



Gender and Justice Commission
March 10, 2023
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Zoom Videoconference



MEETING NOTES

Members & Liaisons Present

Justice Gordon McCloud
 Judge Jacqueline Shea-Brown
 Judge Anita Crawford Willis
 Commissioner Jonathon Lack
 Riddhi Mukhopadhyay
 Dana Raigrodski
 Jennifer Ritchie
 Barbara Serrano
 Judge Cindy K Smith
 Lynn Daggett
 Victoria Blumhorst
 Shannon Kilpatrick
 Quinn Dalan
 Jane Smith
 Laura Edmonston
 Dr. Arina Gertseva
 Julia Davis
 Tyler Beckham

AOC Staff

Kelley Amburgey-Richardson
 Crissy Anderson
 Laura Jones
 Avery Miller
 Frank Thomas
 Mishani Jack-Gonzalez

Members & Liaisons Absent

Dua Abudiab
 Dave Reynolds
 Judge Rebecca Glasgow
 Elizabeth Hendren

Guests

Judge Hemstreet
 Shannon Porter
 Jenni Stearns

WELCOME AND INITIAL BUSINESS

Welcome and Introductions

January Meeting Minutes

- The meeting minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE AND PROJECT UPDATES

LAW STUDENT LIAISON UPDATES – Jill Bader (Gonzaga), Zoe Saccio (Lewis and Clark), Madison Brown (University of Washington)

- Jill Bader from Gonzaga submitted a written report detailing recent events, including a successful speed dating networking activity and a completed Amicus Brief.
- Tyler Beckham from Seattle University discussed various social networking events to help 1Ls find connections for internships and jobs in the area and the Women of the Year event. They are hoping to start a new scholarship fund to help Afghan girls attend college out of Afghanistan for about \$1,000-2,000 per year. They have been reaching out to some local people to discuss logistics and welcome suggestions and ideas for how to raise funds.
- Julie Davis from University of Washington gives an update on the recent Diversity Celebration event, cohosted with other minority organizations on campus.

INCARCERATION COMMITTEE— Crissy Anderson

- The Incarceration Committee is starting to hold regular meetings again and doing targeted reach-outs with DOC to implement some recommendations from the 2021 Study. DOC recently put out their updated Gender Informed Practices Assessment and Report and the Committee is looking to collaborate on aspects where both report recommendations cross over.
- DOC has proposed specific suggestions for ways Gender and Justice can be actively involved, including looking at the strategic plan, inviting members to join the external partner's advisory team and offering input when DOC begins rolling out recommendations for Gender Non-conforming and Trans incarcerated individuals.
- The meetings occur on the 4th Friday of every month.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE— Crissy Anderson

- The Education Committee has had their proposal accepted for the Fall Judicial Conference on incarceration, including the rising trend of women's incarceration in Washington.
- The committee also put on a standalone CLE on the Address Confidentiality Program offered on February 23rd. The webinar has been posted with slides on Inside Courts. The purpose was for judicial officers to get familiar with the program and give them an opportunity to ask basic questions.

- The Committee is still working on a *Dobbs* standalone CLE, which would be a presentation with a more academic lens.
- There have been two education sessions around firearm relinquishment issues. The landscape is changing rapidly and a lot of national conversations and attention has been in flux around the issue.
- The committee is working on sessions and trainings for courts and judges concerning the Tiffany Hill Act and setting up electronic monitoring systems. This will require reaching out to court associations, collaboration with law enforcement and other stakeholders.
- There's a training being put together regarding substance abuse, mental health and coercion in domestic violence cases.

DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COMMITTEE— Judge Jacqueline Shea-Brown

- The Domestic and Sexual Violence Committee welcomes Pierce County Commissioner Terri Farmer, who has agreed to serve as co-chair. At the upcoming meeting on March 29th, the Committee will be providing an update on DV/ SV bench guides which were published in January, and the monthly Civil Protection Order Forums that will be continuing, with the next one on March 31st.

TRIBAL AND STATE COURT CONSORTIUM— Mishani Jack Gonzalez

- Mishani gives an update on the TSCC upcoming conference including the Plenary at the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts panel. There is also the spring meeting and conference in Suquamish
- The TSCC is working on issues surrounding Domestic Violence Protection Orders, increasing visibility and access for people to be able to file.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE— Justice Gordon McCloud

- Justice Gordon McCloud reported on the legislative committee's work to review bills this session. The committee is new, and is still evaluating the best way to engage with proposed legislation during session.
- The committee has sent letters of support for HB 1177/SB5477 and SB 5046, and the judicial branch's courthouse security budget package.
- The Commission also supports SB 5128 (jury diversity bill), proposed by the judicial branch. One of the key pieces of this bill, funding an increase in juror pay, was recently cut. A pilot project will be proposed via a budget proviso. There is still a work group related to childcare included in the bill.

