

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

Charlie Wend
Jail Commander
Chairman

Lisa Tremblay
Juvenile Court Dir.
Vice-Chair

Rob Sullivan
Director PHS
Member-at-Large

Cathy Sisk
Jail/Court Coordinator
Secretary

WEDNESDAY, March 11, 2015
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

WILL REICHARDT
SARAH HINMAN
ALICIA WASCKLEWICZ
LADESSA
RICH WEYRICH
JERRY DODD

CHARLIE WEND
HEIDI KENNEDY
CATHY SISK
ROXANE GOSS
MAVIS BETZ
ROB SULLIVAN

TIM HOLLORAN
DAVE NEEDY
JENNIFER JOHNSON
SEAN CONNOR
MIKE MAHONEY

LISA TREMBLAY
DELILAH GEORGE
KEN DAHLSTEDT
JOE VALENTINE
LETTY ALVAREZ

I. Welcome – Charlie Wend, Chair

Chairman Charlie Wend called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 a.m. and welcomed the Council and guests.

II. Introductions

All present introduced themselves with the names listed above. Heidi Kennedy introduced Alicia Wascklewicz from CPS.

III. Review and approval of February 11, 2015 minutes

The minutes from the February 11, 2015 Law & Justice Council meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as amended.

IV. Jail Update – Charlie Wend

Chairman Wend stated there is not much new information for the jail update this month. There is a meeting with the design group coming up March 27th that will focus in part on the areas of the new jail that will involve court proceedings. Court personnel are invited to attend. June 2015 is the target month to get equipment on site to start the environmental clean-up. August/September 2015 is the target date to get work started on the facility itself. Project Manager Marc Estvold is working with DLR to be prepared, when the time comes, to start receiving bids from contractors.

Delilah George commented on the recent design of the court video room and adjacent room and asked if the adjacent room is to be used for court staff.

Charlie stated that the video room is for court hearings and the adjacent room is for the video set up and court personnel.

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Charlie stated he spoke with a Seattle television news station and referred them to DLR to ensure the new jail will have the appropriate equipment to film hearings and trials in high profile cases.

There have been a couple dry runs of video hearings and IS still needs to cost it out.

The plan is that video will be used for the inmate's first appearance. Video visitation will be the predominate form of visitation in the new facility. However, the jail will still have interview room space for in-person visitation as necessary.

Charlie also would like to visit Kitsap County to see how their practice of using tablets is working. Programming may be used with tablets as well.

Sheriff Reichardt commented on a riot in a Texas prison because the inmates were upset about the use of video visitation and prefer in-person visitation.

Charlie thinks this issue arises more in private prisons and jails.

V. Needle Exchange Program – Corky Hundahl, Phoenix Recovery Services

Corky Hundahl presented on the Phoenix Mobile Needle Exchange Program (NEP) which will begin operating in April 2015. The PowerPoint presentation will be uploaded to the Law & Justice Council website which can be found at skagitcounty.net.

The RISE program is a mobile outreach project focused on Referral, Intervention, Safety, and Education for IV drug users, 18 years of age and older. The RISE van will be on the road Tuesdays, in Mount Vernon at Christ the King Church on Riverside Drive from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., and in Sedro-Woolley behind the Senior Center from 1 to 4 p.m.

The van will offer one-for-one needle exchange, counseling by a chemical dependency professional, safe needle disposal equipment, safer injection equipment, SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) early intervention, and referral to community services.

THE PURPOSE OF NEP:

- * Decrease transmission of blood borne infections;
- * Reduce amount of contaminated injection drug paraphernalia in the public waste system;
- * Reduce sharing of contaminated drug paraphernalia;

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* Provide intervention/referral to behavioral health services including, but not limited to Substance Use Disorder Treatment/MAT, including Detox and Residential Services, Mental Health Services, Medical Care, HIV Counseling and Testing, STD Testing and Treatment;

*Provide education on safer injection practices.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY NEP:

* Exchange of needles on a one-for-one basis;

* Counseling and referral by a licensed Chemical Dependency Professional;

* Provision of sharps containers, alcohol wipes, cotton balls, sterile water, Silgan cookers, latex free tourniquets, bandages, and condoms;

* Provision of informational handouts and referral materials;

* SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) early intervention.

POPULATION SERVED BY NEP:

NEP services will be provided to individuals residing in Skagit County, Washington who are eighteen (18) years of age or older. Needles or any drug paraphernalia will not be provided to anyone known to be under eighteen (18) years of age. Individuals will be screened for eligibility to receive NEP services. Individuals not enrolled in the NEP will not be provided services.

Corky has extended an invitation for any member interested in seeing how the program works first-hand to ride along.

Jennifer Johnson thanks Corky for running this program because the Health Department had to give up the NEP due to lack of funding. She also feels that engaging with individuals is the key to success. Jennifer believes that Phoenix is better able to serve community as they can get out around the community and serve the needs of those not in the immediate vicinity. She knows there is a large need for this program in East County and Anacortes.

Sheriff Reichardt asked how the information will be distributed about where the NEP van will be each week. Corky responded that at this time it is mostly by word of mouth and flyers. The van will travel on Tuesdays in Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley.

SW Police Chief Lin Tucker asked if Phoenix has the ability to create a small card with details about NEP that law enforcement can hand out. Corky responded in the affirmative.

Letty Alvarez asked if Phoenix has reached out to clinics such as SeaMar that can pass on the information within the community. She also asked if information for

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the Spanish speaking community will be provided. Corky agreed this will be the case.

Mavis Betz asked for cards to place in the Superior Court Clerk's Office.

Tim Holloran asked if there might be a stigma associated with the van once it is wrapped with NEP information. Corky responded that the message on the van will be general recovery information and Phoenix does not anticipate any stigma attached.

Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if Corky would make a presentation on the NEP to the County Commissioners Office so that it will be televised and reach a broader audience. He also stated that emphasizing the health care component would encourage hope among members of the community.

Chief Wend suggested that a presentation to local service clubs would be helpful in spreading the message of the NEP as well.

Sean Connor asked what can be offered to minors who might show up for the needle exchange since many drug users are under the age of 18 and minors are not legal to participate in this program. Corky advised that they can offer minors access to counseling, intervention, and options for treatment. They cannot give minors needles because the RCW allows for needle exchange only to persons aged 18 years and over.

VI. Announcements from the floor

Joe Valentine gave us an update on the Sedro-Woolley Mental Health facility. He also mentioned that Telecare Corporation will be involved. He anticipates the facility opening in July 2015.

Chief Wend thanked Rob Sullivan for accepting the member-at-large position of the Law & Justice Council.

VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2015, 8:15 a.m.

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.