

Justice and Public Safety Committee

June 17, 2020 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Zoom | Boise, ID

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order | *Chair Paul Wilde*

There wasn't a quorum for approval of February 2020 meeting minutes. This will be added to the next committee agenda.

Idaho Department of Correction | *Josh Tewalt, executive director*

Director Tewalt was unable to join the committee meeting.

Idaho Department of Juvenile Correction | *Monty Prow, executive director*

Starting in March, IDJC had weekly conversations about how COVID would affect the program. Some operations were suspended. Internally changes were made to ensure social distancing in areas like PE and meal time, as well as others. Some of the changes will continue as we go because our juveniles have liked them. IDJC is COVID free. Visitations will start back up in July. There has been a decrease in juveniles as the count is under 200 since March and usually run just above 200.

Ada wants to do some research in regards to COVID. They will be looking at whether or not public safety was preserved during this time? And, were these children better or worse through this?

Idaho Supreme Court | *Sara Omundson, Administrative Director of the Courts*

The court has stayed open during the pandemic but only for certain proceedings, such as those cases that don't need an attorney but need the courts. Protection orders would be included in this. These can be filed online. Other hearings were reopened as soon as there was another method of holding these hearings. All Supreme Court Emergency Orders are on the website. There are some mandates from the courts such as no one is allowed to access a courthouse unless they wear a mask.

Court hearings have shifted to using a remote Zoom platform. Courts have set up audio zoom to be the official record. There is online training to attending virtual hearings. There is a form to request a hearing to be streamed live on YouTube. If the judge decides not to live stream, the person can request to be given a link to join the zoom meeting. Counties are working on operational plans to open jury trial. Courts are compiling all plans.

Idaho Sheriff's Association | *Paul Wilde/Vaughn Killeen, executive director*

There are COVID-19 jail changes. All jails are creating plans on how to deal with inmates and following standards according to the CDC guidelines. Sheriffs are meeting virtually on a weekly basis. The jails have increased all cleaning and there is a different screening process when someone comes in. [Click Here](#)

There hasn't been any diagnosis of COVID in any jail. Jails are making sure employees are taking precautions and quarantining those coming in for 14 days. Jails will run out of space if they have to quarantine everyone as cases increase with increased court operations.

Public Defense | *Kelli D Brassfield, IAC*

Kelli has been working on seeing how other states cover public defense costs. Some of the surrounding states provide full funding for PD. Some states have partial state funding and some have partial county funding. Kelli would like to know if the counties still want to pursue having a state ran program or if they want to continue having counties provide the services.

Power has a joint office with Oneida. Their biggest challenge is travel and caseloads. When things get back to a normal pace there is going to be a backlog. The current low numbers don't justify hiring the attorneys we will need. And they don't have the levy ability to do it. They would support state or regional models.

Ada County doesn't support state system. They would like to look at regional system. Custer has a hard time keeping up with PD and would be interested in regional. Their attorneys come from another county and defendants don't like that they don't get enough time. Canyon is almost taxed out because of standards. Latah is happy with contracts. They are not interested in the regional proposal but would support others to explore that.

Kelli asked the committee why more counties haven't utilized joint PD offices as they will receive more funding from the PDC. Blaine County just opened an institutional office. They would like to see some flexibility but would like to get their office up and running first before they explore a joint office with another county. Barry McHugh explained that some counties have plenty of money and attorneys so they don't need to partner up with other counties.

This will be added to the Commissioner's agenda meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Justice and Public Safety Committee

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Canyon Prosecutor

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