

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 12th, 2011, 8:15 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

Ken Bergsma	Rich Weyrich	Dave Needy
Gregg Freeman	Tim Holloran	Alan Erickson
Chuck Benjamin	Delilah George	Mike Mahoney
Daniel Dempsey	Sarah Hinman	Roxane Goss
Gary Shand	Sharon Dillon	Lynsi Burton
Lin Tucker	Larry Otos	Dale Ragan
Laurie Jarolimek		

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Ken Bergsma**, *Mount Vernon Police Chief and Law & Justice Council Chairman*.

September 14th, 2011 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the September 14th, 2011 meeting minutes be approved with attendance correction. The motion carried.

MEETING TOPIC: HOMELESS HOUSING PANEL

Panel consisted of representatives from Friendship House, Skagit DV and Sexual Assault Services, Oasis Teen Center, and Community Action. The panel members outlined their services for the Homeless in Skagit County, as well as the increasing scope of the homeless problem, and the impact that State budget cuts are having. After the presentations, North Sound Mental Health and the local Chemical Dependency providers outlined the loss of services that they will incur should the 5% or 10% budget cuts occur. The Council resolved to bring a consortium of local service and treatment providers together with some elected officials to discuss the impact that the cuts will have on our local community—the service providers, jail, police, hospital, etc. (Handouts)

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Jail task Force Update – County Administrator, **Tim Holloran**, announced that hiring a Jail Facilities Project Manager is almost complete. The 2 year contract will cover planning, research, coordination of services, financing. Design and construction will be handled under a separate contract. The question was raised about looking into alternate funding, such as bonds. This will also be under consideration.

Mental Health Services Update- **Chuck Benjamin**, from NSMH, gave a detailed breakdown of how their services will have to be downsized due to additional budget cuts of over \$172M statewide. (Handouts)

Substance Abuse Services Update- **Alan Erickson** provided a breakdown of the DSHS cuts to Community Services' Chemical Dependency Treatment Centers and the impact they will have on Skagit County. (Handouts)

Commissions Update: Commissioner **Sharon Dillon** related that the Commissioners will meet with the Governor in November with a proposition explaining that Counties cannot cut up front services without giving them some means to handle the change, such as flexible usage of funds.

Tim Holloran suggested that agencies in Skagit County need to get together to figure out how they are going to handle local cuts to these programs. He volunteered to follow up on a group with local leaders from Mental Health, Jail, Hospital and Substance Abuse.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Nominations for .1% Law & Justice member -Tabled till next month.

Gary Shand made a motion to nominate the existing officers to serve another term. This was seconded and approved. Their names will be placed on ballot for the December election.

NEXT MEETING- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9th, 2011.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Approved ___11/09/11_____