

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

ATTENDANCE:

Gary Shand	Rich Weyrich	Gregg Freeman
Ken Dahlstedt	Tim Holloran	Jennifer Kingsley
Keith Tyne	Alan Erickson	Chuck Benjamin
Delilah George	Linda Eiford	Michael Ellis
Sarah Hinman	Laurie Jarolimek	

Today's meeting began at 8:25 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Gary Shand**, *Skagit County Jail and Law & Justice Council Chairman*.

July 14th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the July 14th, 2010 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

Tim Holloran, *County Administrator*- introduced **Emma Whitfield**, *Skagit County Public Relations*, and **Brian Young**, *Producer Skagit County TV*, who gave an insightful overview on the proposed direction the Jail Video will be taking. The vision is to have a 5-10 minute informative presentation to make the public aware of the critical jail situation and to generate discussion. (This presentation can be seen online at the Law & Justice website, which has just gone public as of September 14th, 2010.) Council members congratulated them both on their grasp of the subject and the work they have done on the project thus far. There are plans to incorporate footage from previous jail video and specific instances with law enforcement and mental health issues, while still keeping the overall presentation short and to the point, for higher impact with the general public.

Linda Eiford, *District Court Probation* - Informed the council about a new 2 day offender program aimed at first and second time Domestic Violence offenders. The first program will be held Sept. 24th and 25th. The goal is to have approximately 15 participants in each session and have sessions every 2-3 months. The sessions will consist of 8 hours of Anger management, 8 hours of Community Service work and 1 ½ hours before a DV Impact Panel. This program is a collaboration between the Interagency Task Force on Domestic Violence, the Probation Department, Jail Programs, Prosecutor's Office, Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley Police Departments, and Skagit Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services. The offender's cost for each session will be \$135. We are hoping that in providing DV education to offenders early on, the chance of recidivism is lessened. With the current jail overcrowding, DV arrests are one of the only misdemeanor crimes where defendants actually go to jail. Because the Prosecutor's DV grant comes to an end on December 31, 2010, the Probation Department will no longer have a dedicated DV Probation Officer unless the Commissioners agree to pick up the cost for the position, so the future of this new program is uncertain. It was also mentioned that the county as a whole investigates around 2,000 DV incidents per year, yet domestic violence is one of the major crime categories in the county that has no dedicated detective to follow up on cases.

Sarah Hinman, *Community Services*, Informed the council of a new grant they have been awarded to provide substance abuse counseling by Skagit Recovery, while still in the jail. A dedicated corrections deputy would coordinate between inmates and treatment providers to expedite services. Treatment is set to begin October 1st.

SPEAKER:

Quinn Slayton, and Colleen Pacheco, *Volunteer Program Manager with Skagit County Community Action Agency*-Gave an overview and recap of the first Project Homeless Connect held in Skagit County on September 1st, at the Skagit Valley College campus (See handout). The purpose of the event was primarily to put homeless in touch with organizations and services that can help them and to actually have someone there to help walk them through the process. This was also a unique opportunity for members of the community see the homeless as individuals.

DEPARTMENT NEWS & FOLLOW UP:

2011 Law & Justice Executive Board- An announcement for nominations was made.

Next Meeting- is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13th, 2010.
Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Approved 10/13/10