

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 14th, 2012, 8:15 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

KEN BERGSMA	RICH WEYRICH	CHARLIE WEND
GREGG FREEMAN	DON McDERMOTT	TIM HOLLORAN
JENNIFER KINGSLEY	KEITH TYNE	CHUCK BENJAMIN
DELILAH GEORGE	SARAH HINMAN	MARC ESTVOLD
LaDESSA CROUCHER	PHIL McLAUGHLIN	ROXANE GOSS
LIN TUCKER	LARRY VANDYKE	LYNSI BURTON
LAURIE JAROLIMEK	ALAN ERICKSON	

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Ken Bergsma**, *Mount Vernon Police Chief and Law & Justice Council Chairman*.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting minutes be approved. The motion passed.

**MEETING TOPIC:**

**DOC VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM**

Angela Gogerty, the DOC Victim Liaison for Skagit County (and 6 neighboring Counties) spoke regarding specialized volunteer services DOC can provide victims to deal with the impending release of their offenders. "Their vision for victims and survivors of crime is that their voices are heard, valued, and included in a collective effort to hold offenders accountable, prevent future harm, and enhance community safety." (See Handout.)

**LILA LANE CRISIS CENTER UPDATE**

Larry Van Dyke gave a progress report on the Crisis Center since it's opening on 4/4/11. Since that date they have had over 400 admissions. They have been able to continue to offer Law Enforcement expedited drop off for persons with Mental Health and/or Detox crisis, who would otherwise have to be taken to the jail. The need is so great and the feedback has been so positive they are already looking to expand their facility to 16 beds.

**DUI COURT**

Sarah Hinman announced the start of a DUI court in Skagit County for non-felony DUI charges for repeat offenders. Those accepted into this POST-conviction program must be residents of Skagit County with no violent criminal history, who are committed to recovery. This 24 month program will not only benefit its participants but also help the overcrowding situation in the jail. (See handout)

## **DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

### **JAIL FACILITY TASK FORCE**

Marc Estvold gave a report on the 4 top sites for the proposed jail with pros and cons for each. This information and more has been presented to various city officials and groups with every angle being scrutinized. At the urging of the Prosecutor's office, a meeting of city partners and tribes, as well as county members, will meet on the 28<sup>th</sup> to ensure partnership on this important project and to come up with a unified, structured timeline and goal.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

This was the last meeting for NSMH's **Chuck Benjamin** who will be retiring tomorrow. He announced that his replacement will be Joe Valentine, and gave him a glowing recommendation. We wish Chuck the best and look forward to meeting Joe.

**MEETING TOPIC-** Ken Bergsma suggested that any member who has an idea for future meeting topics to e-mail [lauriej@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:lauriej@co.skagit.wa.us). We hope to continue to offer timely, interesting topics that benefit our members.

**NEXT MEETING-** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 11th, 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Approved \_\_\_4/11/12\_\_\_\_\_