

Chair Report

December 2022

Fellow Commissioners,

With completion of the final report a priority, Director Alvarez and I did not meet for our weekly check-ins. All attention was on the final report, to which I contributed several sections and multiple proofreads. I attended the last of the Research and Data meetings as they relate to the final report. At some point we should have a conversation regarding ongoing data collection efforts as we move into the legislative session and anticipate reporting needs for the coming year and beyond.

I assisted with review and feedback regarding legislative activities in the upcoming session.

I attended the Joint Budget Committee hearings for independent agencies. Director Alvarez's presentation appeared to be well received with no questions but rather a positive comment from one member glad to see the progress we've made. JBC members were particularly interested in the response of all of the independent agencies to the possibility of a shared services arrangement for key support services such as IT and human resources, an arrangement that would be of great benefit to small agencies such as ours. Another observation from the other presentations is that those agencies are struggling with recruitment and retention of staff. While the COPG has been fortunate in terms of staff retention, it should not be surprising if we find recruitment to be an ongoing challenge into the future. Following the meeting, we spoke with the lobbyist and asked if they might be able to attend a Commission meeting at some point to brief the Commission on what to expect in the upcoming session, including how we, as commissioners, can best support efforts.

Finally, there will be an agenda item for the December meeting regarding the SMART Act hearings. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend due to a medical procedure. Please take a look at your calendars as Director Alvarez will be asking for at least one Commissioner to attend in person.

DBW / 12-15-22