

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

Charlie Wend
Jail Commander
Chairman

Lisa Tremblay
Juvenile Court Dir.
Vice-Chair

Rob Sullivan
Director PHS
Member-at-Large

Cathy Sisk
Jail/Court Coordinator
Secretary

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2015
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

WILL REICHARDT
MARC ESTVOLD
RON WESEN
MICHAEL ELLIS
SHARON WHITAKER
DON MCDERMOTT

CHARLIE WEND
LISA JANICKI
CATHY SISK
ROXANE GOSS
MAVIS BETZ
JERRY DODD

TIM HOLLORAN
DAVE NEEDY
JENNIFER JOHNSON
SEAN CONNOR
DOROTHY MCMILLAN
ROB SULLIVAN

DALE RAGAN
DELILAH GEORGE
DEANNIE NELSON
MATT MILLER
LETTY ALVAREZ
STEVE BERENTSON

I. Welcome – Charlie Wend, Chair

Chairman Charlie Wend called the meeting to order at approximately 8:20 a.m. and welcomed the Council and guests.

II. Introductions

All present introduced themselves with the names listed above.

III. Review and approval of January 14, 2015 minutes

The minutes from the January 14, 2015 Law & Justice Council meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved as amended.

IV. Jail Update – Marc Estvold

Project Manager Marc Estvold gave his report on the jail project. He stated we have closed on the final piece of property and are two-thirds of the way through the design process. He also stated we are working with an environmental group and clean up on the site should start in June 2015 and be finished by mid-July, 2015.

The new jail should be complete in the spring of 2017. The jail should be taking its first inmate on May 8, 2017. Mr. Estvold will bring the final core plans to the March 2014 meeting for review by the council members.

Sheriff Reichardt thanked Mr. Estvold for the great job he has done in bringing the jail plans back to budget.

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V. JAIL ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM – Sgt. Ron Coakley

An informative presentation was given by Sgt. Ron Coakley on the Jail Alternatives Program. The Skagit County Jail Alternatives Program was created in 1995 as way of reducing overcrowding in the jail. The Alternatives Program includes Electronic Home Monitoring, Community Service Work Program, Work Release, Litter Crew and In-Custody Workers.

The goal of the program is to provide options to total incarceration while allowing offenders to continue to work and/or attend treatment programs. Once a defendant is sentenced, if the judge allows it and the inmate meets the program requirements, the inmate is assessed to determine which program is best for them. All Program inmates are “booked in” and listed on the Skagit County Jail Roster.

Work Release: Inmates live in the jail but this alternative gives the participants the opportunity to retain their jobs by allowing them to go to work from the jail, and return to the jail after work. This allows them to pay their financial obligations, such as victim restitution and court fees and fines, and to continue to support their families. Most offenders also pay a daily fee to participate in the program, so some of the costs are borne by them.

Electric Home Monitoring (EHM): EHM allows the inmate to live at home on house arrest. They are also able to go to work, school, attend medical appointments, and self-help meetings such as AA. The inmate is tracked very closely to ensure compliance.

Transdermal Alcohol Monitoring (TAD): 75% of inmates on EHM also are being monitored by TAD, which is a continuous alcohol detection system which measures the amount of alcohol in the offender’s system through their sweat.

GPS: GPS monitoring is rarely used because of the prohibitive cost.

Community Service Work and Litter Crew: Individuals on the Community Service Work and Litter Crew programs have been involved in numerous projects, with continuing benefits for the citizens of Skagit County. These include litter removal, clean up of dump sites, maintenance of courthouse and park grounds, and cleaning SKAT buses, to name a few. Programs such as these give individuals the opportunity to be involved in positive community projects, while at the same time fulfilling their obligations to the judicial system.

1 and 3 Day Offender Programs: These programs are partnered with the Skagit County Parks Department and held at the Skagit County Fairgrounds. Offenders must pay to participate and may spend their sentenced jail time of 1-3 days staying at, working, and cleaning up at the fairgrounds while being supervised by

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the jail. This saves the jail from having to house the inmates at the jail, thus freeing up beds for other offenders. Participants also complete the requirements imposed often by the courts of substance abuse evaluations and education classes while participating in the one and three day offender programs.

Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT): Deputy Julie Zorn is in charge of the RSAT program within the jail. Partnered with Pioneer Human Services, this comprehensive outpatient treatment consists of 12-16 weeks of group treatment with a goal of reducing recidivism.

Sgt. Coakley also stated that on any given day, the jail may have 50-75 inmates participating in the various programs within the Jail Alternatives Program and is expected to grow when the new jail opens in 2017.

