Washington State Misdemeanant Probation Association

Board Meeting

April 29, 2024

AC Hotel Marriott, Vancouver WA

Present in person: Lindsey Buntin, President; Omar Gamez, Vice President; Jen Crossen, Past President; Mindy Breiner, Treasurer/CJTC; Camille Jackson, Secretary; Terrance Lane, Education and Training; Omar Nunez, Education and Training/Audio Visual; Daniela De Paz Esquivel, Nominations; Kristine Nisco, Technology; Dae’Janae Anderson, Public Relations; Meagan Terlep-Boxley, DMCJA (our liaison); Melissa Patrick, DMCMA (their liaison); Regina Alexander, DMCMA (our liaison); Stacie Scarpaci WTSC; Scott Ahlf, AOC; Dexter Mejia, AOC

President Lindsey Buntin welcomed members, opened the meeting at 4:14pm, and declared a quorum.

Board reviews meeting minutes from prior board meeting. Motion to accept minutes made by Daniela De Paz Esquivel, seconded by Regina Alexander. With no discussion the minutes are approved.

Lindsey asks the board to review the Treasurer’s report. Motion to approve the report made by Melissa Parick, seconded by Jennifer Crossen. With no discussion the report is approved.

**Board Reports:**

**President’s Report:** Lindsey Buntin spoke about the collaboration between MPA, DMCMA and the DMCJA. She hoped the board knew how essential Trisha Kinlow has been for helping to create a great collaboration through the summit. She spoke about the Highway to Hedges program and working to create a team across the state.

**Vice-President's Report:** Omar Gamez from Edmonds Municipal Court introduced himself and spoke about the open positions that will be nominated for at the Membership Business Meeting. He looks forward to leading the new group of people who will make up the board in the next year.

He explained that some board members met with the Bureau of Justice Statistics. They are looking for input from jurisdictions to complete their annual probation surveys.

**Past-President Report:** Jen Crossen spoke about the second Summit which was held with the MPA, DMCJA, and DMCMA. The DMCJA is going to start a “secret-shopper” type of program to sit in and see what different Judges are doing. She feels that the continued collaboration with all three court centered agencies is essential going forward.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Mindy Breiner went over the annual report and highlighted the main costs and income noted. She stated that our accounts are very healthy.

Mindy went over the quarterly report with the board as well and highlighted some of the most recent changes

See reports:





**Secretary’s Report:** Camille Jackson went over the one motion the board had approved via email since the prior board meeting. The board approved $900 to be spent on a camera to be used at the 2024 conference. Omar Nunez thanked the board for the funding and expressed enthusiasm about its use in the next few days.

**Committee Reports:**

**Education & Training Report:** Terrance Lane and Omar Nunez spoke about the added photo booth they will be setting up after the meeting. They were asked about what help is needed and explained they have a few projects that will need to be done tonight and a few things in the morning. Asked specifically about help with the registration desk. Omar also asked if board members would be willing to introduce some of the speakers.

**Nomination’s Report:** Daniela De Paz Esquivel asked for confirmation and clarification on what positions on the board will be up for nominations tomorrow. Board discussed.

**Legislation’s Report:** Tara Faust was unable to attend but had forwarded an email to President Lindsey Buntin. She explained that the report is extensive and will be emailed out to the board and membership.

See report:

**Committee Report: Legislation**

**Submitted By: Tara Faust**

**Date: April 26, 2024**

The following are bills signed by Governor Inslee and can be viewed by visiting:

Legislature Home (wa.gov).

**Criminal**:

**ESHB 1493** Concerning Impaired Driving; this bill addresses felony offender scores**, impaired driving offenses, ignition interlock requirements, deferred prosecutions, probationary license, sentencing alternatives, drug offender sentencing alternative**, and oral fluid roadside testing, etc.; see bill for more information; Effective January 1, 2026.

**HB 1983** Concerning the criminal justice treatment account; the account is revised to allow funds in the Account to be used for the provision of services for 180 days following graduation from drug court programs beyond the 2023-25 fiscal biennium; the authority for Legislature is to appropriate from the Account for municipal drug courts and increased treatment options is removed; expired provisions of the Account are removed; Effective June 6, 2024.

