

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 10th, 2010, 8:15 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

Tim Holloran	Charlie Wend	Rich Weyrich
Letty Alvarez	Dave Needy	Gary Shand
Will Reichardt	Pam Springer	J.B. Bryson
Linda Eiford	Jennifer Kingsley	Gregg Freeman
Delilah George	Peter Browning	John Lum
Ken Dahlstedt	Chuck Benjamin	Ken Bergsma
Andrea Vallee	David Svaren	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.

January 13th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the January 13th, 2010 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Gregg Freeman, *DOC*, Provided statistical information on Offender Releases and the affect the policy of releasing to county of origin had in 2009. (See attached handout.)

Jennifer Kingsley, *Skagit County Community Services*, Updated the Council on the newly combined Community Services Department, located at 309 S Third Street in Mount Vernon. Community Services encompasses the entire spectrum, from birth to senior years, with programs targeted for the vulnerable population. Within the department Mental Health programs are managed by Rebecca Clark, Substance Abuse programs by Sarah Hinman and Developmental Disability programs by Malinda Bjaaland. **Peter Browning**, *Health Dept.*- Commented that the needle exchange numbers dropped from 120,000 in 2008 to 109,000 in 2009, and attributed this in part to the Community Services programs and outreach.

Linda Eiford, *District Court Probations*, Updated the Council on bills before the State Legislature that would impact Law & Justice agencies. Of particular interest were HB6680-Excise Tax, HB2626-Inmate Imposed Sanctions, HB2827-DV Arrestee, HB3056-Pre-trial Release, HB2778-DV Repeat offenders, HB2624-Interstate Compact. Discussion followed regarding unfunded mandates and impact of new legislation with decreased revenue.

UPDATE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER:

Charlie Wend, *DOC*, Informed the Council that work is continuing. He stated that the recent voter approval for school funding is an encouraging sign for the Criminal Justice Center. The committee is looking at steps to handle immediate situations in the interim. Programs other areas are using, such as Whatcom County's treatment programs, and a new program in Skagit that pairs Inmate

Housing vouchers with retraining programs being offered through Skagit Valley College, are examples of alternatives being explored currently.

SPEAKERS:

Janet Frieling, *Network Director for School's Out Washington* and **Shannon Ginn**, *Community and Projects Coordinator for School's Out Washington*.

School's Out Washington provides services and guidance for organizations to ensure all young people have safe places to learn and grow when not in school. School's Out is dedicated to building community systems to support quality afterschool and youth development programs for Washington State's 5-18 year olds through training, advocacy and leadership. (See attached handouts)

OTHER BUSINESS:

Andrea Vallee, *Dispute Resolution Center*, Commented that the Weekly Jail Statistics that are e-mailed to members may be more detailed than necessary. She suggested that only the number of offenders being turned away is what most are interested in. It was also suggested by members that the reasons offenders were being turned away would be most helpful to know. The stats do not take into account the number of offenders who are not even brought to the Skagit County Jail due to overcrowding, as there is no way to compile this data.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Approved 3/10/10