

2018 Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities Work Plan

Co-Chairs: Shaun Bickley & ChrisTiana ObeySumner
Staff: Marta Idowu
Commissioners: Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities

Committees: Housing Committee
Nominating Committee
Public Safety Committee
Transportation Committee
Executive Committee

Housing Committee

Chair: ChrisTiana ObeySumner

Members: Nicole Palczewski

Key Steps:

- Work with Seattle City Council and local organizations to develop a qualitative analysis of lived experience of homelessness and housing instability.
- Address issues of economic intimidation by advising City Council through resolutions and coalition organization
- Propose incentives or initiatives for landlords to hold units for vulnerable populations, including people with disabilities.
- Advise on suggestions to Seattle City Council on how to best support PWD in accessing and maintaining housing
- Collaborate and advise on how to support state-level legislation

Nominating Committee

Chair: Nicole Palczewski
Members: ChrisTiana ObeySumner
Jessica Williams-Hall

Key Steps

Recruitment & Outreach: The Nominating Committee will attract a diverse range of candidates for the Commission, especially people of color, LGBTQ people, women, immigrants, and refugees.

Interviewing: The Nominating Committee will interview and ultimately recommend 5 new Commissioners to the appointing authorities.

Public Safety Committee

Chair: Shaun Bickley
Vice Chair: Dorian Taylor
Members: Rebecca Craemer
Jin-Ah Kim (Community Member)
Anthony Miceli (Community Member)
Nathan Werner (Community Member)
Heather Woskey (Community Member)

Key Steps

Drug Court Equity: Individuals referred to Drug Court must work with entities like SeaDruNar, which requires individuals to work, usually at their recycling plant, for 48 hours a week without pay to receive treatment & comply with court.

- PS will collect information, network with organizations and the recovery community, and issue recommendations to the Commission.

Opioid Treatment Facilities: There is only one non-profit detox facility in King County, with 16 beds. The nearest juvenile treatment facility is in Yakima.

- PS will advocate for opioid-specific treatment facilities, including juvenile detox facilities.

Alternatives to Youth Incarceration: Special education students are suspended, expelled, arrested, and prosecuted at a disproportionate rate.

- PS will meet with the City Attorney's office to understand how they serve disabled defendants.
- PS will attend the Criminal Justice Equity Team to gather info and meet with members, and participate in any Alternatives to Youth Incarceration Task Force the city may form.
- PS will meet with stakeholders to identify inequities.

Police Reform: SPD maintains a database of residents' disabilities and mental health diagnosis. Stakeholders are concerned the information is maintained without consent, outside oversight, or attention to accuracy.

- PS will connect with the Community Police Commission to determine if they can assist in collecting information.
- PS will attempt to receive written clarification on how the system works.
- PS will advise the full Commission on recommendations.

Mental Health Arrests: Under RCW 10.31.110, there is little to no policy outlining appropriate procedures for a mental health arrest. Moreover, the officer is immune from liability for any "good faith conduct" with regard to persons with mental disorders.

- PS will meet with stakeholders and identify weaknesses in the law and areas for improvement.
- PS will attempt to put together as workgroup with the Legislature around this issue.

Advocacy: Public Safety has an obligation to advise the Mayor, City Council, and city agencies around disability issues.

- PS will address legislation or current events in a timely manner, and follow up on past positions (such as safe consumption sites and alternatives to youth incarceration) not foreseen in this work plan.

Transportation Committee

Chair: Dorian Taylor

Key Steps

Recruitment: The Transportation Committee will meet with stakeholders like the Transit Riders' Union and ADAPT in order to seek partners and committee members. Transportation will engage with constituents to learn about transit issues and to partner in advocacy efforts.

Advocacy: Transportation will draft an action plan on known transit issues (such as inaccessible Access vehicles and contractor conflicts of interest) in order to organize. Transportation will review and respond to city (and other) legislation that affects the city of Seattle as appropriate.

Executive Committee

Chairs: Shaun Bickley & ChrisTiana ObeySumner

Members: Nicole Palczewski
Dorian Taylor

Staff Support: Marta Idowu

Executive Committee plans meeting agendas and direction for the Commission.