

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13th, 2011, 8:15 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

Will Reichardt	Ken Bergsma	Richard Weyrich
Scott McMullen	Dave Needy	Deannie Nelson
Mavis Betz for Nancy Scott	Gregg Freeman	Ken Dahlstedt
Tim Holloran	Jennifer Kingsley	Alan Erickson
Chuck Benjamin	Delilah George	Pam Springer
Linda Eiford	Andrea Vallee	Phil McLaughlin
Roxane Goss	Gary Shand	Kate Martin-SVH
Dale Ragan-MV Council	Jill Boudreau-MV Candidate	Laurie Jarolimek
Larry Van Dyke-Speaker	Bruce Shellhamer-Speaker	Emma Whitfield-Speaker
Brian Young-Speaker		

Today's meeting began at 8:15 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Ken Bergsma**, *Mount Vernon Police Chief and Law & Justice Council Chairman*.

March 9th, 2011 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the March 9th, 2011 meeting minutes be approved as written. The motion carried.

SPEAKERS:

Larry Van Dyke from Pioneer Human Services, and the new manager of the Skagit County Crisis Center on Lila Lane in Burlington, brought the Council up to date on the recent re-opening on April 1st, 2011. This facility provides sub-acute detox services and mental health stabilization services as a diversion from the emergency department and jail, when appropriate.

Copies of new law enforcement screening sheets for Crisis Center intake were provided. These forms will aid in a smooth transition of clients from law enforcement to mental health intake. (See handouts) The Crisis Center has only been operating since the first of the month, but has already had 21 admissions. Their statistics show that the top two admissions run 43% with Alcohol addiction and 38% with Heroin addiction.

There is also a new program called Mobile Outreach Team that is funded and supported by NSMHA that is part of the Crisis Center that is set to open May 1st.

Bruce Shellhamer, Pastor of Crossroad Covenant Church in Burlington, gave a presentation on their mission to provide permanent, affordable and supportive housing for survivors of domestic violence, with priority for those with children. He stated that on behalf of the victims of domestic violence in Skagit County, both adults and children, they are asking for community support for their Eagles' Wings project. This project would provide safe and affordable homes, in addition to an environment of support where services, education and

job training can be utilized. He stated that they are “shovel ready” and with funding will begin construction in early fall 2011. Phase I is comprised of 17 apartment units with 62 beds. The five-year goal is a total of 56 units of affordable, safe and supportive housing developed in 3 phases. (See handout for more complete details.)

All members were invited to a Dessert Fundraiser in support of the Eagles’ Wings project on May 21 at Crossroads Covenant Church.

Tim Holloran suggested a letter of support for this project from the Law & Justice Council. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Jail Video Premier-Emma Whitfield and Brian Young presented the first showing of the jail video to the Council. The video was very favorably received. The council recognized the formidable job Emma and Brian tackled to condense the huge volume of information into a 10 minute video. After final approval the finished video will be taken to various city and civic groups to gather support for jail funding. It will also be shown on TV on Skagit 21, and streamed on various county websites.

The floor was then opened for constructive comments. These included the length still might be too long; the safety both inside the jail and to the community by not having a large enough jail needed to be emphasized more for the general public; council members are more familiar with the issues than the proposed audience would be; community bottom line is all about what it will cost them and what’s in it for them personally; add a Top 5 list of what would happen if we don’t get a new jail. Members can e-mail further suggestions to Emma at emmaw@co.skagit.wa.us.

FOLLOW UP ISSUES:

SCORE jail report was tabled until next meeting.

Mental Health Diversion Group Update: **Gregg Freeman** reported that the 5 members had their first organizational meeting recently and they will have a report after the next meeting.

Linda Eiford, Director of District Court Probations, announced her retirement at the end of May. **Chief Bergsma** presented her with a plaque in appreciation for her years of service to the community, especially in the area of Domestic Violence Issues.

Linda also served on the Law & Justice Executive Board in the Liaison position. She nominated **Andrea Vallee**, who has been a Council member for 7+ years and represents the Dispute Resolution Center, to fill her vacancy. Andrea accepted the nomination, which was then put to a vote and unanimously accepted by the Council.

Linda’s position on the .1% committee as a Law & Justice representative will also need to be filled. A motion was made to ask the incoming Director of District Court Probation, **Mike Mahoney**, if he would consider the position.

NEXT MEETING- is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th, 2011. Speakers will address Gang Issues and Community Response.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:17.

Approved _____ 5/11/11