



## Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek  
RJC Criminal Justice Reform Committee  
January 28, 2025 – Zoom  
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (1 Hour)  
Moderator – Javier Cervantes

### MEMBERS

X	Babak Zolfaghari-Azar	X	Paul Solomon	X	Sterling Cunio
X	Michelle Love		Shay Huber	X	Tristen Edwards
	Nansi Lopez	X	Shaylie Pickrell		

### OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer	X	Yasmin Solorio		Danny Moran
X	Valerie Colas	X	Javier Cervantes		

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
<b>Update on public defense</b> (Constantin Severe)	<i>Javier shares the update on public defense is postponed as Constantin is out sick.</i>	Javier/Yasmin to reach out to Constantin for February meeting
<b>Check in on work plan</b> (All)	<p><b>Tristen:</b> Because a lot of the discussion happened at the agenda planning with Paul and I, what we were really hoping for was for education on OPDC and items moving through session. If you remember when we were planning our workplan, one of our issues was to get information to form information and writing a letter. Its more than just public defense. If we want to advocate, we need more information on that. Oregon Public Defense Commission is now under exec branch and Gov's perspective is important. The hope was to have Constantin come and give his understanding on public defense and in our February meeting to bring in folks who are close to the issue. I suggested brining in folks from Oregon Criminal Defense, and Rep. Chotzen, and others. Would still like for that to happen but would like to hear what Constantin has to say.</p> <p>I do think we can spend this time thinking of what we want February to look like and questions to have answered. Almost debating if its at all helpful to have Constantin give short presentation at start of the meeting or write something for us. Not inclined to push all our meetings because Constantin could not make it, just give him as shorter time slot.</p>	Javier/co-chairs to reach out for February presentations.

**Paul:** Think that makes sense and think it makes sense for Constantin to give us the high-level overview of OPDC. Maybe get organizational chart or budget to see what's in trial division vs contracts. It's an agency with very large budget and easy to go down a lot of rabbit holes. Helpful to get salient facts from his presentation on what's shifted now that its under exec branch, changes under SB307, what percentage of employees are going to be adjutant attorneys by 2035. Would be helpful details to help us understand. Will be nice to get different views from providers who are boots on the ground. Curious about organizational around the Truth Project and selective data put out on adjutant defense implying we spend too much and need to invest more in prosecution. Curious to hear from provider community how they're responding, and allegations being made.

**Babak:** Just dropped a meeting link presentation which could spark questions for Constantin.

<https://multco.us/info/2025-lpscc-council-meetings>

<https://www.ocjtp.org/>

**Tristen:** I have a lot of questions to ask for February. I'll run back the list of who we are inviting and curious if we are missing anyone. Criminal Defense Association, Public Defense Office, Carolin Grant, Rep. Chotzen. Anyone else on that list?

**Javier:** Given the process of engagement with legislators is still under development, we need to inform our legislative directors if they are being asked to participate. Would have to say we want to engage with Danny, who came to present recently.

**Tristen:** Don't see that as an impediment.

**Michelle:** Did you say MDI as well?

**Tristen:** I did not.

**Paul:** Good degree we can get someone to come. I think it's a good representative group. Might be nice to hear about their legislative agenda and what they are trying to push or defend this session because they cover a lot of ground. With MPD I think it would be great to hear from the agency about what's working well and what isn't, and what challenges they see this session.

**Tristen:** What do you want to know about Public Defense?

	<p><b>Sterling:</b> What type of support they have in their workload? Is it a place where they think of self-care or exposure to secondary trauma. I had a lot of public defenders who were working hard and they just didn't have the support.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> One thing we might want to talk about is what do we think makes a good public defender. What does that person look like – example, manageable caseload.</p> <p><b>Paul:</b> How they attract, recruit, and retain talent – specifically people of color in the state. Tristen, where you work has very specific training programs but that may look different with other smaller offices or rural parts of the state. Would like to hear what its looking like for others or in rural parts of the state.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Another issue is if we paying people appropriately.</p> <p><b>Paul:</b> Are we doing a disservice at the state level for people to leave non-profits for more money where they have set caseloads. One of the concerns I had early on is we are taking talent we can be creating a disparity.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> This question of recruitment is important; we don't have enough public defenders in the state. Consortia attorneys are typically solo practitioners or a firm. A private firm can also accept a contract from OPDC and get paid to handle smaller cases.</p> <p><b>Paul:</b> Not uncommon to see consortia attorneys that have pretty significant caseloads with work they are takin on in public defense contracts.</p> <p><b>Tristen:</b> Question to think which type of defense is best for new recruits entering the consortia? Training, supervision, and support on how to be a good attorney.</p> <p><b>Babak:</b> Our office has a list of bills we are working through and which to keep an eye on. Bill tracking is on our radar.</p>	
Adjourn	Meeting is adjourned by Javier and co-chairs.	