All publications will be posted to the Law and Justice Council website¹.

¹ <https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/board-county-commissioners/boards-commissions-and-committees/law-and-justice-council>