



Law and Justice Council of Thurston County
Zoom Meeting/The Atrium
Board Room
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 30, 2023, 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Welcome & Introductions

Patrick O'Connor welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 4:05 pm. Everyone introduced themselves. The council meeting was held in person and over Zoom.

Attendees

Robert Almada (Lacey Police Chief)	Jason Bean-Mortinson (TMBHASO)
Bryan Anderson (Risk Management)	Patrick O'Connor (Public Defense)
Robin Campbell (Interim County Manager)	Christy Peters (Prosecutor's Office)
Trevor Davis (Corrections)	Derek Sanders (Sheriff)
Rob Gelder (Assistant. County Manager)	Tara Tsehlana (Prosecutor's Office)
Nate Block (Resource Hub)	Mary Sue Wilson (Superior Court Judge)
Angela Jefferson (Tumwater City Council)	Steve Tilley (Community Member)
Leah Landon (Criminal Justice Program)	Dave Pearsall (Undersheriff)
Tye Menser (Commissioner)	Andy Scroggs (DOC)
Devi Ogden (Racial Equity PM)	Ted Bryan (Juvenile Court)
Kristin Jensen (Superior Court Administrator)	

Review & Approval Meeting Minutes

Patrick asked if there were any changes to the September 21, 2023 meeting minutes. There were none.

Motion to Approve the September 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Steve Tilley

Second: Ted Bryan

Passed: Unanimously

Final Review of the Strategic Plan

Leah shared the final version of the Council's Strategic Plan with the group and reminded them that feedback was accepted until September 27 and the only feedback received was for small changes. The group agreed to not review the plan again since there were only minor changes.

Motion to Approve the Law and Justice Council's Strategic Plan for 2024 - 2026

Motion: Chief Robert Almada

Second: Sheriff Derek Sanders

Passed: Unanimously

Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) Workshop

Leah provided an overview of the SIM workshop the county engaged in at the beginning of November. County law and justice stakeholders met for a 1.5-day workshop to map the county's law and justice system, determine existing gaps and areas for improvement, and create priority items.

Leah shared that the group has seen the first draft of the SIM visual and is still waiting for a draft of the report and hoped the county would have it before the end of December. Leah also shared that participants identified the following priority areas:

- Jail release times and possibility of transportation to the Resource Hub.
- Continuing discussions around a crisis triage facility.
- One holistic document with available services, and details on qualifications.

Council Housekeeping Items

Patrick shared that the Council's charter needs to be updated and that several items will be brought before the Council for consideration at the January meeting. Patrick and Leah shared the following items that will be brought for consideration in January:

- Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council
- Addition of a Racial Equity Council member to the Council
- Addition of the Criminal Justice Regional Program Manager to the Council

Leah, Patrick, and Jon will be meeting with Robin Campbell and Rob Gelder to discuss the logistics of making these changes and will then report back to the Council.

E2SSB 5536 Updates

Jason Bean-Mortinson shared that the process for LEAD referrals is still a work in progress, but the team has received a lot of referrals for those who have simple possession and other charges. Both jails now have the LEAD brochure, and the team is engaging with the City of Yelm regarding the possibility of taking referrals from them.

Patrick O'Connor added that the Prosecutor's Office and Public Defense check the bookings each morning to determine who may be eligible for LEAD and they share that list with the LEAD team so they can try and make contact prior to an individual's first hearing.

Sheriff Derek Sanders shared that TCSO hosted a large group meeting to discuss services currently available at the jail. Nurses are now engaging people with buprenorphine which they are able to administer within 4 hours of booking. TCSO is also hoping to get back the peer counselor they had that assisted with warm handoffs prior to COVID-19.

The Sheriff also shared that the jail removed its booking restrictions on August 1, 2023. At that time the daily population was about 230 people. As of November 30, it was still only at 232, indicating that even with the removal of the restrictions there has not been a large increase in the jail population.

Chief Almada shared that the City of Lacey has only seen about 22 simple possessions, and the law hasn't been heavily enforced. Sheriff Sanders added that they are having to retrain a lot of law enforcement officers now that simple possession is a gross misdemeanor.

Good of the Order

Commissioner Menser shared that two new Commissioners had joined the Board and Commissioner Emily Clouse will be taking his seat on the Law and Justice Council in the 2024.

Sheriff Sanders shared that since implementing the drug dog in the jail, they have only seen one overdose, which is a significant improvement.

Adjourn

Patrick adjourned the meeting.

Meetings for 2024

January 18	July 18
March 21	September 19
May 16	November 28

Law and Justice Council Website:

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