



Snohomish County Council
Law and Justice / Human Services Committee
Meeting Minutes

Jared Mead, Committee Chair
Sam Low, Committee Vice-Chair
Committee Members: Stephanie Wright, Nate Nehring, Megan Dunn

Heidi Beazizo, Senior Legislative Analyst
Angela Ewert, Legislative Aide
Asea Sandine, Assistant Clerk of the Council

Monday, July 26, 2021

1:30 PM

Jackson Board Room & Remote Meeting

PRESENT:

Committee Chair Mead
Committee Vice-Chair Low
Committee Member Wright (remotely)
Committee Member Nehring
Committee Member Dunn (remotely)
Heidi Beazizo, Council Staff
Ken Klein, Executive's Office
Judge Bruce Weiss, Superior Court
Adam Cornell, Snohomish County Prosecutor
Matthew Baldock, Prosecutor's Office
Jason Schwarz, Office of Public Defense
Mark Allen, Snohomish County Clerk's Office
Judge Douglas Fair, District Court (remotely)
Asea Sandine, Asst. Clerk of the Council
**See name listed below of individuals providing public comment*

CALL TO ORDER:

Committee Chair Mead called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and provided instructions for those wishing to provide public comment for both in-person and remote via Zoom.

ROLL CALL:

The clerk called the roll and stated that all five members were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nathan Sugg, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, provided testimony regarding COVID impacts on the Prosecutor's Office and victims.

Ashley Langley, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, provided testimony regarding COVID impacts on the Prosecutor's office.

Corinne Klein, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, provided testimony regarding backlog, impacts to victims, and requested that Council fully fund their ARPA request.

Bob Langbehn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, provided testimony on behalf of victims impacted by staffing shortages in the Prosecutor's Office.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Discussion related to Law and Justice Backlog - Superior Court, District Court, Prosecuting Attorney, County Clerk and Office of Public Defense

Ken Klein, Executive's Office, provided introductory comments. He noted some corrections in his memo and said that Heidi Beazizo, Sr. Legislative Analyst, has included the updates in the latest spreadsheet provided to the Council.

Judge Bruce Weiss, Superior Court, began by stating his comments are his own and not representative of the other judges. Mr. Weiss requested the Council approve all the funding requested over four years. He stated the funding would cover the office space requirements for the two pro-tems needed to relieve the backlog of cases. Discussion ensued and Mr. Weiss responded to questions from committee members.

Adam Cornell, Snohomish County Prosecutor, asked the Council to fully fund the Prosecutor's Office ARPA request as soon as possible. Mr. Cornell thanked the deputy prosecutors for addressing the Council during public comment. Mr. Cornell also addressed the backlog and staffing needs for his office. Discussion ensued regarding regular backlog versus Covid-related backlog, case priorities, data, and whether to fund positions for two or four years. Mr. Cornell and Mr. Baldock, Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office, responded to questions from committee members.

Due to time constraints, Committee Chair Mead, proposed to move the six action items to the Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session, July 28, 2021, for consideration. It was the consensus of the Committee to move the action items to the Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session on July 28, 2021.

Committee members continued with the discussion.

Jason Schwarz, Office of Public Defense, said the workload has increased and is taking more time to process cases due to Covid-related limitations. Mr. Schwarz requested some of the funding be used as an opportunity to screen and arraign defendants remotely. Lastly, he requested the same funding model be applied for all divisions.

Mark Allen, Snohomish County Clerk's Office, said that the Clerk's Office request should follow Superior Court's request.

Judge Douglas Fair, District Court, spoke about the request and funding for District Court.

Committee members thanked the attendees for their time and efforts.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Motion 21-243, confirming the appointment of Debbie Fullerton to the Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Citizen Advisory Board [2021-0515](#)

ACTION: Moved to Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session, July 28, 2021, for consideration.

2. Motion 21-244, approve and authorize the County Executive to execute the Washington State Department of Commerce Community Services Block Grant Interagency Agreement [2021-0517](#)

ACTION: Moved to Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session, July 28, 2021, for consideration.

3. Motion 21-245, approve and authorize the County Executive to execute the Washington State Department of Commerce System Demonstration Grant Interagency Agreement [2021-0521](#)

ACTION: Moved to Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session, July 28, 2021, for consideration.

4. Motion 21-251, amending the 2019 Annual Action Plan to add supplemental Community Development Block Grant funds for the Coronavirus Pandemic [2021-0534](#)

ACTION: Moved to Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session, July 28, 2021, for consideration.

5. Motion 21-258, approve and authorize the County Executive to execute the Department of Children, Youth and Families Contract for Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program Services [2021-0545](#)

ACTION: Moved to Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session, July 28, 2021, for consideration.

6. Motion 21-248, approving the Interlocal Agreement between Snohomish County and the City of Brier relating to law enforcement services [2021-0530](#)

ACTION: Moved to Regular Agenda, General Legislative Session, July 28, 2021, for consideration.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 3:23 p.m.