

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 2009**

**Attendance**

Gary Shand  
Ken Bergsma  
Linda Eiford  
John Lum  
Patti Omdal  
Chris Loving  
Chuck Benjamin

Roxane Goss  
Rich Weyrich  
Gregg Freeman  
Delilah George  
Tim Holloran  
Ken Dahlstedt

Jim Donovan  
Rick Grimstead  
Maile Keliipio-Acoba  
Pam Springer  
Peter Browning  
Laurie Jarolimek

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with a welcome from *Gary Shand, Skagit County Jail, Chair of the Law & Justice Council.*

**June 10, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the June 10, 2009 amended meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**WA State DOC-** *Gregg Freeman* updated the council on upcoming closures of misdemeanor causes and screening of felony cases due to statewide budget cuts.

**Human Services-** *Maile Keliipio-Acoba* provided information on changes in the areas of Developmental Disabilities, Substance Abuse Treatment and Mental Health. (See attached)

**District Court-** *Pam Springer*, updated the Council on the final figures for the Fine Amnesty program as well as the subsequent increase in accounts sent to collections after this grace period. During the two month period, more than 900 cases were processed and over \$163,000 in fees were collected.

**Superior Court-** *Delilah George*, updated the Council on the electronic display boards with the courts' calendars that will be located at the front of the Public Safety Building and at the front and back of the Courthouse. Each display board will show the name, time and location of every hearing or trial in Superior, District and Municipal Court. The municipal courts will get display panels also as money accrues in the trial court improvement fund. This is expected to greatly aid the public in locating their hearing or trial and getting there on time. Public service announcements and alerts might also be displayed when court is not in session.

**SPEAKERS:**

*Patti Omdal*, DSHS Regional Administrator for Juvenile Rehab, Region 3, gave a presentation on major changes affecting juvenile parole services. See attached.

*John Lum, Youth & Family Services*, proposed that the Council consider drafting a letter to send to the Governor to request restoring enhanced parole in view of these cuts in service.

*Linda Eiford, District Court Probation*, gave a presentation on the Annual Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week, July 19-25<sup>th</sup>.

## **JUSTICE CENTER UPDATE**

*Gary Shand, Jail*, related that the Justice Center committee has completed their involvement with the architect at this time. Lower cost options are being reviewed at this point. Staffing needs are being discussed with planner.

*Tim Halloran, Commissioners Office*, advised that the Facilities Task Force is currently looking into two possible grants in connection with building a new Justice Center.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Questions were brought up about how to prepare in the 4-5 year minimum interim period. *Chris Loving, Burlington City Council*, brought up the suggestion that the cities become more involved with jail alternative plans as all have large empty buildings that could possibly be used as one day offender type facilities. He suggested setting up a sub-committee to deal with interim problems.

*Pam Springer, District Court*, asked that jail booking and release figures be distributed to the council and made available to the public to raise awareness of the continued jail overcrowding issues. (The figures for 6/28-7/4/09 were sent out to members, following the meeting.)

*Peter Browning, Health Dept.*, wanted to pass on a FYI to members to be aware that the Health Dept. is seeing a substantial increase in needle exchanges lately.

Please forward future program questions and projections to Laurie Jarolimek for Council consideration.

The next Law and Justice Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2009.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:35 a.m.

Approved 8/12/09