SPOKANE REGIONAL LAW AND JUSTICE COUNCIL
MINUTES

Meeting Date: 08/09/2023
Meeting Location: Zoom Webinar
Start Time: 12:00 p.m.
Adjourn Time: 1:30 p.m.

Members:           Email:          Organization:
Sr. Director Mike Sparber- Chair ☒ msparber@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 ☒ GOchoabruck@SpokaneCity.org  Municipal Court
Steve Bartel ☒ SBartel@Spokanecounty.org  County Risk Management
Laura Padden ☒ lpadden@spokanevalley.org  City Legislative Rep.
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  At-Large Community Rep.
Larry Haskell–Proxy ☒ lhaskell@Spokanecounty.org  County Prosecutor
Chief David Ellis- Absent ☐ DjEllis@spokanesheriff.org  Municipal Police Department
Judge Julie McKay- Absent ☐ jmckay@spokanecounty.org  Superior Court
Sheriff John Nowels ☐ JNowels@spokanesheriff.org  Spokane County Sheriff
Vacant ☐                                               At-Large R.E. Chair Community Rep.
Tori Peterson ☒ tpeterson@Spokanecounty.org  Juvenile Court
Aaron Stromberger- Proxy ☒ AStromberger@Spokanecounty.org  Pre-Trial Services
Judge Jennifer Fassbender ☒ jfassbender@spokanecounty.org  District Court
Roshelle Cleland- Excused ☒ rcleland@lcsnw.org  At-Large Victim Advocate Community Rep

Proxies:
Katie McNulty for Larry Haskell  KMCnulty@spokanecounty.org  County Prosecutor
Kelly Fox for Aaron Stromberger  Kfox@spokanecounty.org  Pretrial Services

Others Present:
Mediha Harris, Regional Law & Justice Executive Assistant
Kristina Ray, Spokane County Detention Services Mental Health

Agenda:
I. Open Public Forum (up to 15 minutes) 3 min. limit per person
II. July 12th, 2023, SRLJC minutes approval
III. Focus Group Update
   a. Status Update Report link
   b. Blueprint Report link
Adjourn
• Open Public Forum – No participants

• Motion to approve 07/12/23 SRLJC Minutes was made by Sheriff Nowles. Justin Bingham 2nd. Minutes approved.

• Group 1 Update: Diversion- Katie McNulty gave an update on the Diversion Focus Group. Pretrial has begun notifying Public Defenders and Prosecutors Office daily of diversion eligible defendants. That allows diversion to be offered earlier in the prosecution stage. They are also looking into flagging the OPTS Evaluations to interested parties that are diversion eligible. The eligibility guidelines have been updated and sent to OPTS. The group discussed diversion challenges and looked at diversion models in other counties.

• Focus Group 2 Update: Mental Health- Kristina Ray stated that the group is looking at current areas of the system and how it interfaces with mental health. Each member of the group was asked to identify top three objectives in areas that need improvement or need to be changed. The responses need to be submitted to Kristina Ray. Mike thanked Kristina Ray for getting involved with the Mental Health Focus Group.

• Focus Group 3 Update: Racial Equity- The group was unable to meet due to vacation schedules. Next meeting is scheduled for 09/16/2023. They plan on discussing the racial equity tool kit and how to get community involvement.

• Focus Group 4 Update: Therapeutic Courts- The group reviewed the Blueprint for Reform and the Status Report. A review of all the therapeutic courts is required. The group is contemplating taking on that task first. Tim Fitzgerald also stated that they are in the information gathering stage. The group needs more information on the funding of the therapeutic courts, types of therapeutic courts for Municipal, District and Superior Court, data on recidivism, data comparison to state and national statistics, data on number of eligible, screened, and referred defendants, data on successful completions, and data on demographics for unsuccessful defendants. They will also look at how the racial equity tool kit impacts therapeutic courts. Judge Fassbender stated that Judge Smith will be able to provide some answers to the questions that the group has. She also stated that updated information regarding therapeutic courts is not reflected in the updated Blueprint. Judge Ochoa-Bruck stated that Municipal Court is interested in doing a review of therapeutic courts. Municipal Court is also implementing a Domestic Violence Therapeutic Court.

• Mike gave an update on the Community Corrections Center. He stated that he is looking into expanding the Breaking Barriers Program for the new facility. Ashley Cameron is currently working on staff recruitment.

• Open Dialog: Tori Peterson gave an update on Juvenile Court, stating that there are recruitment and pay challenges for Juvenile Corrections. She also wanted to thank Kristina Ray and her staff for providing mental health services to the juveniles with mental health needs at their facility.

IV.

Next meeting: September 13th, 2023

Scribe: Exec. Asst. – Mediha Harris