



**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  
Cheri Danner, Assistant Clerk of the Council

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**Monday, June 13, 2022**

**12:00 PM**

**Jackson Board Room  
& Remote Meeting**

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**SPECIAL MEETING**

**PRESENT:**

Acting Committee Chair Dunn  
Committee Chair Mead (*remote*)  
Committee Vice-Chair Low (*remote*)  
Committee Member Wright (*not present*)  
Committee Member Nehring (*remote*)  
Nicole Beazizo, Council Staff  
Judge George Appel, Superior Court  
Britt Romero, Superior Court  
Kathryn Koehler, District Court  
Jason Cummings, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney  
Cheri Danner, Asst. Clerk of the Council  
Elena Lao, Asst. Clerk of the Council

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Committee Chair Dunn called the special meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and provided instructions for those wishing to provide public comment in-person and remote via Zoom.

**ROLL CALL**

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

## PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no persons present wishing to provide public comment.

## DISCUSSION ITEM

1. Law and Justice Backlog Metric Discussion [2022-0613](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided opening remarks.

Acting Committee Chair Dunn explained the 2022 Budget Note requesting the Superior Court, District Court, Prosecuting Attorney, and Office of Public Defense to present a metrics to measure progress at reducing case backlog.

Judge George Appel, Superior Court Presiding Judge, along with Kathryn Koehler, District Court Administrator, Jason Cummings, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, and Jason Schwarz, Office of Public Defense Director, presented information explaining the metric summary of the backlog in the law and justice system due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Discussion ensued as the panel responded to questions regarding pending case age and the calculation of referral rate. Mr. Cummings explained that the referral rate is dependent on the complexity of cases and case load standards.

Britt Romero, Superior Court Assistant Administrator, was also available to answer questions.

The Committee thanked the panel for the presentation and discussion.

**ACTION:** Direct staff to write a motion to accept the metrics, as presented, for Council consideration.

## ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion 22-250, approving Amendment 1 to the Agreement for Professional Services with Cascade Helicopter Services [2022-0589](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided an overview of the proposed contract amendment to increase the spending authority to service an additional helicopter that the County will be acquiring. She noted that the amendment increases the not-to-exceed amount to \$650,000.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

2. Motion 22-251, approving Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Professional Services with Northwest Helicopters, LLC [2022-0590](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided an overview of the proposed contract amendment to increase the spending authority to service a used helicopter that the County received in 2021. She noted that the amendment increases the not-to-exceed amount to \$1,900,000.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

3. Motion 22-252, request to fund unfunded positions in the Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau [2022-0606](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided a staff report on the request to fund five unfunded positions in the Corrections Bureau: two Booking Assistants, one Tech Support Specialist, one Corrections Assistant, and one Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner. She explained that the proposed motion should be considered along with Motion 22-240, requesting approval of a budget transfer for \$500,000 to fund the positions, which is currently assigned to the Finance and Economic Development Committee.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session for consideration along with Motion 22-240.

4. Motion 22-220, authorizing the recruitment and hiring of two new law clerks - Superior Court [2022-0521](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided background information on the request by Superior Court to hire two new law clerks sooner than the BDT hire date as new judges are anticipated to start prior to October 1, 2022. She added that the fiscal implication is dependent upon the final hire date since the 2022 Budget only provides for funding for three months.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 15, 2022, for consideration.

5. Motion 22-249, authorizing the County Executive to sign a Professional Services Contract for Forensic Pathology with Linsey Harle [2022-0597](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided a staff report on the scope of the agreement through December 31, 2022, with extensions up to four additional six-month terms. She said the cost of the agreement is \$25,000.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

***Agenda items #6 through #11 were considered together:***

6. Motion 22-253, approving and ratifying 2022 contracts for legal services (ABC Law Group, LLP) [2022-0553](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided background information relating to guardianship services for indigent defendants, pursuant to the Uniform Guardianship, Conservatorship and Other Protective Arrangements Act, effective January 1, 2021. She noted that the Office of Public Defense requests Council to ratify six agreements authorizing the payment of expenditures exceeding \$25,000 for indigent representation services for parents and/or minors in Minor Guardianship actions.

Ms. Gorle also explained the substitute motions, which provide clarification and additional information relating to state law requirements and funding.

**ACTION:** Move the substitute motion to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

7. Motion 22-254, approving and ratifying 2022 contracts for legal services (Alford and Assoc., PLLC) [2022-0565](#)

*[See notes under Item #6, Motion 22-253.]*

**ACTION:** Move the substitute motion to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

8. Motion 22-255, approving and ratifying 2022 contracts for legal services (Nancy Beckford, PLLC) [2022-0566](#)

*[See notes under Item #6, Motion 22-253.]*

**ACTION:** Move the substitute motion to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

9. Motion 22-256, approving and ratifying 2022 contracts for legal services (Jay Carey) [2022-0567](#)

*[See notes under Item #6, Motion 22-253.]*

**ACTION:** Move the substitute motion to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

10. Motion 22-257, approving and ratifying 2022 contracts for legal services (Nunn, Vahn, Lang, PLLC) [2022-0568](#)

*[See notes under Item #6, Motion 22-253.]*

**ACTION:** Move the substitute motion to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

11. Motion 22-258, approving and ratifying 2022 contracts for legal services (P. Jayson Thibodaux, PLLC) [2022-0569](#)

*[See notes under Item #6, Motion 22-253.]*

**ACTION:** Move the substitute motion to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

12. Motion 22-232, approving Amendment #1 to Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability Act (PSTAA) Interlocal Agreement and 2021-2022 Services and Expenditure Plan with WA State Community College Dist. #23 DBA Edmonds College [2022-0561](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided a staff report on the proposed amendment to the Services and Expenditure Plan by reallocating \$12,000 to provide vouchers for students with high financial need who reside within the boundaries of the RTA. She further explained that the Services and Expenditure Plan is for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

13. Motion 22-238, confirming the re-appointment of Erika Larimer to the Snohomish County Developmental Disabilities Citizen Advisory Board [2022-0583](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, presented information on the Executive's recommendation to reappoint Erika Larimer to the Developmental Disabilities Citizen Advisory Board for a second term.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

14. Motion 22-247, confirming the appointment of Anthony Fletcher to the Snohomish County Children's Commission [2022-0599](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, presented information on the Executive's recommendation to appoint Anthony Fletcher to the Children's Commission for a four-year term.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

15. Motion 22-263, approving an increase in the number of employees authorized in the 2022 Annual Budget in the Human Services Fund 124 and Grant Control American Rescue Plan Act Fund 130 Sub Fund 375 for the Human Services Department [2022-0607](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, provided an overview of the request for six additional full time positions in the Human Services Department - - three positions for Case Management Services, one position for the Office of Housing and Community Development, one position for the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, and one position for the Administrative Services Division. She highlighted that all six positions are funded through grants.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 22, 2022, for consideration.

16. Motion 22-262, approving and authorizing the County Executive to execute the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services State Afghan Placement and Assistance Program Contract Amendment [2022-0611](#)

Nicole Gorle, Senior Legislative Analyst, presented an overview of the contract amendment for an extended term through September 30, 2022, which includes additional services for up to 150 resettled Afghans. She noted that funding expenditure is authorized in Fund 124.

**ACTION:** Move to Consent Agenda, General Legislative Session on June 15, 2022, for consideration.

At 12:40 p.m., Acting Committee Chair Dunn recessed the meeting until the 6:00 p.m. Administrative Session.