**SHB 2048** Concerning supervision of domestic violence in criminal sentencing; pertains to DOC; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**ESHB 2153** Deterring the theft of catalytic converters; see bill for more information; Effective April 1, 2025.

**2SSB 5444** Concerning firearm sensitive places/restricting possession of weapons, excluding carrying a pistol by a person licensed to carry a concealed pistol, on the premises of libraries, zoos, aquariums, and transit facilities; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**SB 5588** Concerning the mental health sentencing alternative; pertains to DOC; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**SB 5884** Concerning court-ordered restitution in environmental criminal cases; the courts are authorized to order restitution for ham to natural resources or the environment, following a criminal conviction related to water pollution, air pollution, and hazardous waste management; Effective June 6, 2024.

**ESSB 5891** Designating trespassing on a public-school bus as a felony offense; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**SB 5937** Supporting crime victims and witnesses by promoting victim-centered, trauma-informed responses in the legal system; see bill for more information; Effective July 1, 2024.

**SSB 5998** Timing of eligibility for vacation of nonfelony convictions; **DUI convictions are addressed in this bill**; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**ESB 6246** Concerning transmission of information relating to firearm prohibitions for persons committed for mental health treatment; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**Civil**:

**HB 1903** Reporting lost or stolen firearms; Effective June 6, 2024.

**HB 2260** Establishing civil penalties for the unlawful sale or supply of alcohol to minors; Effective June 6, 2024.

**HB 2384** Concerning automated traffic safety cameras; Effective June 6, 2024.

**Judicial**:

**SB 6222** Concerning the number of district court judges; County legislative authorities are authorized to increase the number of their district court judges after receiving a recommendation from the Supreme Court; the Legislature’s role in changing the number of district court judges is removed; Effective June 6, 2024.

**Probation/Jail**:

**2SHB 2084** Establishing an oversight committee to improve construction-related training and pathways to state registered apprenticeships in state correction facilities; pertains to DOC; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**E2SHB 2247** Addressing behavioral health provider shortages; see bill for more information and effective date(s).

**ESHB 2303** Modifying conditions of community custody; pertains to DOC; see bill for more information; Effective March 15, 2024.

**2SSB 5893** Providing gate money to individuals releasing from custody prior to the expiration of their sentence; pertains to DOC; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**Prosecution**:

**2SHB 1877** Improving the Washington state behavioral health system for better coordination and recognition with the Indian behavioral health system; see bill for more information and effective date(s).

**Public Defender**:

**HB 1911** Concerning activities in which the office of public defense may engage without violating the prohibition on providing direct representation of clients; Effective June 6, 2024.

**SB 5780** Expanding training opportunities for public defense; Effective June 6, 2024.

**DOL:**

**HB 1963** Prohibiting license plate covers; License plates must be kept uncovered to ensure the ability to plainly see and read the license plate; until January 1, 2025, the penalty for using a license plate cover may only be a written warning, the warning must include information about the law and applicable penalty; Effective June 6, 2024.

**E2SHB 2099** Concerning state identification cards for persons in state custody or care; pertains to DOC; see bill for more information; Effective January 1, 2025.

**SB 6115** Concerning speed safety camera systems; Effective June 6, 2024.

**Personnel**:

**SHB 2102** Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**HB 2246** Concerning vacation leave accrual for state employees; the annual cap on the accrual of unused vacation leave for state employees is increased to 280 hours; Effective June 6, 2024.

**HB 2481** Waiving health benefit premiums in the public employees’ benefits board; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**ESSB 5793** Concerning paid sick leave; Effective January 1, 2025.

**2SSB 6228** Concerning treatment of substance use disorders; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**Miscellaneous**:

**SHB 1903** Reporting lost or stolen firearms; see bill for more information; Effective date June 6, 2024.

**HB 1929** Supporting young adults following inpatient behavior health treatment; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**HB 2034** Requiring counties and cities to provide the administrative office of the courts with notice of court reorganizations; see bill for more information; Effective June 6, 2024.

