

Island County Law & Justice Council Meeting Minutes February 23rd, 2022

Present: Debra Van Pelt, Brian Braunstein, Mike Moore, Ronnie Brown, Greg Banks, Bill Hawkins, Carolyn Cliff, Jose Briones, Mike Diamante, Lynda Austin, Christon Skinner, Debbie Reis, Rick Felici, Megan Frazier, Santana White, Dianna Sandoval

*Next Meeting: March 23rd, 2022 MEETING CANCELLED
April 27th, 2022*

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Approval of Minutes

No minutes from previous meeting in October.

III. New Business per Agenda

- **Jail Operations**
- **Update on House Bills and the Sheriff's Office**
- **Law & Justice Assessment**
- **Agendas and Future Agenda Items**

Jose Briones – Jail Operations with Covid-19 – Jose discussed the recent Covid-19 Outbreak that hit the jail in January. All but a few staff got infected, all inmate blocks at one point over a few week period went into quarantine. No staff or inmates presented any significant side effects. Going into a new normal as restrictions are lifted.

Sheriff Felici – Legislative Updates – Discussed the recent legislative package that is being proposed. If the changes to language are moved forward it will provide clear direction for everyone. There were a lot of confusing verbiage around the new House Bills and the current proposals will hopefully clean this up.

Sheriff Felici also discussed the current state of staffing levels and was happy to report that the patrol division has 5 recruits down at the academy.

Judge Skinner asked if the Sheriff's Office has implemented the new digital service for civil protection order documents. Sheriff Felici indicated that the Civil Division was working on the program. He also indicated that the new program would save the Sheriff's Office a significant amount of time once it's in place.

PA Banks shared several legislative updates. He discussed the Blake Case that invalidated 50 years of past drug convictions. Greg explained the cascading effects and workload this created. Greg also discussed HB-1169 and firearms enhancements. Greg also discussed the proposal to remove juvenile fingerprints from the Judgement & Sentence.

Sheriff Felici – Law & Justice Assessment – Sheriff indicated that the county had allocated some funding to conduct a county needs assessments. This assessment would review where we are and what we need. Rick also discussed a vendor called the Results Group and how they provide these services. Rick indicated that we are at the beginning of this discussion and would like this group to help move the discussion forward. Sheriff indicated that there is more to come.

Dianna Sandoval indicated that she was glad to hear that the county was looking at this in a larger lens of issues and not only a jail issue.

Sheriff asked that Jose touch on some of the recent legislative changes and recent acquisitions received from the state. Jose shared after submitting a capital ask with the state funding was secured to purchase a Body Scanner for the jail. Jose explained how this new tool will benefit the jail and how upcoming legislative changes will impact how searches are done in jails in Washington State. Jose also discussed how the body scanner would remove the need for strip searches. Jose also shared recent contraband introductions over the past year and how this tool will mitigate that introduction.

Future Agenda Items – Lynda Austin asked to be on upcoming agendas to discuss the new recovery navigator program. This will require collaboration with several county stakeholders. Lynda also gave a quick update on the new Mental Health Professional that will be working in the jail. She also gave an update on the co-responder positions and will be meeting with the Sheriff's Office to discuss these positions.

Greg Banks brought up the Legal Law Library and the services also provided to the jail. He would like to see a discussion around providing this program to the jail.

Sheriff Felici asked that the group think on the agenda and requested that the working L/J group come up with ideas for future agenda items.

Agenda Items for April

1. Review of February Minutes
2. Stepping Up – RSAT Updates
3. Update on Jail Operations– Legal Law Library
4. Human Services – Bill Larson
5. Round Table