

# Skagit County Law & Justice Council

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**Charlie Wend**  
Jail Commander  
Chair

**Margaret Rojas**  
North Sound Behavioral  
Health  
Vice-Chair

**Rob Sullivan**  
Director PHS  
Member-at-Large

**Jacquelyn Styrna**  
Skagit Dispute Resolution  
Center  
Secretary

**WEDNESDAY, March 8, 2017**  
**8:19 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.**

## Attendance:

LISA TREMBLAY  
DAVID NEEDY  
REBECCA CLARK  
WILL REICHARDT

CHARLIE WEND  
CATHERINE SISK  
MARGARET ROJAS  
MATT MILLER

ROB SULLIVAN  
TIM HOLLORAN  
JACQUELYN STYRNA  
HEIDI KENNEDY

PHIL MCLAUGHLIN

### **I. Welcome – Charlie Wend, Chair**

Chair Charlie Wend called the meeting to order at 8:19 a.m. and welcomed the Council and guests.

### **II. Introductions**

Attendees, present at the start of the meeting, introduced themselves. The list of names of those attending the meeting is listed above.

### **III. Review and approval of February 8, 2017 minutes**

The minutes from February 8, 2017 Law & Justice Council meeting were reviewed. There was a motion and second to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

### **IV. Jail Update**

The Skagit County Community Justice Center now has a manicured look in which exterior landscaping is taking form. The outer shell of the building is being addressed and sealed up. Preparations are being made to paint and clear coat the interior living area, and painting of the administrative areas will occur soon. Systems are turning on, and there is considerable cleaning. The key hand off is expected April 24<sup>th</sup>, with an Open House in July. Administrators are now recruiting new staff for the transition.

Tim Holloran stated July 11 may be a good date for a grand tour, with testing of the new jail system. An enhanced tour offers many benefits such as support and practice for staff. Lisa Tremblay asked about how functional the kitchen is and the process for providing food; she questioned about regular transport and food temperature concerns from the Health Department. Charlie Wend indicated

## Skagit County Law & Justice Council

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special containers may be used for maintain food temperature. Dave Needy asked about painting the Hwy 99 concrete walls and a concern over graffiti was expressed. Charlie Wend indicated inmates will have programming on tablets ranging from behavioral health, movies, and so forth, so inmates will have less time to wreak havoc on the facility. A bus stop is being built. Release planning is in the works with the City of Mount Vernon.

### V. Presentation: Norene Roberts, DSHS: Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) Task Force.

Work has been done:

- 1.) Child sex trafficking case calls preventing trafficking occurring;
- 2.) DSHS collaborates with many community partners on the CSEC Task Force;
- 3.) CSEC trains others in the field to increase awareness and prevention.

The sex trafficking issue is not new. Teen prostitution has been a major challenge regarding DSHS caseloads for a very long time. However, public response in last 15-20 years has changed. In the past, the children were apprehended and arrested, whereas now the adult offenders are arrested and upon conviction, at the least, fined. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act protects minors and eliminates the necessity of law enforcement providing proof of force, fraud, or coercion in order to intervene. Commercial sex act transactions involve anything of value, such as food, a cell phone, or even intangibles such as temporary housing, etc. For adults 18 or over the legal standards are force, fraud, coercion.

Skagit County has cases where violence has been used to control victims, as well as cases involving homeless, vulnerable kids in survival mode. CSEC has concerns about minors experiencing “trauma bonding”, where victims attempt to protect their abuser; concerns of child victims trying to protect their families from consequence; concerns about stigmatization; and other concerns that make it challenging to uncover details and protect kids.

Previously, WA prostitution law trumped child abuse laws. Now, WA CSAM law states Commercial Sexual Abuse of a Minor is a Class B felony and helps kids get access services. Now, in WA “buyers” are charged. If convicted, they face a \$5,000 fine and are required to register as a sex offender. Often well-employed married people commit this crime.

Children’s Administration Region 2 has many vulnerable kids who are sexually abused with low self-esteem, are neglected, and/or possess few strong family or community connections. Sexual offenders prey on such vulnerabilities and some recognize minors with a child welfare past experience. In 2015, there were 149 At-

# Skagit County Law & Justice Council

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risk kids sex trafficking cases in King, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom Counties; about half were in King, with the rest scattered among northern areas.

CSEC would like to offer 3 hour Basic 101 Trainings to Skagit County every other month.

Outcomes: Youth removed from this situation have outcomes similar to DV cycles of reaching out for help, running away, and are coming from backgrounds of abuse or neglect. The shift from arresting a prostitute to arresting the buyer is very significant because victims can truly heal and not be burdened with criminal records.

Skagit CSEC Task Force: Meets the 3rd Thursday of month 9-11 a.m at Children's Administration E. College Way. Next session: March 16. CSEC is seeking a chairperson.

## VI. Announcements

Matt Miller: Captain John Small is on track as a candidate for the police chief job that opens later in 2017.

## VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>

## VIII. May Meeting: Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

It was agreed that the May 10, 2017 meeting would include a tour of the Skagit County Community Justice Center. This would be during the meeting time of 8:15 – 9:30 a.m. Charlie Wend will be working on this and more details will be sent to all members of the Skagit County Law & Justice Council.

## IX. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.