



**King County**

## **Public Defense Advisory Board Meeting**

**Thursday, April 7, 2022  
9:30am – 12:00pm**

**VIRTUAL MEETING ONLY**

### **1. Welcome**

**Attending virtually:** Chris Carney (chair), Shoshana Kehoe (vice chair), Lou Frantz, John Strait, Shrounda Selivanoff, Adam Chromy, Angélica Cházaro

**Not present:** Judge Michael Trickey (ret), Nyema Clark, Judge Ron Whitener (ret), Safia Ahmed

### **2. Approval of Minutes from Meeting on Feb. 3, 2022**

John moves, Lou seconds. Minutes approved.

### **3. Remarks from SEIU Representatives (Molly Gilbert)**

The King County interpreters – among the lowest paid in the state – are going to make a push to get raises. SEIU plans to help them with this. The lack of interpreters has been a major problem for our employees. Also, contracts will wrap up shortly. One troubling issue is that we've just learned seven attorneys on six-month probationary term will have their terms extended because they've not yet taken a trial to completion.

### **4. Remarks from Teamsters Representatives (Rachael Schultz)**

We anticipate wrapping up our contract shortly.

### **5. Department of Public Defense Director's Report**

#### **Filings, caseloads, and other stats (Gordon and Stev)**

- Superior Court criminal filings by month shows March slightly higher than previous months but not nearly as high as a couple of years ago.
- Assignments: March was big in felony assignments. Assignments are always a little higher than filings. For staff, it's assignments that matter. We're trying to tease out the nature in the difference – it looks a substantial part of it is due to the COVID reset. Our analysis shows that older cases are being assigned, driving up our assignment numbers.
- We've also seen a significant uptick in assignments in SMC.
- Jail population is rising.
- Assignments to assigned counsel about steady for conflict – but rising for capacity.

Anita notes that we got a copy of the CAO's "high utilizer" list through a PRA request. Many appear to have competency issues. Many lack housing. There's also racial disproportionality.

### **Inquests (Anita)**

King County has a relatively new inquest process. Family members now have the right to counsel, and DPD provides that counsel. Capacity is a serious issue for DPD – so we're working to contract out these inquests. We did an informal bidding process to find someone to take inquests; hope to sign a contract soon.

### **Court rules (Anita)**

The Supreme Court recently approved two court rules that affect how juvenile records are accessed and viewed: GR 31 – "Access to Court Records" (disallowing information from an official juvenile offender court record to be displayed on a publicly accessible website) and CrR2.1, requiring juvenile court pleadings and case captions to use a juvenile's initials, as done by appellate courts. We're pleased with these outcomes.

Other court rules we're trying to affect are these: CrR 4.7, which addresses discovery practices, including when we can give our clients redacted discovery; CrR 3.2, which provides a framework for the court to consider the possible imposition of conditions of release, including bail; and CrR 8.3(b), which provides standards for when a case can be dismissed (or other action taken) due to arbitrary action or governmental misconduct which has prejudiced the accused's right to a fair trial.

## **6. Chair's report (Chris)**

**Anita's reappointment:** Gail Stone says Executive Constantine has asked Anita to serve another term, and she has agreed. Chris says he's impressed by Anita's leadership and her partnership with community groups and is glad Anita has agreed to stay on.

**PDAB's annual report:** Chris says he'll be sending requests to board members to write sections soon. Lou notes that due to the recent change in the ordinance governing DPD and PDAB, the board no longer must do both an annual report and budget report each year – now, the board submits these reports on alternating years. This year, only an annual report is required; it means the board can next focus its energy on DPD's budget.

**Terms ending:** Gail thanks both Safia Ahmed and Adam Chromy for their service on the board. Their terms end in June of this year.

## **7. Executive session**

No executive session.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourns at 10:30 a.m.