

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 12th, 2012, 8:15 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

CHARLIE WEND	WILL REICHARDT	RICH WEYRICH
JENNIFER KINGLSLEY	DAVE NEEDY	TIM HOLLORAN
DALE RAGAN	DANIEL DEMPSEY	DEANNIE NELSON
KEN DAHLSTEDT	BONNIE BOWERS	MARC ESTVOLD
LaDESSA CROUCHER	LINSI BURTON	SHARON DILLON
RON WESEN	PETER BROWNING	MICHAEL ELLIS
LAURIE JAROLIMEK		

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Charlie Wend**, *Skagit County Chief of the Jail*.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

There was a motion and second by the Council that the July 11th, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as written. The motion passed.

PROGRAM:

Step Down Housing Behavioral Health Program-**Larry Van Dyke** and **Ellen Hurtado** from Pioneer Human Services. This program accepts referrals for individuals with a history of Behavioral Health Illnesses who are already in exiting institutions such as treatment, hospital, jail. They will soon be able to offer up to a 6 month transitional stay in a 12 bed, 24 hour staffed residential facility. The goal is to give previously homeless persons suffering from either mental health or substance abuse issues a stable place to stay while working toward independent housing and assistance in contacting agencies for ongoing support. They hope to open their facility November 1st. Council members recognized the big demand for this type of facility and offered to help get the word out to the community.

PACT-**Greg Long** from NSMHA and **Judy Heinemann** from Compass Health.

PACT is an intensive mental health program for people with mental illnesses and its main focus is on taking people out of the State and community hospitals that have had multiple hospitalizations. One way of looking at it is that it is a psychiatric ward without walls. It can help jails and law enforcement with some of their repeat folks with very serious mental illnesses. It is not a jail diversion project and it does not accept people whose principle diagnoses are character disorders (Axis II) or substance abuse. They take a team approach with each participant to ensure there is always someone familiar with their needs. They plan to take their first client in February. There is a big need for Peer Counselors as the training is backlogged at this time. **Jennifer Kingsley** of Community Services recommended CVAB as a resource to facilitate training.

COUNCIL UPDATES:

It was suggestion by Sheriff Reichardt that Anacortes Police Chief Bonnie Bowers be appointed to fill the Municipal Police Chief's position on the Council, left open by Chief Bergsma's retirement. A motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously by the Council. Chief Bowers accepted the appointment.

It was suggested that all Police Chief's receive the minutes of the Law & Justice meetings. (They have now been added and will receive copies via e-mail, starting with the September meeting.)

We are now seeking Nominations for 2013 Law & Justice Board members. If members would like to be considered for a position on the Board, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Laurie Jarolimek at lauriej@co.skagit.wa.us if you have any questions, or to get your name on the ballot.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

JAIL FACILITY TASK FORCE: Marc Estvold announced that the next meeting of the Jail Coordinating Council would meet on Thursday, September 13th. The original Jail Consulting group, Voorhis, will be presenting an updated report with their recommendations. An architectural group will be studying the current jail building and providing their recommendations at the October meeting as to whether the building could be modified to support a new jail or how it could best be re-used when the jail moves out.

These meetings are open to the public and are now taped and available online.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER: LaDessa Croucher informed us of Professional Mediation training and Conflict Resolution in the Workplace Training announcements. These classes are sponsored by the Dispute Resolution Center. Anyone interested should call 1-800-280-4770.

NEXT MEETING- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th, 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25.

Approved 10/10/12 _____