



GENDER AND JUSTICE COMMISSION (GJCOM)

AOC SEATAC OFFICE
18000 INTERNATIONAL BLVD, SUITE 1106
SEATAC, WASHINGTON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2015 (8:45 A.M. – NOON)

MEETING NOTES

Present: Chief Justice Barbara A. Madsen, Chair; Ms. CaroLea Casas, Ms. Josie Delvin, Ms. Grace Huang, Judge Judy Jasprica, Judge Richard Melnick, Ms. Leslie Savina, Ms. Gail Stone, Judge Tom Tremaine, Mr. David Ward, Ms. Cynthia Delostrinos, Ms. Kathy Bradley, and Ms. Pam Dittman, Judge Michael Evans

Excused: Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud, Judge Marilyn Paja,

Guests: Ms. Jamie Yoder, Ms. Judith Lonquist, Ms. Elise Fandrich

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at approximately 8:45 AM.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Chair Report

- July 10, 2015 Meeting Notes
The July 10, 2015 meeting notes were approved and adopted as presented.
- Conference of Chief Justices
The Conference of Chief Justices “provides an opportunity for the highest judicial officers of the states to meet and discuss matters of importance.”¹ Additionally, they address emerging issues and needs through various committees. Chief Justice Madsen chairs the Tribal Courts Committee. At the last conference and committee meeting, Chief Judge Ron Whitener, Tulalip Tribal Court and others were able to present on the Tulalip’s progression and efforts in regards to being chosen as a pilot site for VAWA extended jurisdiction. The presenters were well-informed and able to identify progress and how the Tulalip’s are applying jurisdiction and their processes. The Chiefs are excited to see renewed interests in tribal/state consortiums.
- American Bar Association (ABA) Initiative
The ABA has launched an initiative to address the unmet legal needs for low- to moderate-income individuals. Unmet needs have increased over the last ten years and women continue to top the list for individuals needing help. This initiative is exploring and identifying possibilities to provide legal services to underserved populations, much like our state’s Limited License Legal Technician program.

¹ <http://ccj.ncsc.org/>

Staff Report – Pam Dittman and Cynthia Delostrinos

- Enhancing Courts' Response to Adult Victim Sexual Violence - August 21-22
The second and final *Enhancing Courts' Response to Adult Victim Sexual Violence* workshop was held in Walla Walla, Washington on August 21-22, 2015. The completion of this workshop fulfills the obligations under the Office on Violence Against Women Court Training Program grant. Overall, there were 35 judicial officers from all levels of state and tribal courts in attendance. Even though the grant is completed, staff and faculty will continue to work together to determine future training opportunities or ways to bring portions of this training to judicial conferences.

Staffing Updates

The Supreme Court Commissions Manager (SCCM) position is still vacant and Cynthia continues to act as interim lead. Additionally, the administrative support position is still vacant, but interviews will be conducted shortly.

Update: Cynthia Delostrinos was promoted to the permanent position of Supreme Court Commissions Manager and Nichole Kloepfer was hired as the administrative support for the team.

Budgets GJCOM and Grants

Budgets have not been included in the meeting packet. Staff continue to work with AOC administration to establish a fair and equitable solution to the conundrum of which budget (or Commission) should pay for the SCCM position.

GUEST SPEAKERS & EXPLORATORY PROJECTS

- Gender Responsive Initiative – Ms. Belinda Stewart, Department of Corrections (DOC)
Ms. Belinda Stewart was invited to speak to the Commission on the DOC's Gender Responsive Initiative (GRI). As of July 31, there were 1,318 incarcerated women in Washington State and with those incarcerated women, come gender-specific needs. Statistics show that women return to prison less often than men and that their ties to the community and family are integral in success both inside and out of the prison setting. In the last six months, 707 female inmates have received a visit from a friend or family member.

As background, in 2008, DOC's Secretary Bernie Warner introduced a master plan addressing the specific needs of the female population in the corrections system. Dr. Emily Salisbury, formerly at Portland State University, assisted with the identifying specific gender needs and developing recommendations. From this plan, a steering committee was created and in 2012, Ms. Stewart was made administrator for the Initiative.

