

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2014

8:20 a.m. – 9:06 a.m.

Attendance:

CHARLIE WEND	WILL REICHARDT	BONNIE BOWERS	JUDGE DAVE NEEDY
DELILAH GEORGE	SHARON WHITTAKER	TIM HOLLORAN	JOE VALENTINE
GREGG FREEMAN	DEANNIE NELSON	MARC ESTVOLD	COMMISSIONER SHARON DILLON
LISA TREMBLAY	HEIDI KENNEDY	BILL HENKEL	DALE RAGAN
MICHAEL ELLIS	ROXANE GOSS	ROB SULLIVAN	DEANNA RANDALL-SECRET
SEAN CONNOR	CATHY SISK	COMMISSIONER KEN DAHLSTEDT	COMMISSIONER RON WESEN

I. Welcome - Chairman Charlie Wend

Chairman Charlie Wend called the meeting to order at 8:20 A.M. and welcomed the Committee and guests.

II. Introductions

All present introduced him or herself. Their names are listed above.

III. Review and approval of January 15, 2014 minutes

The minutes from the last Law & Justice Council meeting were reviewed. Bonnie Bowers moved to approve; 2nd by Lisa Tremblay. Motion passed.

IV. Mandated Law & Justice Members Outreach

Charlie reported that there are many members that are mandated to be on the Law & Justice Council that have not participated. He will be doing an outreach and sending out letters inviting them to the Law & Justice Council meetings. There are many important decisions that will be made in the next few months and their voice is important.

V. Current Jail

a. Medical Bills and the Affordable Care Act.

The Council heard from Anacortes Police Chief Bonnie Bowers who reported that they have recognized that jail medical costs can run anywhere from \$5K to \$25K per year. These costs are unknown ahead of time and impossible to budget for and a medical situation can happen quickly, and surgery and after care costs add up rapidly. The City of Anacortes is doing the research and has done the cost analysis which reflects that it is less expensive to enroll an inmate under the ACA (Affordable Care Act) since the person is indigent. Once the inmate gives their consent, the City can purchase the insurance. If an inmate is not a danger to the community, the City can also release them and have them report back after their health situation is resolved. The City has been working with Community Services. The City completed a Resolution (See attached Resolution No.

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600 South Third Street, Mount Vernon**

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

1884) which identifies the criteria. This is basically shifting the medical costs from the municipality to the federal government.

Mr. Wend added that it takes approximately one hour to enroll a defendant. Commissioner Dahlstedt asked if it was legal to pick and choose who to enroll with insurance coverage. Chief Bowers stated that it was in fact legal as long as the cost analysis was completed.

b. Outsourcing.

Mr. Wend reported that Snohomish County is cancelling their contract with Skagit County effective May 2014. This has caused him and his team to plan site visits at Chelan and other places too. Transportation is still an issue. Okanogan is filled up and has no room for Skagit's inmates. Currently, Skagit is utilizing five beds at Snohomish County; it used to be up to 25 beds.

VI. New Jail Project

a. Space DLR meetings.

Marc Estvold reported that DLR has been meeting with departments to define spaces and space programming and are working to keep the square fee within the budget.

They will go to the Planning Commission on March 18th. Based upon the draft, the group expects that the EIS will show that either site can work with some alternations. It will also address missed (business/economic) opportunities. In early March, the cost matrix will also be completed. The good news is that they haven't encountered any huge problems. In early May, the planning group plans to go to the Mount Vernon City Council, and will ultimately include one or more public hearings.

Mr. Wend added that we are still on course for the Law & Justice Council to make recommendations regarding the siting of the new jail. The cost matrix will be forwarded to all Law and Justice Council members prior to the next meeting – in March.

Tim Holloran stated that of the 30 year cost of the new jail, 20% are capital costs; operational costs are 80%. It is critical that the users of the facility capture their operational costs so that the BOCC have that information for making their decision. Sheriff Reichardt said that a meeting will be scheduled with all affected departments regarding capturing those operational costs. Mr. Holloran stated that people needed to be closer to the courts than to the jail. Commissioner Ron Wesen pointed out that there may be an increase in departments' budgets depending upon the eventual location, and they need to know the detail.

b. Finance Committee

Tim Holloran reported that they received a list of names to chair the Finance Committee. They chose Mark Venn, former Superintendent of Public Schools from Sedro-Woolley. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2014.

VII. Senate-Human Services & Correction Committee update

Charlie Wend reported on the recent trip to Olympia. He said that Senator Pearson and Representative Lytton both have been very receptive, and the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee members had good questions for the panel. Senator Pearson said even if the Community Integration Program wasn't funded this year, it may be next year. **Charlie** stated

**Sheriff's Office Training Room, Public Safety Building
600 South Third Street, Mount Vernon**

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

that they are forging ahead with the project regardless but hoped for a match. There is a commitment from the college; they still have people coming to the Jail and meeting with the inmates helping them with housing and education. Gregg Freeman stated that they are now tracking all the information and looking at the numbers. Since they began tracking data about four months ago, they have had 20 students enrolled in the CIP. About 9 students are from DOC, and the balance of the students are either in Drug Court or referrals from the Jail.

VIII. Updates and Announcements from the floor

- Gregg Freeman – DOC rents 250 beds in Snohomish County; costs have risen for medical for DOC too. It is also not uncommon for DOC to be turned away from Snohomish County due to inmate's mental health issues.
- Dale Ragan – Their city has approved an out of state travel request for one of their officers to attend the drug court conference. He stated that he has learned a lot about drug courts.
- Will Reichardt – Their previous canine retired (old age). Cost to buy and train a new one \$8,500-\$10K. A woman wanted to donate the costs but it was a challenge to find the process to accept the gift. They worked with the County Auditor to do this. The dog's name is ESPO and Deputy Moses will be the handler.
- Tim Holloran- Thanked everyone and said how much he appreciated all the work that the Law & Justice Council had done on the Jail project.
- Rob Sullivan – newly hired by Pioneer Human Services to direct the Crisis Center. He has found challenges in after care and connecting people to services.
- Delilah George – Stated that three teams are attending the upcoming national drug court conference in Anaheim. They are Mental Health Court, Adult Drug Court and Youth Recovery Court (YRC). This annual conference has a comprehensive agenda, the best professional speakers, and offers the teams new ideas that they can bring back.
- Lisa Tremblay – Confirmed that their new YRC team will be attending the national conference. Their specialty court is unique since they are combining mental health and substance abuse kids who have been falling through the cracks. This will be a wrap-around concept. The RFP for the treatment provider is currently out and the deadline is February 14, 2014. They are hoping to launch the new specialty court in April.
- Heidi Kennedy – They are fully staffed now (DSHS). In 2013 there were 661 investigations – family contacts. In January, they had 72 referrals. They have found that people need more support and assessments rather than investigations. A Leadership Skagit team is using their visitation rooms as a project. They will repaint and get developmental activities for the children, good activities that can be enjoyed by the child and parent during their visit.
- Commissioner Dillon – Stated that the trip to Olympia was worthwhile and shows the Senators that we know what we're doing!
- Joe Valentine (NSMHA) – The State needs more money to fund more capacity. The State will provide 24/7 nursing services beginning in July. It is an effort to keep people out of the hospital.

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Skagit County Law & Justice Council

- Deannie Nelson- She went with a group and toured the SCORE facility. The SCORE jail has no courtroom and does everything video. She saw how well it can all work with their space. If anyone has an opportunity to go see the facility, it is worth the time.

IX. Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 8:15

X. Adjourn 9:06 a.m.