AGENDA
Date: April 12th, 2023
Time: 12:00 P.M. TO 1:30 P.M.

Location: *Meeting via Zoom*

To join from your computer: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82173683513](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82173683513)

To join from your phone: (253) 215-8782
Webinar ID: *821 7368 3513*

I. Open Public Forum (up to 15 minutes) 3 min. limit per person
II. March 15, 2023, SRLJC minutes approval
III. Discussion of Department Priorities
   a. [Status Update Report link](#)
   b. [Blueprint Report link](#)
IV. Adjourn
TOP THREE PRIORITIES

SRLJC- MICHAEL SPARBER
1. Increase staffing of Community Resource Deputies in all communities.
   a. 5.3 (3) Renew Efforts and Expand Neighborhood Crime Prevention Programs

2. Effective Diversion Programs for Offenders
   a. 5.4 (3) Expand Diversion and Alternative Programs for Low-Level and First-Time Arrests

3. Sufficient Jail space to begin booking Gross Misdemeanors and Misdemeanors
   a. While not in the Blueprint that I could locate specifically, our primary focus is public safety, and at times we absolutely need the ability to book some misdemeanor suspects into jail to maintain the peace, prevent offenders from continuing to escalate and be able to “cool off” in a safe setting. At the way things are currently going, that ability is extremely curtailed and does not help public safety. The Sheriff and the people he serves expect that we are able to deal with dangerous situations, that may not be a felony, but require taking someone to a safe detention facility.
1. **Community Collaboration**—community and police working together, proactively, to identify and address community issues and reduce intercommunity criminal activity.

2. **Interagency/organizational collaboration**—criminal justice, social services, mental health, educational, etc.…agencies or organizations communicating and working together towards a purpose or goal.

3. **Developing a Common Community Vision**: The key to collaboration in our community is having a common vision regarding our criminal justice system. Working collaboratively with system partners (e.g., social services, mental health, educational, etc.) provides a greater opportunity for successful implementation of true community change.
5.3 (1) Establish a Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Program

5.3 (2) Consideration of Ceasefire Program Efforts
Not suitable for this area

5.3 (3) Renew Efforts to Expand Neighborhood Crime Prevention Programs

5.3 (4) Expand Crisis Intervention Teams Across All Local Law Enforcement Agencies

5.3 (5) Combine Various Law Enforcement Functions
1. The Law & Justice Council comply with RCW 72.09.300 the scope, operations, and authority. All members and guests should also be reminded regularly that opinions presented before the Council should be free from backlash derived from stereotypes and bias.

2. Renew efforts toward establishment and operations of a Community Corrections center.

3. Potential impact and appropriate preparation of how Washington State Senate Bill SB5121 (Early release of convicted felons) on local law enforcement, detention service, courts, public defenders, prosecutors, and related facilities.
1. **Requirements for training and anti-racism work are a must.** No system will work if the individuals managing it do not understand how trauma presents in people, bias they may hold, or understand racism and oppression.
1. Violence Prevention
2. Court Diversion (instead of jail)
3. Reducing Racial Disproportionality
1. As a customer of these services, the hope is the Justice system works effectively and efficiently. That is to say the costs are not astronomical to achieve the goals.

2. There are not huge backlogs of cases in the court system so people are not left languishing with delayed resolutions. One thought is perhaps there can be agreement on the number of continuances.

3. Adequate supervision for those in need of it. This would include the Therapeutic Courts, probation and supported release. Case loads in the hundreds simply doesn’t work.

4. There needs to be a balance where the safety of the community and the victims is maintained. Rising crime rates would suggest the scales are tipping the other direction.
1. Adopt a program to effectively reduce failure to appear throughout the court system.

2. Pursuit and adoption of evidence-based/data-driven solutions to problems facing the system.

3. Assess the need for a new main detention facility, and whether that includes appropriate space to accommodate programming for such things as drug treatment, mental health-related issues that intersect with the criminal justice system, anger management, etc.: and enhanced victim advocacy.
5.1 (1) Create Spokane Regional Justice Commission (RJC) and hire support staff.

5.1 (2) Reestablish the L&J Coordinating Committee and Supporting workgroups

5.1. (3) Ensure there is a Role for outside agencies, non-profits and Public by furthering Community Partnerships

5.1.(4) Adoption of Evidence Based Portfolio and Risk/Needs Assessment instrument for Criminal Justice System Management across all agencies.

