

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

Attendance

Ken Bergsma
John Lum
Ken Dahlstedt
Alan Erickson
Pam Springer
Andrea Vallee
Vickie Maurer

Rich Weyrich
Gary Shand
Tim Holloran
Chuck Benjamin
Linda Eiford
Michael Ellis
Daniel Dempsey

Chris Loving
Gregg Freeman
Keith Tyne
Delilah George
Peter Browning
JB. Bryson

Handouts:

Law and Justice Council By-Laws; Budget Cuts presented by the North Sound Mental Health Administration Budget and Selection Committee Summary; Department of Corrections final budget; KOMO News update regarding Skagit County litter crew.

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.

Peter Browning gave a brief statement regarding the Swine Flu situation and the available vaccine. Gary Shand confirmed that the jail is taking hygienic prevention measures against this flu.

April 8, 2009 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the April 8, 2009 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

Law and Justice Council By-Laws

Gary Shand distributed a copy of the By-Laws and asked the Council to review its content. Gary asked the Council to note by-law 6.2, Conflict of Interest.

North South Mental Health Administration Budget Update

Chuck Benjamin discussed the various cuts affecting the North Sound Mental Health Administration in 2009-2010. Programs that suffered a total elimination include: Clubhouse; Children's Crisis Outreach Program; Children's Long-term Inpatient Liaison Program; Community Integration Assistance Program; LKI-Children's Service Program; Marty Smith funds. Other programs being reduced are: County Administration, Children's High Intensity, Non-Medicaid outpatient services to children and adults, Out of Network services, NSMHA Administration and Psychiatric Inpatient funds.

Chuck Benjamin also discussed the allocation of Federal Block Grant funds 2009-2010. At least 15% will be going to Skagit County.

Website

Gary Shand presented a draft of the Law and Justice Council website design. Numerous suggestions were made and a new draft will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Community Justice Center Update

Gary Shand reported that Charlie Wend continues to work on the Speaker's Bureau information packet. The final project is delayed due to financial numbers that need finalizing. Tim Holloran reported that those numbers will be available within one month. Ken Dahlstedt reported that the Board of Commissioners desires to convene a meeting or summit with all city and town mayors and council members to discuss the funding aspect of the jail project. Gary Shand discussed his frustration with the current limited jail space. Tim announced that this measure will be delayed until the Spring 2010 ballot.

Washington State Department of Correction Budget

Gregg Freeman reported that the Department of Correction budget was cut by 134 million which results in a loss of 520 staff over the next biennium. Community Corrections will lose approximately 180 positions, and supervise 9,000 fewer offenders. In Skagit County, about 125-150 offenders currently being supervised will no longer be under supervision. The DOC will continue to supervise offenders classified as High Violent or High Non-Violent, and all sex offenders regardless of classification. The department will not supervise gross misdemeanants sentenced out of Superior Court, with the exception of DV cases who have prior DV assault convictions, and misdemeanor sex offenders.

Caseload reductions begin July 25, 2009 and staff reductions begin October 1, 2009 and end March 1, 2010. Transitional housing is the only area where DOC received a budget increase and getting offenders out of prison on their earned release date will result in overall budget savings.

The next Law and Justice Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 a.m.

Approved: 6/10/09