

Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 13th, 2010, 8:15 a.m.

Gary Shand	Ken Bergsma	Rick Grimstead
Paul Nielson	Alan Erickson	Jennifer Kingsley
J.B. Bryson	Mike Ellis	Phil McLaughlin
David Asia	David Yount	Roxane Goss
Letty Alvarez	Andrea Vallee	Tim Holloran
Linda Eiford	Will Reichardt	John Lum
Keith Tyne	Chris Loving	Chuck Benjamin
Delilah George	Charlie Wend	Ken Dahlstedt
Laurie Jarolimek		

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Gary Shand**, *Skagit County Jail*, Law & Justice Council Chairman.

November 10th, 2009 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the November 10th, 2009 amended meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

ELECTIONS: There were no new nominations for officers for the Law & Justice Council. A motion was made and seconded that the current board will remain for another year. The Board will remain: **Gary Shand**, Chairman; **Gregg Freeman**, Vice-Chairman; **Linda Eiford**, Law & Justice Liaison. The motion was approved by all members present.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Jennifer Kingsley, the new Director of *Skagit County Community Services Department*, was introduced. Her department incorporates the former Human Services, Senior Services and ARIS departments.

Linda Eiford, *District Court Probations*- Informed the council members of proposed new Domestic Violence laws that are before the legislation this session. The changes will make penalties more severe for serial DV offenders. The Attorney General is spearheading this change. Discussion followed regarding a proposed letter of support from the council. Although the DV topic is very important to all members, it was decided that the council as a group would not send a letter but individual members were at liberty to do so representing their own departments.

John Lum, *Youth & Family Services*- Urged representatives working with juvenile issues to contact him regarding serving on the Juvenile Justice Committee.

SPEAKERS:

Chuck Benjamin, *NS Mental Health Administration*- NSMHA has commenced a review of the regional crisis services system in the North Sound. There have been a series of meetings and we are gathering information and data in the areas of what is working well, what is not working well and ideas from the stakeholders of how to make the crisis system work better to meet their needs. Chuck gave a recap of the Crisis Services meeting that was held on January 8th, which focused on

law enforcement. Members from various departments representing Whatcom, Skagit, Island and Snohomish Counties attended to discuss ways to improve crisis services procedures. They hope to present an initial plan to the NSMHA Board of Directors by April.

John Lum, *Youth & Family Services*- Gave an overview of the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative from the model site visit to the Santa Cruz facility he and several members from Skagit County attended. **Dave Yount**, *Juvenile Probations Counselor*, gave a summary of the findings. The purpose was to visit a site that has been successful for many years and incorporate features that will work in Skagit County. All members who attended felt this was a very worthwhile venture and brought back many valuable ideas. (See handout for more information.)

UPDATE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER

Charlie Wend, *DOC*- Attended a planning retreat recently with discussions regarding the Criminal Justice Center, the budget needed to build, and when and how to bring this before the voters. **Tim Holloran**, *County Administrator*, said that at this time it looks like the CJC will not go before the voters until possibly February, 2011. Discussion followed regarding the need for a rate structure before taking the proposal to the cities, and the need to educate the community about the need for the CJC and the various programs connected to it before asking for their vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Gary Shand, *County Jail Administrator*, responded to the suggestion that Law & Justice meetings should go to every other month due to budget and time constraints, by saying that in view of the importance of pushing forward with the CJC, meetings would remain monthly.

David Asia, *Human Services*, presented findings on Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment in Skagit County. (See handout for more details)

Gary Shand, *County Jail Administrator*, thanked David Asia for his support and many years of service to Skagit County. Many members joined in to offer their thanks and best wishes.

Next Meeting- is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th, 2010.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Approved 2/10/2010