

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

**ATTENDANCE:**

Ken Bergsma	Dave Needy	John Lum
David Svaren	Nancy Scott	Charlie Wend
Gregg Freeman	Jennifer Kingsley	Letty Alvarez
Alan Erickson	Chuck Benjamin	Delilah George
Pam Springer	Linda Eiford	Peter Browning
Andrea Vallee	Michael Ellis	Phil McLaughlin
Daniel Dempsey	Roxane Goss	Laurie Jarolimek

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Gregg Freeman**, *DOC- Law & Justice Council Vice-Chairman*.

**February 10th, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the February 10th, 2010 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**John Lum**, *Youth & Family Services*- Introduced Tiffany Caulk, the new Resource Manager for Youth & Family Services.

**Daniel Dempsey**, *Coroner*- Announced the recent agreement to use the morgue at Skagit Valley Hospital for autopsies. Until February 15th, 2010, autopsies were performed at local funeral homes. This change represents a financial savings as well as allowing the department to work more efficiently.

**Peter Browning**, *Health Dept*- Announced that the Health Dept has now taken over management of the Jail Clinic. This change allows for updating and management of records and better case management for the inmates, with more efficient use of funds.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:**

**Linda Eiford**, *District Court Probations*- Updated the Council on bills before the State Legislature that would impact Law & Justice agencies. (See attached Update)

**SPEAKERS:**

**Dave Yount**, along with **Joelene Meckstroth** and **Ericka Christensen**, *Probation Counselors with Youth & Family Services*, Advised the Council of Truancy issues and how their department is reaching out to interact on an individual basis with the youth of Skagit County. Truancy issues are frequently the beginning point of juvenile problems. They strive to get the student back in school and on track to graduate, hopefully breaking the cycle leading to adult offenders. (See attached handouts.)

**UPDATE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER:**

**Charlie Wend, DOC-** Informed the Council that work is continuing, although slowly at this time due to uncertainty of the County's financial situation and budget. Of major concern is how to handle overcrowding in the meantime. Large numbers of pre-trial felons occupy the jail at this time, allowing fewer cells for lesser offenses. The recent release of a vehicle prowler suspect, and the resulting increase in vehicle prowls, being just one example of related incidents that the public needs to be aware of.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Next Meeting-** is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14th, 2010, and will feature Gerry Hover from DOC, as our speaker.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

APPROVED 4/14/2010