

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 14, 2009**

**Attendance**

**Law & Justice Council Mandatory Members**

Rick Grimstead	John Lum	Gregg Freeman
Nancy Scott	Chris Loving	Gary Shand
Charlie Wend		

**Law & Justice Council Additional Members**

Andrea Vallee	Letty Alvarez	Linda Eiford
Roxane Goss	Dan Berentson	Alan Erickson
Chuck Benjamin	David Asia	Phil McLaughlin
Tim Holloran	Jackie Brunson	Linda Christensen

Today's meeting began at 8:20 a.m. with a welcome from Gary Shand, Skagit County Jail Administrator, Chair of the Law & Justice Council.

**II. November 12 Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the November 12 meeting minutes be approved with the spelling correction noted for Gregg Freeman under "other business". The motion carried.

**III. 2009 Executive Committee Elections**

There was a brief discussion regarding new elections and a motion was made and second by the Council to keep the current members on the Executive Committee. The members for 2009 will be: Gary Shand, Chair; Gregg Freeman, Vice Chair; Charlie Wend, Law & Justice Council, and Linda Eiford, Law & Justice Council. The motion carried.

**IV. Retreat Update – February 11, 2009  
Community Justice Center**

Charlie Wend gave an overview of the Law & Justice Council retreat scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> at the NW Pipe Union Hall, 780 Chrysler Drive, Burlington, 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. A light meal will be provided.

Dan Berentson will be sending out the invitation postcards by next week and is asking for input regarding the mailing list. Charlie mentioned that this retreat is in place of the regular Law & Justice Council meeting for February and is important that all members attend. The primary goal of the retreat is to set up public presentation plans between now and when the Council

anticipates getting this project on the November ballot. Voorhis Associates will be in attendance and is currently working on the retreat format.

Tim Holloran mentioned the importance of citizen involvement and representation including a speaker's bureau. Gary Shand said that the city council presentations are continuing.

#### **V. Community Justice Center Site Update**

Gary Shand distributed the resolution signed by the Board of County Commissioners on December 9, 2008 authorizing the exploration of acquisition of the Christianson Seed Site as the location for the Community Justice Center. Gary also mentioned that communication continues with ART for the design process, and we should have updated drawings in time for the February 11<sup>th</sup> retreat. Tim Holloran announced that the County has approval to begin the property appraisal process.

There was a brief discussion regarding the ballot deadline.

#### **VI. Facility Task Force Update**

Charlie Wend announced the next Task Force meeting is scheduled for February 10.

#### **VII. Budget Update**

Gary Shand noted that the expeditor position in the Sheriff's Department has been eliminated due to budget cuts. The weekly jail updates will continue and Roxann Goss will research the possibility of making this an automatic process.

Letty Alvarez discussed the screening process she performs with the local cities and how this effort impacts the Assigned Council Department.

David Asia from Human Services gave a brief presentation on the impacts of imminent state cuts on Skagit County substance abuse treatment. A handout was distributed. John Lum inquired how the anticipated state budget cuts would impact the Skagit County Jail.

Chuck Benjamin discussed budget cuts that will be impacting the North Sound Regional Support Network. There will be significant impacts as the NSRSN lost approximately 1.4 million dollars in funding in the North Sound Region for the remainder of this biennium. This includes client mental health services as well as GAU funding. There will be a meeting from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, 1/29/09 in the Council Chambers at the Mount Vernon Police Department where interested stakeholders can meet and provide input regarding services impacted by expenditure reductions.

On behalf of the Board of Commissioners Tim Holloran requested the mental health providers form a committee to prioritize their most important needs for our community. The results of this meeting will be brought to the legislative meetings scheduled in Olympia February 5 & 6.

#### **VIII. Speaker Volunteers**

Gary Shand asked the Council to submit ideas to the Executive Council for topics that will be presented at future Law & Justice Council meetings.

## **XI. Other Business**

Letty Alvarez asked if future mailings could be translated into Spanish for the Latino community. Tim Holloran also presented an idea on having Spanish announcements placed on the radio.

Tim Holloran made a suggestion for a standing agenda item that will be discussed at each Law & Justice Council meeting regarding justice system changes and proposed changes that affect departments. Linda Christensen will send out a monthly reminder via e-mail to department representatives one week before the next Council meeting. These results will be compiled in a document and distributed as a handout.

Tim Holloran noted that the Council should be contacting other county Law & Justice Councils in order to compare notes regarding their local budget impacts and concerns regarding how State budget reductions may impact services in their areas. Gary Shand will contact Whatcom, Island, and San Juan County.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Minutes Approved on March 11, 2009 by the Law & Justice Council Members.