**SHB 2396** Concerning fentanyl and other synthetic opioids; this act may be known and cited as “Ivan’s Law”; see bill for more information; Effective date June 6, 2024.

**ESSB 5985** Concerning firearms background check program; see bill for more information; Effective date March 26, 2024.

Disclaimer: This list does not contain all the bills signed this year. To view all bills signed this year, please visit Bill Actions | Governor Jay Inslee (wa.gov).

**Technology Report:** Kristine Nisco explained that the Microsoft 365 emails are paid for, so as board members we should be checking our positions inbox at least once a week. She said she realizes not everyone is utilizing the program and asked that the board make a concerted effort to remember to use the program.

Kristine spoke of the AOC update to the CLJ-CMS. The project has had some setbacks with who is going to be a part of the pilot project. Gig Harbor pulled out of their role as pilot court. Pierce county and Fircrest Municipal Court have delayed their go live date. Tacoma went live on October 23, 2023.

On November 7, 2024 Pierce county was informed that everything they had entered was lost in an update. They have since withdrawn from the Enterprise Justice program but wish to go forward with the Enterprise Supervision pilot court program. They were informed that the program is designed to be released together, not separately. MPA submitted a letter requesting the probation department be allowed to go forward as a pilot court, suggesting that probation should be given equal priority to the on-boarding process regardless of what the courts decide.

Additionally, in March 2024 departments using Probatum Data Services went to AOC to ask about on-boarding early. The Probatum Database is shutting down at the end of 2024, so those agencies will need a new CMS. It was extremely expensive for those jurisdictions to purchase and transfer data to the Tyler Enterprise program separately from the AOC timeline. This has added an incentive to separate the Enterprise Justice and Enterprise Supervision roll-out. The re-casting fee was negotiated to be waived and potentially an annual fee waived. No formal offer has been made.

Mindy Breiner reminded the board that there are currently 20 courts using the Tyler Enterprise program, so when courts begin using it state-wide, there are people who will be willing to help and problem solve as needed.

**Audio Visual Report:** Omar Nunez thanked everyone for the camera. The board agreed to have the camera remain with the Education and Training Co-Chairs.

**Public Relations Report:** Dae’Janae Anderson said she plans to take videos and photos during the conference for our website. She is looking forward to adding some enthusiasm and hoping this conference will be great.

**Liaison Reports:**

**District and Municipal Court Judges Association (DMCJA):** Megan Terlep-Boxley (our liaison) informed the board that Judge Goodwin may be our new liaison officer from their association. She stated she would not be able to attend the next meeting and asked if any other board members could attend. Jenn Crossen agreed to attend as the MPA liaison. Megan said that at the last meeting Tanja at Interstate Compact spoke to the judges about the requirements involved at the Misdemeanant level. Megan said that the Judges association always starts their board meetings with a relevant TED talk, and she really found value in that process. Board discussed possibly starting this new process at the start of board meetings.

Lindsey stated she received a short email from Judge Anderson (their liaison), who could not be present for this meeting. The email was read to the board.

*Hello MPA Board:*

*I want to thank you for allowing me to be the Judicial Liaison.  I was appointed to the District Court bench in Whatcom County October 2021.  Prior to my appointment I was both a public defender and in private practice.  We have a robust probation department here in Whatcom and I’ve always enjoyed a really fabulous relationship with the individual probation officers.  I’m sorry I wasn’t able to make this year’s conference but I’m excited to work with you all in the future.*

*Judge Angela Anderson*

**District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA):** Regina Alexander (our liaison) advised the board that the DMCMA conference will be in May 2024. The association has asked MPA to be a part of a panel about the evolution of probation. She told the board that she was proud to be asked to be on that panel and to be involved in the Summit. She explained that probation has become much more well represented as part of the team. We have become much more respected and involved thanks to the efforts of Trish Kinlow. Melissa Patrick (their liaison) explained to the board that she often speaks about MPA as a team member with the other two misdemeanant level associations (DMCMA and DMCJA). Melissa noted she has seen a good amount of support from judges for probation officers moving into court administration as part of succession planning.

