

Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Attendance

Law & Justice Council Mandatory Members

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

Law & Justice Council Additional Members

Tim Holloran	Maile Keli'ipio-Acoba	Alan Erickson
Chuck Benjamin	Delilah George	Pam Springer
Linda Eiford	Peter Browning	Andrea Vallee
Al Jongsma	Michael Ellis	Phil McLaughlin
Chris Tobey	Greg Booth	Vickie Maurer
Daniel Dempsey	Bob Hicks	

Handouts:

Brief history of ARIS, Skagit County Readiness to Learn, Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, State Work Release Siting Advisory Committee Final Report, TDN.com news article for the new Cowlitz County Jail, ESSB 5288bill Analysis

Submittal for the Record:

Letter to Maryanne Lindeblad, MHD Interim Director from North Sound Mental Health Administration proposed program cuts.

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with a welcome from Gary Shand, Skagit County Jail Administrator, Chair of the Law & Justice Council.

January 14, 2009 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the January 14, 2009 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

Discussion – 0.1% Allocation Advisory Committee – Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Gary Shand mentioned that three positions on this committee are filled by the Law & Justice Council. There is one position open to replace Nancy Brown. Members meet four times per year and their responsibility is to assist county staff in reviewing requests and process for the 0.1% tax fund allocation. The current members are:

Substance Abuse Advisory Board Representatives:

Bob Hicks, Steve Hayes, Timm Forthun, and Ron Tait

Mental Health Advisory Board Representatives:

Chris Tobey, Charlie Wend, Marilyn Lupinacci, and Susan Ramaglia

Law & Justice Council Representatives:

Judge Dave Needy and Keith Tyne (one vacancy)

John Lum volunteered to fill the Law & Justice Council vacancy. There was a motion on the floor. There was further discussion, and Alan Erickson nominated Linda Eiford. A comment was made that there was already one member from Youth & Family Services on the Board and Linda Eiford sees a need in the community which is currently represented in her work. John Lum retracted his request, and Linda Eiford agreed that she could serve. There was a motion and second for Linda Eiford to fill the Law & Justice Council vacancy. The motion carried.

ARIS Update

John Lum gave a historical background for the ARIS program from its inception in 1990 to the present. A historical background timeline handout was distributed.

Chris Tobey discussed the Readiness to learn program through ARIS. The program has received a grant through the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction since 1999 and this additional funding supports the program throughout the County. ARIS receives referrals through a partnership with the seven school districts of youth that are at risk of not staying in school. The emphasis is on juvenile delinquency prevention and reduction. ARIS has been an important component of the juvenile justice system and has been recognized as a promising practice in the State of Washington.

Tim Holloran recommended that staff keep the Council updated on legislative issues and the Council can be used as a conduit for support.

There was a motion that the Council support ARIS through a letter designated to our State Legislative officials. The motion was seconded and carried. Back-up materials will be provided with the letters.

Andrea Vallee also requested legislative support for the Dispute Resolution Center Program through the Mediation Services Department to continue the current level of state funding, including \$50,000 locally for the 2009-2011 biennium.

There was a motion that the Council supports the Dispute Resolution program through a letter designated to our State Legislative officials. The motion was seconded and carried. Back up materials will be provided with the letters.

February 11 Retreat and Facility Task Force Update

Charlie Wend gave an overview of the February 11, 2009 Community Justice Center retreat. The retreat goal was to discuss where we are now and what questions we need to answer to move forward. Voorhis & Associates gathered the questions and produced a Timeline/Action Plan as a result. The Action Plan earmarks deadlines for staff to complete particular tasks to

help the project move forward. A big part of the Action Plan is for the Law & Justice Council's participation in the Speaker's Bureau.

Tim Holloran requested that thank you letters be sent to all attendees.

Gary Shand distributed the Action Plan and discussed the two options. Option 1 brings the ballot to the community by November 1, 2009, and Option 2 delays the ballot to spring 2010. The Board of County Commissioners priority is Option 1.

Tim Holloran discussed the financial component and meetings will be forthcoming with the city councils once all the information has been gathered. Tim also mentioned the philosophical questions for the Task Force in regards to proceeding with the project design and construction phases.

Chris Loving from the Burlington City Council discussed that Burlington's tax revenue is down 20% and their priority will be to build the jail phase first.

State Work Release Beds

Charlie Wend distributed the final report for the Statewide Work Release Siting Advisory Committee, ESB 6157 – Equitable Distribution. The State is looking for an endorsement from the Law & Justice Council to have a work release facility in the new Community Justice Center.

There was a motion for the Law & Justice Council to endorse the State Work Release Bed Facility concept in the new Skagit County Community Justice Center. The motion was seconded and carried.

Other Business

Law & Justice Council members need to start looking and considering who should fill the Commissioner District 3 vacancy on the Council.

Delilah George thanked the Council for their support and participation at the recent Leadership Skagit meeting. The group was able to tour the jail facility and was deeply moved by the justice system process and the needs of the facility. The group also received a presentation by the drug impact panel.

Chuck Benjamin reported on the specifics of the North Sound Mental Health Administration funding reduction plan in accordance with the Governor's proposed budget and Legislative Budget ESHB 1694. A copy of the letter submitted to the MHD Department in Olympia is submitted for the official record of these meeting minutes.

Tim Holloran reminded the Council that he would like to see a standing agenda item at each meeting addressing mental health.

Maile Keli'ipio-Acoba discussed the North Cascades Secure Detox program, located on the former Northern State Hospital campus, which was scheduled to close on Feb 20, 2009 due to State budget cuts. On Feb 18, 2009, the State sent notification to the County that funding had been restored through June 30, 2009. Pioneer Human Services, upon notification of the closure

had already laid off all their staff, discharged or relocated clients and discontinued intakes. They worked quickly to re-staff the facility and open up referrals. There is no promise or indication of funding for the facility as of July 1, 2009.

John Lum discussed the need for an advisory committee for mental health.

Tim Holloran requested that the Council contact other state Law & Justice Council members in order for us to exchange meeting minutes as a way to share information.

Bob Hicks announced a new grant opportunity through the Recovery Act called the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Formula Program. One grant opportunity is available for Skagit County. Bob is requesting input from other County Departments and agencies who may want to participate. A proposal will be put together for the Law & Justice Council's recommendation on April 8. Further recommendation and support will be sought from the Board of County Commissioners.

Gregg Freeman discussed the Human Services Committee Bill analysis for ESSB 5288 which changes provisions regarding supervision of offenders. This item will be discussed at the April 8th council meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 a.m.

Minutes Approved on April 8, 2009 by the Law & Justice Council Members.