Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council

MINUTES

Meeting Date: 01/10/2024
Meeting Location: Zoom Webinar
Start Time: 12:00 p.m.
Adjourn Time: 1:00 p.m.

Members: Email Organization
Sr. Director Mike Sparber - Chair msparter@Spokanecounty.org Spokane County Jail Administrator
Justin Bingham – Vice Chair jbingham@Spokanecity.org Municipal Prosecutor
Colin Charbonneau CCharbonneau@spokanecounty.org County Public Defender
Judge Gloria Ochoa-Bruck - Absent GChoabruck@SpokaneCity.org Municipal Court
Steve Bartel SBartel@Spokanecounty.org County Risk Management
Vacant
Tim Fitzgerald tfitzgerald@Spokanecounty.org County Clerk of Superior Court
Randi Unfred - Absent randi.unfred@DOC1.WA.GOV Dept. of Corrections
John Haley jwhaleyjr@comcast.net City Legislative Rep.
Larry Haskell–Proxy lhaskell@Spokanecounty.org At-Large Community Rep.
Chief David Ellis DJEllis@spokanesheriff.org Municipal Police Department
Judge Tim Fennessy tfennessy@spokanecounty.org Superior Court
Sheriff John Nowels JNowels@spokanesheriff.org Spokane County Sheriff
Judge Jennifer Fassbender jfassbender@spokanecounty.org District Court
Roshelle Cleland rcleland@lcsnw.org At-Large Victim Advocate Community Rep

Proxies:
Katie McNulty for Larry Haskell KMCnulty@spokanecounty.org County Prosecutor

Others Present:
Mediha Harris, Regional Law & Justice Executive Assistant

Agenda:
I. Open Public Forum (up to 15 minutes) 3 min. limit per person
II. October 11th, 2023, SRLJC minutes approval
III. Chair and Vice Chair selection
IV. Update on the Representative for the City Legislative Authority
V. MacArthur Update
VI. Focus Group Update
   a. Status Update Report link
   b. Blueprint Report link

Adjourn
• Open Public Forum – No participants

• Motion to approve 10/11/23 SRLJC Minutes was made by Judge Fassbender. John Haley 2nd. Minutes approved.

• SRLJC Chair and Vice Chair Selection: Justin Bingham nominated Mike Sparber as the Chair. Judge Fassbender nominated Justin Bingham as Vice Chair. Members voted unanimously for Mike Sparber for the Chair and Justin Bingham for the Vice Chair of SRLJC.

• City Legislative Authority: Mayor Terri Cooper from Medical Lake expressed interest in the chair for city legislative authority. Justin Bingham stated that Mayor Cooper has the skillset and experience in the criminal justice system. Mike stated that Brandy Peetz posed the question if the chair needs to be currently serving as a legislator. The bylaws are not specific enough. Justin Bingham stated that a current legislator needs to be selected for this position. Judge Fassbender agreed and gave her vote to Mayor Terry Cooper. Members voted unanimously for Mayor Cooper for the position of City Legislative Authority.

• Diversion Focus Group Update: The group is reviewing the current state and the guidelines from last year. They are considering in custody individuals with low bonds and low criminal history for diversion. Pretrial is working on providing education for new attorneys on pretrial programs.

• Therapeutic Courts Focus Group Update: The data from all three courts has been received. The group needs to go through all the data before going to the board with their recommendations. District Court is in the process of establishing a Domestic Violence court. Timothy Fitzgerald stated that therapeutic courts are very effective when they are staffed and resourced correctly.

• Racial Equity Focus Group Update: On December 6th, 2023, the group met with Marcus Stubblefield, who is the Criminal Justice Manager for King Couty. Marcus talked about realistic struggles for doing this work. The group needs to meet with Jennifer Morton to fill her in on the work done thus far and get her ideas moving forward.

• Mental Health Focus Group Update: Tori Peterson reported that the group looked at strengths, then needs. The need would be to have a mental health professional for the Public Defender’s office, Juvenile Probation, and Juvenile Detention. The mental health vacancy in juvenile has not been filled. There was also discussion to unify all those mental health services under Kristy Ray. That would allow the professionals to work and consult as a team. Colin Charbonneau added that there is talk about funding a social worker for the PDs office though a grant.

• Community Corrections Update: The jail is limited on programs available based on the profile of the offender population and the space of the facility. We do not have many inmates who qualify for housing at Geiger. There are also challenges finding inmates that qualify for Geiger work crew. Judge Fassbender stated that parenting and anger management classes have resumed at Geiger.

Next meeting: March 13th, 2024

Scribe: Exec. Asst. – Mediha Harris