5.1 (5) Establish Semi-Annual Reporting – the Creation of “Report Cards”
1. Expand Diversion and Alternative Programs for Low-level and First-time Arrests

Free up legal resources that would have been used through traditional prosecution/trial track; Increase collection of restitution for victims; Increase community service hours benefiting local non-profits.

Cost: No added cost for Pretrial Services to increase program numbers; no extra staff positions needed. Program is still within capacity.

2. Expand and enhance online presence for OPTS - create department website, online PD app, downloadable forms. (Not in the Blueprint)

Enhances public awareness of the department and the services it provides within the criminal justice system; online public defender application provides wider access to our services without the barrier of transportation; downloadable forms and brochures for Monitored Release and Diversion provides additional low-barrier tools to help promote compliance and successful completion of our pretrial programs.

Cost: 160 hours projected by IT department (part of existing IT budget) - currently working with two IT dept staff.

3. Technological Improvements in Court and Jail (from Coordinated IT, tab 5.2)

Replace sound system in jail visiting booths to improve audio quality of in-person interviews between inmates and Pretrial Services Officers/Public Defenders/City Pretrial Services. Current audio conditions in visiting booths are a major obstacle; upgrades needed to maintain privacy & confidentiality of jail interviews, safety of Pretrial Services officers, and stable infrastructure for continuation of services in the event of emergency events such as COVID.

Cost: Estimated $50,000 - 100,000 to replace sound system in jail visitor booths. Jail willing to share cost of project.
1. Case Processing: Cases drag on for so long defendants just stop trying and often fail i.e. they FTA or get a new charge. Their problems are then compounded by an FTA or FTC on the original matter with the possibility of new charges now pending.

Possible areas to address:
   a. Prosecutors early review of the case and charging decision. Staff the front-end with experienced attorneys who can quickly spot a Diversion case.
   b. Reduce court continuances
   c. PD/client contact and on-going availability of PD to their clients
   d. Quicker system response to a defendant trying to get back on track, i.e. bench warrant recalls.
      i. Set-up a uniform three court system to quickly get the warrant(s) re-called if appropriate and set on a calendar.
      ii. Warrant fest has been successful in the past or consider creating an on-going self-surrender program that only involves jail booking on the most serious of cases.

2. More opportunity to appear for court hearings and criminal justice related appointments at an outlying location in the County whether it be in person or via technology.
   a. Many folks are way out in the County and don’t have the means to get to the courthouse, find parking, navigate the buildings, etc.

3. Expand and enhance online information and services
   a. Audit law and justice departments to see if there are processes that can be put in place utilizing newer technology and software making it easier for citizens to conduct court and criminal justice related business online. More comprehensive information online to answer questions about the criminal justice and law enforcement system, how it works and what to expect, etc. would also be helpful.
5.4 Pretrial Services

- **5.4 (1) Use of Functional Risk/Needs Assessment Tool and Proper Intake Screening**
  
  Completed

- **5.4 (2) Create Twenty-Four Hour Intake Facility**
  
  Completed

- **5.4 (3) Expand Diversion and Alternative Programs for Low-level and First-time Arrests**
  
  In Process or Planned
1. Complying with Caseload limits and mandates as well as the guidelines enumerated in the standards for indigent defense.

Compliance with all the guidelines, especially those suggested and not mandated, will decrease the amount of time it takes to resolve a case, and reduce the jail population.

2. Focus on employee recruitment, retention, and training.

The more qualified and experienced attorneys employed leads to the quicker resolution of cases, reduction in court docket sizes and the jail population.

3. Researching and advocating for changes in our system that improve efficiency, reduce jail populations, and decrease recidivism.

It depends on the program(s) adopted, but new approaches to bail or mental health diversion for example, can substantially mitigate several problems within our County Criminal Justice System.
5.7 Indigent Defense

- 5.7 (1) & 5.7 (2) Implementation of Efficient Communication Between Defense Lawyers and Jailed Clients
  In Process or Planned

- 5.7 (3) Quick and Easy Meeting Area Access Should be Established for Use by Attorneys Visiting Client Inmates when a Face-to-Face Visit is Desired.
  In Process or Planned
1. **5.5(6) – 2 – In Process or Planned** – The District Court has made it a priority with the Probation Department to implement the ORAS tool to further determine whether Probation and what level of Probation is appropriate for an offender.
   
   Estimated Cost –
   Additional Probation Officers and staffing

2. **5.5(8) – 2 – In Process or Planned** – The District Court is on the eve of implementing the Supported Release program - April 10, 2023. Currently the District Court is limited in their Pre-Trial release programming due to staffing issues with Geiger and Pre-Trial Services. Additionally, the very successful Ride Share (aka Uber Rides to Court and Court required services) has lost its funding.
   
