Judicial Information System Committee Meeting August 23, 2019

DECISION POINT – JISC Review and Approval of Olympia Municipal Court Request for Local Case Management System

MOTIONS:

1. I move that the JISC provisionally approve the Olympia Municipal Court request to implement its own case management system, subject to Olympia Municipal Court's agreement to comply with the JIS Data Standards for Alternative Electronic Court Record Systems and Implementation Plan.

I. BACKGROUND

JISC Rule 13 requires courts to request approval from the JISC to leave the statewide Judicial Information System (JIS) and to use a local case management system (defined in JISCR 13 as a local court automated record system).

In 2014, the legislature approved the SC-CMS budget with a proviso requiring the JISC to develop statewide data collection and exchange standards. On October 24, 2014, the JISC approved the JIS Data Standards for Alternative Electronic Court Record Systems (JIS Data Standards) and the corresponding Implementation Plan. The JISC adopted the data standards to ensure the integrity and availability of statewide data and information to enable open, just and timely resolution of all court matters.

The standards contain the 215 data elements that courts with local case management systems must share with the statewide Judicial Information System (JIS). The Implementation Plan addresses how courts must comply with the standards.

On June 26, 2019, Olympia Municipal Court notified the JISC of its intent to purchase and install its own case management system.

II. DISCUSSION

AOC has become aware of multiple courts exploring the possibility of implementing local case management systems. As the number of courts with independent case management systems increases, the risk to the integrity of statewide judicial data increases. Without adherence to the JIS Data Standards, the integrity of statewide judicial data will erode, limiting the ability of judicial officers to make informed decisions, leaving judicial partners (including WSP, DOL, DSHS, SOS) with incomplete data, and jeopardizing public safety.

III. OUTCOME IF NOT PASSED –

Not having complete information in the statewide Judicial Information System jeopardizes public safety. Judicial officers will not have all of the information they need for judicial decision making. Court staff will not have necessary information for serving the public at the courthouse. Judicial partners will not have complete information, which could result in problems for law enforcement, firearms compliance, protection of vulnerable adults, and other critical needs. It could also result in non-compliance with statues, court rules, and other mandates.