- The Commission has not taken a position on HB 1715. The Commission was named to convene a work group with OCLA regarding representation standards for victims in one iteration of the bill, but it is not yet clear what will ultimately pass.
- The Committee discussed possibility of support for LFO bill and other bills that relate to the study. Several bills are designated “watch.”
- Frank Thomas provided updates on the Minority and Justice Commission’s legislative priorities and shared updates on the jury diversity bill.

IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE— Barbara Serrano

- The Implementation Committee has been holding weekly meetings to review each chapter of the Gender and Justice study in depth. They have invited the authors of each chapter to meet and give input on the recommendations, including which ones they would like to see prioritized and current work ongoing in these areas.
- The committee has made a lot of in-roads in building partnerships and promoting recommendations with these meetings, including with agencies like DOC.
- The committee asks each Commission Member to commit to working on at least one issue or recommendation you have expertise and connections to in your community or work.
- Data collection and education on best practices are overarching themes of the recommendations. This includes data/ education on workplace harassment in courts, increasing rates of incarcerations, issues in family law, etc. Many issues crop up in different angles in different chapters, or indicate problems that cross-cut across different areas of laws, such as believability of witnesses.
- At one point, there was a list of partners/stakeholders/organizations/entities and others doing this work. The Commission can’t keep track of everything, and is looking to develop support structures and a clearinghouse of information to help facilitate organization.
 - Commissioner Lack, Judge Jacqueline Shea-Brown, Judge Anita Crawford-Willis and Victoria Blumhorst all indicate they would be willing to serve as liaisons and assist with implementation work.

LIAISONS

AOC Staff Update— Kelley Amburgey-Richardson

KITSAP GIRLS COURT PRESENTATION— Judge Hemstreet, Dr. Arina Gertseva (WSCCR), Shannon Porter, Jenni Stearns

- Judge Hemstreet, Dr. Gertseva, Shannon Porter, and Jenni Sterns presented on the Kitsap County Girls Court, a program designed to provide therapeutic support to girls involved in the justice system.
- The court works with girls over the age of 15 and they stay on the court's caseload until they turn 21 years old.
- The program aims to help with anything related to independence such as finding housing, getting a driver's license, and creating a resume.
- Judge Hemstreet and Morgan Silverman, director of the Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ), created the framework and structure for the Girls Court, with support from Gina Cumbo.
- Dr. Gertseva explained that while the language used in the program is binary, the Girls Court accepts trans girls.
- CCYJ is dedicated to creating better lives for juvenile and youth, and developing model programs and protocols for all young people. They have an interest in gender-responsive interventions and have been studying girls in the justice system for the past 15 years.
- In 2012, they published findings from their research and followed up with an updated review. They co-designed a solution with Kitsap County, which resulted in the creation of the pilot Girls Court in 2019.
- The program was implemented in Kitsap County because the proportion of girls entering the justice system was increasing, even though the overall number of juveniles was decreasing.
- Jenni Sterns from Independent Living Skills (ILS) at Olive Crest explained that they were already working with foster youth and former foster youth, and the Girls Court provided a natural extension of their program.
- The community was key to the success of the program, and the court worked with service providers such as treatment providers, gyms, and Catholic Community Services to provide therapeutic support to the girls.
- The Girls Court differs from traditional court in that it keeps a therapeutic focus on the success the girls have achieved. If they violate the rules, the court treats it as a learning experience. The court has an activity once a month to help the girls get to know their team as human beings.
- Amanda explained that if a youth successfully graduates, their charges are dismissed or sealed, which is a great incentive for the girls.
- Shannon Porter mentioned that while the team meets once a month, they have good communication about what is going on and input of early ideas.

- Dr. Gertseva provided data on the program's effectiveness, stating that 80% of girls received mental/SUDS treatment, 11% received inpatient treatment, 50% received life skills development and job training, and 2/3 received educational assistance.
- 67% of girls showed improvement, and recidivism was down to 19% from 40%.
- Judge Hemstreet mentioned that the girls connect with adults to support them and that the program helps the girls recognize their strength as women. They need to address mental health and bring in a therapist available for any youth in the juvenile justice system.
- The program lasts for 9 months for misdemeanors and 12 months for felonies, and youth can earn two months off supervision time by doing what they are supposed to do with the support of individuals in the program.
- The Independent Living Skills team added that the benefit to youth and to them is having time until 21 years old to process after court.
- The team members and community members show the girls that they believe in them and give them hope that things are going to change.
- The presenters were asked to provide advice for other jurisdictions implementing the program. Some key elements identified were to shift the mindset to trauma-informed response, to be supportive of community partners and local nonprofits and to ensure you have buy in from all relevant parties, including judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, defense attorneys, etc.
- The final project evaluation is being completed now and will hopefully provide a blueprint for wider implementation. The Kitsap team is still operating and welcomes any interested parties to reach out or visit.

ADJORNMENT

Announcements

- The next meeting will be May 5th. There is still no announcement regarding the AOC SeaTac Office, but staff will let people know.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.