

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 10th, 2010, 8:15 a.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Rick Grimstead	Ken Bergsma	Rich Weyrich
Dave Needy	Lisa Rumsey for John Lum	Gary Shand
Charlie Wend	Gregg Freeman	Delilah George
Pam Springer	Linda Eiford	Will Reichardt
Michael Ellis	Roxanne Goss	Deannie Nelson
Margaret Rojas for Chuck Benjamin	Kristen Ekstrain for Andrea Vallee	Laurie Jarolimek

Today's meeting began at 8:20 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Gregg Freeman**, *Department of Corrections and Law & Justice Council Vice-Chairman*.

**October 13, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion and second by the Council that the October 13th, 2010 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

Current membership list was passed around for updating contact information.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES:**

**Dave Yount**, *Youth & Family Services*- Update on the new truancy petition process for this school year. School and court involvement in the truancy process, as well as alternate programs such as "Why Try" were explained. (See handouts.)

Jail Video Update, Production committee is in the process of gathering sound bytes from key individuals for the jail video.

**Margaret Rojas** from *North Sound Mental Health* gave an update on the recent cuts to the Mental Health budget in this area, including the closure of the NSMH EMT center in Skagit. This area has had 2 facilities, but only one facility is mandated. Due to budget constraints the Skagit center will close, and the Mukilteo center will remain. It is expected that Skagit Valley Hospital as well as St. Joe's in Bellingham will take up the slack the closure creates. A question was raised as to whether these facilities will treat or just hold and release according to availability.

**Charlie Wend** from *DOC*, gave an update on the Community Integration Grant with Skagit Valley College, Community Services and releasing offenders. Initially 5-6 participants was the target. To date 14-20 are actually participating. Group GPA's are running between 2.8-4.0. None of the offenders have relapsed while involved in this program. This program has been a huge success thus far. Funding through VISTA has run out for next year. Currently looking for another source for the \$4500 needed to continue.

**Gary Shand**, *Skagit County Jail*, updated the group on the progress of the Inmate Substance Abuse Treatment Grant. It is scheduled to begin on 11/15/10. An interim deputy has been assigned to coordinate services between inmates and Skagit Recovery.

**Linda Eiford**, representing the 1/10 of 1% committee, funding substance abuse and mental health programs, would like input on level of importance for their funding.

Questions were raised on the status of the Lilah Lane Detox Facility. Their contract with Compass Health is up soon. Staffing changes may occur. Funding through North Sound has been withdrawn due to budget cuts. Easier physical access to the property by law enforcement will also be looked into.

**Charlie Wend** brought up that the Peer Connection is providing a great service to this area and is heavily used. There is no other facility providing this same service anywhere around. He strongly urged that funding continue past the current June cutoff.

**Sheriff Rick Grimstead** introduced new Sheriff Elect, **Will Reichardt**.

A call for nominations for 2011 Law & Justice Executive Board was announced. By-laws were available for pickup for any interested parties. Please submit any nominations to Administrative Asst., **Laurie Jarolimek**, before the next meeting. Those nominated will be contacted and added to the ballot. Elections will be in January.

**Next Meeting**- is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8th, 2010.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Approved \_12/8/10\_\_\_\_\_