Jennifer Johnson asked if female inmates will have an opportunity to participate in the RSAT program when the new jail is built. Sgt. Coakley responded in the affirmative.

Dorothy McMillan, DOC, stated that DOC is still using GPS monitoring but only on level 3 sex offenders and dangerous offenders.

VI. Announcements from the floor

Chairman Wend will soon be visiting Thurston County to view how their jail uses its video system for court hearings as well as how they are addressing the transition from their current setting into their “new” jail. He stated that Kitsap County uses tablets for many uses in their jail, including off-site visitations, and Charlie is looking at taking a small team there as well to explore the use of tablets in the new Skagit County Jail. He would like to look further into expanding our current and future jail’s use of technology.

Sheriff Reichardt stated that the legislature is in session and the law enforcement lobbyists are working on guiding legislation affecting law enforcement. The legislature is considering taking away the sentencing discretion of the judges and jail programs. The Sheriff would like individual counties to continue to have the discretion to decide what should happen in their individual counties.

Anacortes Councilman Matt Miller asked if the jail programs would be influenced by the house bills currently being considered. The bills are SB 5766, which would establish performance requirements and measures for monitoring agencies providing home detention programs utilizing electronic monitoring; and HB 1943 concerning home detention.

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Chairman Wend advised that the jail is close to signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Skagit DV Services to provide victim advocate services to inmates in custody who have been abused and victimized.

Margaret Rojas of North Sound Mental Health Administration advised that they are taking bidders out to the North Sound Evaluation and Treatment Center property today and expect to have a contract in place in April 2015. They hope to be up and running by July 2015.

Jennifer Johnson stated that Public Health and Community Services is formulating a contract with Phoenix Recovery to bring back the needle exchange program that was lost a few years ago due to lack of funding. They will have a mobile unit that will access different areas of the county to make it easier for those needing this service to participate in the program. She suggested that Sarah Hinman make a presentation to the Council on the needle exchange.

Ms. Johnson also presented that the Health Department is shifting its focus from being a direct service organization to becoming a population health resource and broker, working with community partners who do appropriately provide direct service to community members. She stated that the immunization clinics are closing this spring and summer. More information may be found on the Health Department website.

Charlie Wend said that the Health Department has been the main medical provider in the jail, but that the jail is looking at who might step in to continue to provide care to inmates with Public Health and Community Services moving away from the acute care role they filled have in the jail. The jail is looking at systems designed to deliver health care to inmates without having to involve corrections deputies, a step that will help to ensure, amongst other things, compliance with HIPPA rules.

Ms. Johnson stated that the goal of the Health Department is to take away all medical related duties from the corrections deputies.

Dorothy McMillan, DOC, gave an update on the case load carried by the probation officers at DOC, which are approximately 40 people per officer. She said DOC arrests between 1-7 people per day who violate their release conditions. She also stated that DOC does not supervise property crime offenders because of the greater need to supervise violent offenders. However, there is new legislation being proposed that property crime offenders also be supervised because of the increase in property crimes in our state.

Anacortes Councilman Miller announced that the 86.7 million dollar bond passed in Anacortes, which will allow them to build a new high school. He is pleased

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that Chief Wend is meeting with Thurston County to avoid some of the issues they have run into with their jail.

Mavis Betz, Superior Court Clerk, stated the Clerk's Office is still proceeding with their goal of going paperless by the end of the year.

Commissioner Lisa Janicki said the information she gets from the Law & Justice Council meetings help her to better understand the needs of the new jail and this helps her when making budgetary decisions.

Letty Alvarez, OAC, stated she has to spend more time at the jail because of the changes made to the court hearing schedules and thanked Chief Wend for the help she is getting from the jail making it easier for her to meet with inmates.

Undersheriff Don McDermott was welcomed today by Sheriff Reichardt. The Sheriff described to the council members the reorganization of his administration and Don's promotion to Undersheriff. Undersheriff McDermott shared his goals for working with the Division Chiefs as a team.

County Administrator Tim Holloran thanked Sheriff Reichardt for his leadership in working with the City partners regarding medical costs and budgeting for the new jail in trying to provide some predictability in medical costs within the jail.

Sean Connor expressed his appreciation for today's presentation on the Jail Alternatives Program.

Commissioner Wesen expressed the same appreciation and suggested a presentation be held during a Commissioner's hearing so the public will have a better understanding of the positive ways the inmates and community benefits from the Jail Alternatives Program.

Court Administrator Delilah George stated that recently the US Marshall's Office assessed how Skagit County approaches courthouse security. She asked if the assessment had been provided yet.

Chief Wend said he has not received the assessment yet but will check status of when the assessment will be provided.

VII. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 at 8:15 a.m.**

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.