

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Ken Bergsma  
Gary Shand  
Chris Loving  
Chuck Benjamin  
Charlie Wend

Rich Weyrich  
Pam Springer  
Gregg Freeman  
Peter Browning  
Phil McLaughlin

John Lum  
Linda Eiford  
Delilah George  
Will Reichardt  
Michael Ellis  
Laurie Jarolimek

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

**October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the October 14th, 2009 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**DOC**, *Gregg Freeman*, Director – Announced that Charlie Wend had recently been promoted to Regional Field Supervisor for Dept. of Corrections.

**Youth & Family Services**, *John Lum*, Director – Work continues on setting up guidelines for a sub-committee on Juvenile Justice.

**County Jail**, *Gary Shand*, Jail Chief- County is looking for jail alternative inmate work opportunities due to closure of Parks and Fairground. *Delilah George* from Superior Court put in a recommendation for the work release crew that had recently helped at the Law Library, saying they had done an excellent job. *Ken Bergsma*, Mount Vernon Police, mentioned that Mount Vernon might have opportunities needing work release inmates.

Jail booking information will be sent out on a more regular basis very shortly. This information will be sent to Law & Justice members and to the Skagit Valley Herald in the effort to help educate the public on the need for a new jail. Skagit 21-Television is working on a jail video for public education. A preliminary viewing is planned for January's meeting.

**SPEAKER:** *Chuck Benjamin*, North Sound Mental Health Executive Director, introduced *Julie de Losada*, Quality Specialist for NSMH to speak about the Children's Wraparound program, a coordinated system of care for families of mental health youths and their needs. This Family driven/Youth guided program incorporates paid mentors who have been through the system themselves. (See attached handouts)

**Criminal Justice Center Update**, *Charlie Wend*, DOC, reported that January would kick off some intensive planning for the challenges being faced by building a new jail during times of budget shortfall. Strategies on how and when to present the idea to voters would be addressed. After the first of the year the county would have a better idea of funding available.

Discussion followed regarding when the Criminal Justice Center might be put on the ballot. It was mentioned that November, 2010 would only be possible if feeling is we've turned the corner and the public would be open to supporting construction AND operation funding. How do you scale down without sacrificing needs? Treatment is not a luxury as this affects number of beds necessary in a jail, which affects cost. Open discussion followed on how we might convince the public of the very real need for a new jail as soon as possible. Prevention is part of the total package and needs to be conveyed to the public from the beginning.

**NOTE:** Please forward nominations for officers for next year's Law & Justice Council to Laurie Jarolimek to be put on the January ballot. See article III of the By-laws for criteria.

There will not be a December meeting of the Law and Justice Council. Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20.

Minutes approved 1/13/2010