**Washington State Traffic Safety Commission (WTSC):**  Stacie Scarpaci went over her notes from the most recent meeting. She explained that 2023 was the deadliest year since 1981 for accidents and the total number of fatalities from impaired drivers. There is an upcoming study on fentanyl use in impaired driving. Stacie said that the Federal Way lab is now open, they are hiring more people and created new positions to get the backlog caught up.

The WTSC is has given money to law enforcement to focus on Ignition Interlock Device compliance. The agency is looking for departments to run sample programs to crack down on IID compliance. The board discussed the upcoming changes in deferred prosecution laws and how that will change dynamics when it is put into effect January 2025.

Stacie stated that the WTSC plans to bring back the proposal to lower the BAC level to .05 at the next legislative session.

**Criminal Justice Training Center (Misdemeanant Academy):** Mindy Breiner informed the board that the academy is set to be from September 9th to September 20th this year. It will be held on-site at the CJTC. She has received an email from them asking if we had a location planned so she had to explain that they are required to give us the classroom space for the academy. That has resolved. Mindy advised that agencies with new hires will want to get registered right away since there have been wait lists in the past. This year she will review and approve the applicants.

Mindy asked the board if we could approve the purchase of lunch for the attendees on the Fridays of the academy since the CJTC has gone to a Monday – Thursday schedule, but the MPA academy is Monday – Friday. Motion made by Mindy and seconded by Lindsey Buntin. With no discussion the motion passed.

**Unfinished Business:** ARLJ 11 committee has met a few times. Mindy explained they are looking at the job description language update for probation officers. Judge Goodwin came back with a few edits and asked for a simplified version that could be approved by multiple varied agencies across the state. Some of the current job requirements were taken out and it will now need to go through the rules committee. Mindy asked the board if there was a desire to do a general job description from the work done on the Summit Review. She recommended a committee be put together to make an official job description recommendation from MPA.

**Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC):** Scott Ahlf introduced himself to the board and talked about the education group going forward with the judicial branch with education on the new CMS. They will be reaching out to the jurisdictions to ask what is needed. There is funding available for education, but he wants to increase that. The deadline for needs assessment is June 2024.

Dexter Mejia spoke about Enterprise Supervision and the history of the project. The contract for an integrated system with courts and probation e-filing is supposed to be a part of the contract, but if supervision and justice are separated that is complicated. Dexter explained that ten courts will be going live in October 2024. He addressed the Probatum courts, as they will lose their current CMS at the end of the year. There should be an AOC proposal this week for the removal of the fees to transfer from Probatum to the AOC program. This is a preliminary proposal.

Dester has spoken with jurisdictions that may not to onto the new statewide system. There will need to be some commitment between the courts and Tyler Technology in order to get all information for statewide sharing. There are several meetings coming up with the priority to continue forward movement. The original project completion date was 2026.

AOC has been trying go create a roster for 2025 as well. This has been a challenge due to the variance between courts. There are several meetings coming up with training and updates to the users. Board members expressed their appreciation for AOC. There have been frustrations with the process, but the AOC staff are fully committed to the project. Board members asked questions of the AOC representatives. Mindy asked if the courts that are currently not using Enterprise Supervision will need to pay to be integrated into the state program. Scott said that AOC is trying to get funding. They discussed the OCourt integration, which will likely be over a year away. The board learned that there are currently 20 jurisdictions already using Tyler’s Enterprise Supervision, but they are paying a monthly fee. There is still a question of why they still are paying for it but AOC is also in contract with Tyler for the statewide program. Those agencies will need to contact Tyler and end those contracts when they go live with the AOC contracted CMS. Scott explained that the Probatum courts and Piece County are in a similar situation.

**New Business:** Board discussed the potential mentoring of the new positions by the out-going board members. Both new positions and current positions will be invited to the July meeting.

Lindsey Buntin called for the end of the meeting, and it was therefore adjourned at 6:17pm