   Estimated Cost –
   Additional funding for Ride Share – apx $100,000 per year
   Additional staffing for Geiger
   Additional staffing for Pre-Trial Services

3. **5.5(10) – 2 – In Process or Planned** – The addition of a DV Therapeutic Court
   
   Estimated Cost –
   Additional Probation Officers and staffing
   Additional Prosecutor

   Additional Defense Attorney
1. Race/equity work
2. Continued appropriate jail diversion options
3. FTA rates/programming to further reduce warrants
1. Housing
2. Mental Health/Beh. Health/DVIT Treatments
3. Drug and Alcohol Detox/ Treatment
1. **5.2(1)(c); Reduction in paper use** - The Clerk’s office has implemented a fully functional electronic filing system. Now all 8 case types are capable of filing electronically, but need to focus on electronic criminal filings.

2. **5.5(5); Legal financial obligations** – Modern policies and procedures have been established for LFOs. Brand new legislation will require an overhaul and update of all these policies and procedures. A major state level error by AOC and DOC has significantly increased Clerk LFO workload. Additionally, the Clerk is the County program manager for all things Blake.

3. **5.5(10); Conducted independent evaluation of all Therapeutic Court models.** Spokane County Veteran’s enhanced treatment courts and Veteran’s forum are nationally renowned. The Spokane Therapeutic Veteran’s Court and forum is the model for the state.
1. Solidify the transition from a paper record court system to an electronic court record system. Make the electronic record the official court record.

2. Enhance and focus on our therapeutic courts and diversion programs. How effective are they really, and if so, incorporate them more in to our criminal justice system processes.

3. Coordinate our BLAKE ruling efforts to comply with the state Supreme Court ruling in an efficient and timely manner. I am the county BLAKE Program Manager, so the onus is on me to make this happen.
1. Create and expand programing/treatment/release options available to the Court participants to include: (a) Utilizing Equity and Inclusion Assessment Tool (EIAT) for all Superior Court Therapeutic Courts; (b) Expand therapeutic crt participation criteria to address ethnic disparity and include high risk individuals; (c) Make post-conviction programming available for defendant’s serving a local jail (not DOC) sentence; (d) Provide pre-trial service options; and (e) Juvenile Court - additional mental health resources on site at detention.

The impact on CJ System is consistent with what the Blue Print for Reform is seeking; alternatives to incarceration, addressing racial disparity, addressing recidivism, and increasing community safety.

Superior Court cannot determine cost without the assistance of the County providing funding to hire the necessary qualified analyst to provide the financial data.

2. Return to strict or stricter adherence to case processing policies which were designed to reduce the number of hearings and FTA’s with a goal of resolving cases faster.

This has a serious impact on the CJ system at all levels. There is significant understaffing/funding of the same needed to meet the case processing timeline standards. Ultimately, this meets the goal of BFR. Superior Court can only provide the cost for the Court personnel.

3. Personnel to include (a) 4 more judicial departments #13, #14, #15 and #16; (b) 2 or more IT staff assigned to Superior Court; (c) Mental Health staff for Juvenile Court; and (d) 4 or more Court Administration Staff to meet the increase in caseloads which already exist and to implement and integrate additional programs and case time standards.

The community will have better access the criminal justice system and early case resolution to include services.
5.5 Courts

- 5.5 (1) Emulate Reform Efforts Carried out by Spokane County Juvenile Courts
  
  **District Court**- Completed

- 5.5 (2) Collaborative Efforts Should be Undertaken to Avoid Unnecessary Court Hearings.
  
  **Superior Court**- Addressed by Court Rule
  
  **District Court**- Completed

- 5.5 (3) Individuals with Pending Criminal Cases in More than One Spokane County-Based Court Should have All Pending Matters Handled by a Single Court and Prosecuting Attorney.
  
  **Superior Court**- Still needs work
  
  **District Court**- Not applicable

- 5.5 (4) The Court, Prosecution and Defense Should Collaborate to Eliminate Mandatory Court Appearances of Defendants for All Hearings Except for Trials and Sentencing Hearings.
  
  **Superior Court**- Addressed by Court Rule
  
  **District Court**- Completed
5.5 (5) Trial Courts Should Minimize Issuance of Warrants, Arrest, and Incarceration for Non-payment of LFO’s and Should Make Use of Alternative Sanctions for Payment of LFO’s as Deemed Appropriate.

