

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 9th, 2010, 8:15 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Rick Grimstead	Ken Bergsma	Mike Ellis
Dave Needy	John Lum	Keith Tyne
Roxane Goss	Gregg Freeman	Ken Dahlstedt
Tim Holloran	Jennifer Kingsley	Peter Browning
Chuck Benjamin	Delilah George	Pam Springer
Linda Eiford	Charlie Wend	
Will Reichardt	Laurie Jarolimek	

Today's meeting began at 8:20 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Gregg Freeman**, *Skagit County Jail and Law & Justice Council Vice-Chairman*.

**May 12th, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the May 12th, 2010 meeting minutes be approved with changes noted. The motion carried.

**SPEAKERS:**

**Jere LaFollette** from Skagit Valley College, gave a presentation on the Community Integration Project, a partnership between Skagit Valley College, Skagit County Community Action Agency and the Department of Corrections. Their mission is to integrate previously incarcerated individuals into Skagit Valley with housing, college opportunities and employment. (See attached flyer.) So far this term they have worked with 12 offenders to procure housing and college assistance. They look for recently released offenders who are motivated to attend college. Studies have proven that a college degree greatly reduces future cost to the community as well as recidivism rates, which drop from 60% down to 13% with a college degree. He asked if the Council would be willing to offer a letter of endorsement they could include with their grant request to continue and expand their services in Skagit County. **Tim Holloran** made a motion to endorse this program. It was seconded. It was decided that **Charlie Wend** would draft a letter on the Council's behalf, prior to their June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Commissioner Dahlstedt** suggested the Community Integration Project also contact Ron Sims with King County as he is involved with HUD grants. **Chuck Benjamin** of NW Mental Health, volunteered his agency's assistance, as did **Jennifer Kingsley** of Skagit Community Services. **Tim Holloran** suggested they also consider tying in with the Skills Center in Anacortes as a possible resource.

**UPDATE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER:**

**Tim Holloran** gave a re-cap of the major points covered in the Facilities Task Force meeting on Tuesday, June 8th. Upon further discussion it was decided to meet with the city representatives on an individual basis prior to a summit conference regarding the new facility. The purpose is to hold a roundtable-type meeting to layout the situation and ask what they think is important and suggestions on how we can all work together for the common goal. The Task Force has asked for Council members to submit any topics or questions they could bring up in the city meetings. These need to be e-mailed to [lauriej@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:lauriej@co.skagit.wa.us) no later than Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> in order to compile a list for

meetings in July. It was brought up that similar questions might be on file, from several years ago, that could be updated. **Tim Holloran** said that **Emma Whitfield** is going through these files and would be able to forward them for updating. **Emma Whitfield** is the new Public Information officer for the county. She will also be part of the group that will be updating and completing the jail video for public awareness.

**Commissioner Dahlstedt** suggested that we need to move quickly if we want to get the Criminal Justice Center on the ballot by Spring, 2011. Otherwise, due to political timing, it is not likely to be put on a ballot until Spring, 2012. An ongoing newspaper campaign was also suggested.

**DEPARTMENT NEWS & FOLLOW UP:**

**John Lum**, *Youth & Family Services*, was following up regarding the Council's authorization for the Byrne Grant. The Council motioned and approved authorization.

**Peter Browning**, *Health Department*, noted that there has been a significant rise in the Needle exchange program, as much as 80% over last year. The highest percentage group is young men. He also mentioned that Project Homeless, which provides healthcare access to the homeless, is set for September.

**Next Meeting**- is scheduled for Wednesday, July 14th, 2010.  
Meeting was adjourned at 9:07.

Approved 7/14/2010