

Skagit County Law & Justice Council

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, April 12, 2017
8:15 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.

Attendance:

LISA TREMBLAY
DAVID NEEDED
REBECCA CLARK
WILL REICHARDT
LISA JANICKI

CHARLIE WEND
CATHERINE SISK
MARGARET ROJAS
MATT MILLER
DALE RAGAN

ROB SULLIVAN
TIM HOLLORAN
JACQUELYN STYRNA
HEIDI KENNEDY
JOHN SMALL

PHIL MCLAUGHLIN
CATHERINE SISK
CHELSIE GALLAGHER
DEANNA SEACRIST
MAVIS BETZ
MARK KESTRAL

I. Welcome – Charlie Wend, Chair

Chair Charlie Wend called the meeting to order at 8:15 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 March 8, 2017 minutes

The minutes from March 8th, 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 jail is getting very close to completion. The building inspector and fire marshal recently visited the site in order to create a temporary certificate of occupancy. The fire alarms and exit doors are working, the fixtures are being installed and furniture can be moved in soon. Employee training will begin soon, too. The project is going well and is running on time. Landscaping is taking shape and the exterior looks nice. Plans for a ribbon cutting ceremony are being developed.

Lisa Janicki asked about prime coat cost and warranty features.
Will Reichardt asked about keys and access, as well as the retention pond.
Tim Holloran responded that significant environmental clean-up is taking place.
The Department of Ecology requires four total water quality tests with four

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passing marks to sign off. The third water quality test is in May, indicating the process for breaking down bio-carbons in the retention pond is successful thus far.

Tim Holloran shared the ribbon cutting ceremony will be Tuesday July 11th in the afternoon. At the inception of the project, a strong team was assembled so even though it is presently crunch time for project completion, transition, hiring new staff, etc, the team is working towards a smooth transition. At this stage, County Information Systems staff are instrumental to our working with technology and cameras in the new Justice Center.

Charlie Wend echoed there is lots of trust amongst partners. Jail medical services will be the next challenge to face and will be expensive, which includes behavioral health and medical care on site. Mount Vernon is fortunate to have a new facility, and many communities are seeking such a project. There is considerable public safety and certainty associated with the new jail and strategies for implementation.

V. Presentation: Chelsie Gallagher from Seattle Children's Hospital Safe Firearm Storage Program

Chelsie Gallagher shared about Seattle Children's Hospital (SCH) injury prevention programming and prevention of accidental injury or death. SCH has a hospital task force to address child safety concerns such as life jackets, bike helmets, and now safe firearm storage. SCH does not assume a political position, but rather treats these concerns like a home safety and child proofing issue.

Every 8 days a child/teen is killed by firearm. Kids are more likely to be killed by a firearm than motor vehicle accidents. Guns are the #1 method of kid suicide in WA; 9x higher suicide risk when guns are not in a safe.

Safe Firearm Storage: reduces firearm suicide by 78% & accidental shootings 85%.

SCH Firearm program seeks to educate and distribute free storage devices at community events. They distribute 1. Manual combination lock boxes and, 2. Manual combination trigger locks and cable locks. Boxes can be used for storing and locking medication as well. Events increase access and use of safe storage, increase awareness, increase skill and competence using trigger locks. Lockboxes retail at \$35 in stores; trigger locks \$13. Cheapest gun safes are \$200 so this helps with safety. SCH engages in outreach to diverse populations. For example, materials are translated in Spanish.

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Event evaluation demonstrates behavior change is happening and safe storage is increasing after the community events and distribution.

Upcoming Events

Saturday May 13th, 2017: 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Lockbox Distribution
Coastal Farm and Ranch
2021 Market Street, Mount Vernon
Seeking volunteers and help with distribution.

May 18th, 2017 8-3:30 Gun Violence Prevention Symposium
Skagit Valley College
Register via N. EMS Trauma Care Council \$30

WA Firearm Tragedy prevention Network June 6th 12:30-4:30
Burlington Public Library FREE

VI. Announcements

Mavis Betz: Chief Deputy Becky Hoyt is leaving in May; Kris Desmarais was hired as a replacement;

John Small, Anacortes Chief: Addressing new staff issues

Dale Ragan: Encouraged use of gun safes and lockboxes.

Will Reichardt: Presently hiring Community Justice Center staff; 150 applicants showed interest with 16 applicants testing.

Swinomish Tribe—Up to 300 people/day are expected at the new Bayview Behavioral Health program to serve west Skagit County, Island, & San Juan Counties. This is one of five local community behavioral health centers. The regional long term goal is to build BH facilities rather than Phase 2 of the jail.

Dave Needy: Judge Rickert gave his retirement notice to the Governor's office and will be leaving the Bench June 30, 2017.

VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 10th

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.