**Superior Court**- Return to court for Restitution only cases - no alternate sanctions are available

**District Court**- Completed/ Not applicable

5.5 (6) Develop a Process by which Technical Probation Violations are Resolved by Sanctions which are Swift and Certain, but Not Lengthy.

**Superior Court**- DOC Supervises

**District Court**- In Process or Planned

5.5 (7) All County and Municipal Courts, Prosecuting Attorney Offices, and Public Defense Agencies in the Region Should Use the Same Case Management System.

**Superior Court**- AOC controls JSIS, Clerk’s Office controls Odyssey

**District Court**- In Process or Planned
5.5 (8) The Language and Spirit of Washington State Superior Court Rule 3.2 Should be the Basis of Pretrial Release Decisions.

- **Superior Court**: Per report, Superior Court is doing well
- **District Court**: In Process or Planned

5.5 (9) Expand Adult Drug Court

- **District Court**: Not applicable

5.5 (10) Conduct Independent Evaluation of All Therapeutic Court Models

- **Superior Court**: Evals of Sup Crt therapy crts are done
- **District Court**: In Process or Planned

5.5 (11) Explore Legislation that Removes Requirements and Have the Effect of Unfunded Mandates on Local Jurisdictions

- **Superior Court**: No control over this
- **District Court**: No applicable
1. Construction of a new community corrections center (from the Blueprint)

2. More staffing throughout the local criminal justice system to reduce case processing time and save resources

3. More closely adhere to the requirements of RCW 72.09.300 and make this forum more accountable to the Legislative Purpose Statement:

"It is the purpose of RCW 72.09.300 to encourage local and state government to join in partnerships for the sharing of resources regarding the management of offenders in the correctional system. The formation of partnerships between local and state government is intended to reduce duplication while assuring better accountability and offender management through the most efficient use of resources at both the local and state level."
1. Implement a supervised release program across all three courts.
2. Robust use of the Mental Health Stabilization Center.
3. Comprehensive racial equity training across all agencies, as well as the implementation of the Race Equity check-list/process with all policy implementation.
1. To remind all members and the public, as well as place on the Council web page, that the Council is operating under RCW 72.09.300. This statue, which the Board of County Commissioners appropriately cited in enabling documents, sets forth the scope of our authority and of matters which are within our jurisdiction.

2. To consider Washington State Senate Bill SB5121 which passed this session, and which will likely result in the early return of approximately 150 prisoners to our area and how this may impact police, detention services (jail and Geiger), courts, public defenders and prosecutors and related facilities, perhaps including matters such as reimagining detention services.

3. To politely remind each other and public meeting guests, that all should refrain from criticism of each other based upon stereotypes when we disagree with any individual’s candid comment or opinion on a matter before council.
5.6 (1) City and County Prosecuting Attorney’s Offices Should Provide Disclosure to Defense Counsel Immediately Upon Receipt from Law Enforcement Agencies via Centrally-Based Secure Computer System and Appropriate Software

5.6 (2) Spokane County Should Develop a Driving While License Suspended Diversion and Relicensing Program

5.6 (3) Spokane County Should Commission an Independent Evaluation of the Spokane County Superior Court Early Case Resolution (ECR) Program

5.6 (4) Spokane County Should Make Specific Modifications to ECR Program Based on Differentiated Case Management Best Practices

5.6 (5) Adult Drug Court Prosecutor Should Review Program Admissibility Standards
Blueprint for Reform & Status Update
Coordinated Information Systems

5.2 (1) Technological Improvements in Court and Jail
   (A) Video Conferencing in Courtrooms
   B) Technological Solutions for Communicating between Public Defenders and Incarcerated Clients
   (C) Reduction in paper use

5.2 (2) Create a Coordinated Case System Processing for IT Purposes

5.2 (3) Create Standard Program Performance Reports
5.8 Detention Services

- 5.8 (1) Create a Community Corrections Center
- 5.8 (2) Develop Alternative Sentencing Programs, and Expand Electronic Home Monitoring to All Courts
- 5.8 (3) Ensure Greater Coordination of Transportation and Scheduling
- 5.8 (4) Ensure Proper Classification and Identification of Specialized Populations
5.9 Probation Services

- 5.9 (1) Develop Inter-local Agreement to Combine City and District Court Probation Services to Remove Duplication

- 5.9 (2) Application and Use of Standardized Risk/Needs Case Management System & Use of Evidence-Based Practices

- 5.9 (3) Collaboration with Law Enforcement and Community Agencies

- 5.9 (4) Probation Caseloads Reduced to Workable Numbers