

2008 Performance Audit Work Program – Status as of December 1, 2008

Work Program (approved by Performance Audit Committee 11/29/2007, revised 4/17/2008, with later additions by Council action)	Description	Status (audit reports are posted at www.piercecountywa.org/performance-audit)
1. Workload analysis of NPDES Stormwater Discharge Permit Issues (study was required by an ordinance passed in May 2008).	This project involves a workload analysis of Pierce County’s approach to implementing the permit. The county’s proposed approach prior to the project was to spend \$126 million over the next five years and add approximately 48 FTE staff.	Contract was awarded to R.W. Beck, who presented the report on October 16). Recommended that 25 FTE staff are needed to comply.
2. Evidence-based programs to treat drug addiction or reduce the jail population	The report analyzed the meaning of “evidence-based” programs to treat drug addiction and reduce the jail population. The topic grew out of interest in Prometa drug treatment issues in 2007.	Report by staff member William Vetter was presented in February 2008.
3. Indigent Veterans Needs Assessment	Study was required by a 2007 ordinance and included analysis of the needs of indigent veterans.	Report by contractor Donald Lachman was presented in January 2008.
4. Law Enforcement Support Agency (LESA)	Project was put on hold in November 2007, to await a report by a LESA contractor, and then dropped in April 2008 because the report was still unavailable.	This is a possible audit topic in 2009.
5. Animal Control Licensing Process	Collect and analyze basic data on the licensing process and related issues in Pierce County and other jurisdictions.	Memo by staff member Rick Talbert was presented in October 2008.
6. Jail issues, in connection with work of the Criminal Justice Task Force appointed by the County Council	Analysis is needed of jail bookings, releases, and related matters, as part of Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) discussions of policy issues. A consultant, Teri Martin, is funded by the Performance Audit Committee to work with the task force.	Staff members Matt Temmel and Bill Vetter analyzed compliance releases, “SIP” and other releases, and arrest data. Consultant’s report was presented in Sept. 2008. Work continues on pretrial release, “frequent flyers,” and performance indicators.

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7. Follow-up work on Superior Court		
a. Monitor and analyze court implementation of JMI recommendations b. Track pending cases, old cases, and filings	Staff is tracking and analyzing monthly data from Superior Court. JMI contract was extended to permit a “progress report” on the new Superior Court felony case protocols.	JMI progress report was presented in October 2008.
c. Reply to Superior Court’s “rebuttal” of the JMI report	In April 2008, seven months after the JMI “follow-up report” of October 2007, the court posted a 23-page “rebuttal” on its web site. In response, JMI and performance audit staff commented on the court’s response and posted the material on the performance audit web site (6/9/2008).	JMI and performance audit materials are posted on the performance audit web site.
d. Work with Superior Court and JMI to devise a Judicial Bench Activity report that shows how much time is spent on the bench and indicates the type of work (criminal, civil, motion, trial, etc.) See Ordinance 2007-104s, section 18.	A Judicial Bench Activity report is an essential component of (1) reducing the felony case backlog, (2) knowing how the court uses its resources, and (3) knowing whether the court needs another judge. The presiding judge has announced that the court will not make a report as requested in the ordinance, but is open to other approaches.	The court declined to implement the ordinance. The JMI progress report (October 2008) made clear that current info is inadequate and recommended that the court should report data about the number of judge days allocated to trials and the length of trials (p. 18, Rec. 12).
e. Court Reporters (by Council request)	In August 2008, County Council requested performance audit staff to update the 2006 work on court reporters and to report prior to budget time.	Preliminary report by staff members Matt Temmel and Bill Vetter presented in October 2008. Report will be finalized in December.
f. Review jail transport of inmates to court if there is a documented problem	Judges continue to indicate that jail transport issues often delay court hearings. However, the court has not done a Judicial Bench Activity report that would document the delays.	No action. Issue remains open.
g. Possibly examine felony pre-trial release issues	a. JMI recommended (October 2007 report) contracting with a national expert to study pre-trial release issues. b. Criminal Justice Task Force (CJTF) is currently addressing pretrial release issues. Work is scheduled to continue in 2009.	CJTF work on pretrial release issues is scheduled to continue in 2009, with active assistance by performance audit staff.

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8. Follow-up work on development permitting	Work started with the audit by Zucker Systems in 2004. Further work by performance audit staff on this topic has been deferred to 2009. We are monitoring the issues.	On hold until 2009.
9. Coordination with State Auditor’s Office (SAO) on performance audits on local government	<p>The audit of Public Record Requests (in 30 agencies) was released on May 19, 2008. The County Council accepted the report on June 17 and passed a resolution requesting the Performance Audit Coordinator to report back to the State Auditor on the “legislative implementation” of the audit recommendations.</p> <p>In 2007, the SAO started work on two other performance audits of Pierce County – jail overtime and take-home vehicles. After many months of work, the projects were terminated.</p>	<p>The SAO recommendations in the Public Records report did not involve legislative implementation, and therefore no report to SAO was needed.</p> <p>SAO has cut back significantly on performance audits of local government. As of late 2008, no SAO performance audits of Pierce County have been announced for 2009.</p>