In 2013, the GRI hosted an agency summit to begin the discussions on how to move forward on a gender responsive approach. In 2014, another summit was planned and an expert from Canada was brought in to discuss gender responsive research and approaches. Over the last three years, many programs and projects have come out of the national/international gender responsiveness initiative such as the "Moving On" program and "Beyond Trauma", by Stephanie Covington. This past year, DOC hosted "Does

Gender Matter?” to discuss what gender means in DOC, the public, and the incarcerated population.

In addition to these summits, policies within the DOC are being evaluated to determine if there are opportunities for gender response and involvement. For example, are there policies, processes, or things being implemented that impact the female population in a negative way? The GRI also developed a tool kit to assist in the evaluation of interdisciplinary programs as they apply to gender. We see this as a potential starting foundation for addressing in a culturally sensitive way incarcerated veterans, minorities, and male populations.

Update: The 2015 TEDx “Does Gender Matter?” brought together professionals to discuss a trauma-informed and gender responsive approach when working with female inmates. Access at https://m.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUOQSTnnJfusA_-uTT6I-zE6xqTbf7uw.

- Justice for Girls Coalition – Barbara Carr and Ann Muno
Ms. Barbara Carr, a former member of the Commission, and Ms. Ann Muno provided an overview of the work of the Justice for Girls Coalition. This Coalition creates policies and programs specifically for justice-involved girls, such as a guide book for practitioners who work with girls in the juvenile system. The group is also in the process of piloting the gender responsive assessment tool, which was developed as a tool for program assessment.
(<http://www.centerforgenderandjustice.org/assets/files/2013/GRProgramAssessmentTool-CJ-Final.pdf>) The third ‘Beyond Pink’ conference will be held in the spring of 2016, and will focus on cultural diversity within gender specific services. You can find more information on the Coalition at <http://jfgcoalition.org/>.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Communications - Judge Marilyn Paja, Chair
Staff reported on behalf of Judge Paja who was unable to attend. Pam reported that the annual report is on the website for general viewing.
- DV Committee – Judge Judy Jasprica, Chair
Judge Jasprica had to depart the meeting early, but provided staff a list of items to report on. The study and survey on sentencing and monitoring practices has been completed by the Center for Court Innovation. The recommendations from the study are being looked at and several are already being addressed such as sponsoring a judicial roundtable on batterer accountability and education sessions at judicial conferences. We will continue to work with Jake Fawcett, WSCADV on road shows to discover what is being done around the state regarding surrender of firearms when so ordered. The DV Committee will be meeting on October 16th and Maureen Kelley from DSHS will be presenting on the certification process for batterer intervention programs.

- Education – Judge Rich Melnick, Chair

There was discussion on the need to include judicial officers in the planning of workshops, conference presentations, or other training to ensure expectations are laid out along with ensuring the speaker is presenting in an unbiased manner.

Conference proposals are due in early October for both the SCJA and DMCJA spring conferences. Judge Evans has been in touch with SCJA education committee and Judge Jasprica indicated the Commission has been given the open plenary spot for the DMCJA conference.

- Incarcerated Women & Girls – Gail Stone, Chair

Gail Stone has stepped into the chair position for this committee and Cynthia Delostrinos is providing staff support.

Mission Creek Corrections Center for Women is hosting its 7th Annual Re-entry Symposium on October 22-23, 2015 at the Corrections Center. Judge Paja has been the main contact for this event through her position as NAWJ District 13 Director.

- Membership

There are seven vacancies, one-third of the Commission membership. Applications and letters of interest have been received and the Nominations Committee will be meeting via conference call to discuss the applicants and determine who to invite to become a member.

- Tribal State Court Consortium – Judge Tom Tremaine

- September 21 Regional Meeting hosted by Swinomish Tribe

We will have a second regional meeting hosted by the Swinomish Tribe. There was a conference call Wednesday for further planning. The only unknown at this time is how many will be attending. Judge Steve Aycock, NCJFCJ will be the outside facilitator.

- October 4 Annual Meeting at Fall Conference

Notice has gone out that there will be an annual meeting at fall conference. The meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, October 4 beginning at 9:00 AM. Staff are working with facilitators on an agenda.

- Women in the Profession

Pam reported that there currently isn't a chair for this committee. There are several projects that may fall within in this committee such as the Law Student and Judicial Officer Reception and updating the 1989 gender bias report.

The next meeting is November 13, 2015 8:45 AM – Noon.

The meeting Adjourned at approximately noon.