

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, May 13, 2015
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

WILL REICHARDT
LADESSA CROUCHER
BONNIE BOWERS
MARGARET ROJAS
RICH WEYRICH

CHARLIE WEND
DALE RAGAN
CATHY SISK
ROXANE GOSS

TIM HOLLORAN
ROB SULLIVAN
MATT MILLER
SEAN CONNOR

LISA JANICKI
DELILAH GEORGE
KEN DAHLSTEDT
RON WESEN

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.

III. Review and approval of April 8, 2015 minutes

The minutes from the April 8, 2015 Law & Justice Council meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved.

IV. Jail Update – Charlie Wend

Chief Wend shared a progress update on the new jail. Plans continue to move forward on schedule. A cultural remains assessment of the site was recently completed with negative findings reported thus far.

There have been some challenges staying within budget, and initial cost estimations were inaccurate. A meeting is planned to work out possible solutions for how to modify design plans to bring them back within budget without sacrificing safety and security. Each solution brings different challenges and cost estimations are sometimes lower than what the reality ends up being.

There is a meeting planned Friday to discuss creating the jail transition team.

Sheriff Reichardt added that the plan of 400 beds with no changes to the programs is still intact.

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Dale Ragan asked when the existing buildings on the new jail site are coming down. To which Charlie replied, tentatively, June.

Ken Dahlstedt commented that we have to be careful of not cutting core services because it so expensive to bring it up to par later. He said the partners are not going to want us to come back later to ask for more money for expansion. And he explained that we are paying a project manager to help us stay on track so we don't get into a mess.

Lisa Janicki commented that the real risk is when the bids are opened. Contingency plans should be in place now. She asked what will happen if bids come in 10% over budget?

Sheriff Reichardt responded that if there is a silver lining it is that cost estimators tend to project mid-range – hopefully some bids will come in lower.

Dale Ragan asked when are the bids going out, and he shared his concern that he is seeing a lot of construction going on and this construction trend tends to drive bids up.

Sheriff Reichardt responded that the bid opening is August 10, 2015. He said that we have had a few large companies that build jails express their interest in bidding.

Tim Holloran commented that the bid specs are changed every time we make engineering changes at a cost of approximately \$60,000 per change. We expect jail operational costs to be 80% of the budget.

V. Catholic Community Services of Western Washington - Tory Sandoz, Treatment Supervisor

Tory Sandoz gave an informative presentation regarding substance abuse services available with Catholic Community Service (CCS). CCS has been around for a long time offering mental health and substance abuse recovery services to the youth and adults in our community. Youth services offered by CCS include: Assessment, Youth Awareness Group, Youth Education Group, 1x1 counseling, Youth Substance Abuse Group – Intensive Outpatient, Relapse Prevention Group – Outpatient, Detention services, and Urinalysis testing.

A year ago CCS was invited to participate in Youth Recovery Court and have had great success. There has been a noticeable drop in police contact and charges involving youth which is a big benefit to our community.

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CCS also offers a Recovery and Wellness Program for youths aged 16-24, to assist in those committed to living a clean and sober life. Coordinators are available to assist with housing, getting to appointments, finding a job, education, staying on track, and much more.

Transportation for youth from Anacortes has been a challenge. CCS is working with Island Hospital for possible options. A meeting was held with Skagit Transit but money is not available to add more route services from Anacortes. Resources are stretched with transportation.

CCS has an upcoming pilot project where they will be bringing in mental health specialists to work with the youth in our community.

CCS currently has 20-25 youths participating in in-patient and out-patient treatment. There is a waiting list for in-patient treatment.

Adult programming began in June 2014 and in September expanded to outlying areas. There are currently approximately 30 adults involved in out-patient treatment.

Tory announced their new Medication Assisted Treatment program is accepting new patients. This program is a Suboxone treatment program for treating addiction that includes the use of medication along with counseling and other support.

To refer to a CCS treatment program just call CCS. The mission of CCS is not to turn people away.

Tory welcomed all to attend CCS' open house celebrating their one year anniversary on Thursday, June 4, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at CCS Recovery Center, 614 Peterson Rd, Burlington, WA 98233. It is a great opportunity to get more information on the medication assisted program and the youth and adult recovery programs.

Chief Wend asked if CCS is able to help people without health insurance sign up with the Affordable Care Act. Tory responded in the affirmative.

Tory would like to get an ordinance passed to lock up alcohol in stores making it more difficult for our youth to have access. A discussion was held regarding the problems of keeping alcohol out of the hands of our youth. The privatization of selling alcohol made it much easier for our youth to obtain alcohol.

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VI. Announcements

Chief Wend shared that this week is Law Enforcement Week. He commented on the great article in the newspaper written by MVPD Chief Jerry Dodd about what Law Enforcement Week is all about. It is an opportunity to thank those in uniform for the work they do to keep the members and visitors of our community safe.

LaDessa Croucher shared that this past Friday they received word approving funds to train law enforcement with mediation training. They will be meeting with various law enforcement agencies to schedule trainings. Their mediation training is about communication skills and de-escalation and has had very positive reviews.

Chief Bowers shared that Anacortes PD is getting a drug dog. A search for one has been started.

Margaret Rojas gave an update that North Sound is getting ready for an open house and relocation.

Chief Wend thanked the members for their support of the letter sent to legislators regarding the proposed reductions to RSN Mental Health Services.

Commissioner Dahlstedt said the State is trying to lower funding on Behavioral Health treatment, causing problems for the jail and others. North Sound has 140 beds, and that is for all of western Washington. A 3-year contract has been funded by the State to assist in the re-opening of the North Sound Evaluation and Treatment Center (E&T), a 16 bed facility. It appears the State is now taking the position that if the North Sound E & T closes after that, the counties will have to deal with it.

Chief Wend asked Margaret if they are looking at other facilities not in Skagit County. Margaret replied that they do have a couple other facilities, including one in Snohomish County.

VII. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2015, 8:15 a.m.**

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.