

DRAFT Skagit County Law & Justice Council

Will Reichardt
Sheriff
Chair

Margaret Rojas
North Sound Behavioral
Health
Vice-Chair

Rob Sullivan
Director PHS
Member-at-Large

Jacquelyn Styrna
Skagit Dispute Resolution
Center
Secretary

Wednesday, June 13, 2018
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Attendance:

Rob Sullivan
Michael Ellis
Margaret Rojas
John Small

Jacquelyn Styrna
Jerry Dodd
Mike Luvera
Matt Miller

Don McDermott
Jerry Dodd
Tim Holloran
Dale Ragan
Cathy Sisk

Wende Sanderson
Rep. Dave Hayes
Sen. Keith Wagoner
Rich Weyrich

I. Welcome –Margaret Rojas, Co-, Chair

Co-Chair Rojas 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 May 9, 2018 minutes

The minutes from the May 2018 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 from Don McDermott

The new Life Skills program, in partnership with SVC, has its' first cohort graduation today.
More to share in July.

V. Presentation by Sen. Keith Wagoner (R-District 39) & Rep. Dave Hayes (R-District 10)

Senator Keith Wagoner (R) D 39: He was appointed 5 days before the legislative session began in District 39; this district is geographically interesting. In the short session, there were 4000 bills, 350 passed for capital funding brought to local areas. Sen. Wagoner was pleased by the cordiality of state politics and bipartisan working relationships. He indicated there was an 11th hour behavioral health bill passed with positive local ramifications. (Tim Holloran mentioned Skagit County has a Sedro Woolley location for creating a secure treatment and recovery center.)

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Representative Dave Hayes (R) D10: He was elected 6 years ago and is now House minority whip. Rep. Hayes addresses justice issues, as well as public safety concerns and local governments. The opioid crisis is killing people at high rate, so his legislative work involved increasing funding for treatment to \$ 4.3 million, as well as working on providing resources to first responders such as Naloxone kits for treatment.

HB 2287 Snohomish County Diversion Center -- 800k for operation funds plus programs and metrics.

In the upcoming 2019 legislative session, there may be a holistic response to opioid prevention and active responses, such as funding drug task forces. Federal funding is uncertain.

WA Department of Corrections is reducing sentencing standards and shifting to local holding rather than housing nonviolent offenders in prison. There is victim and survivor advocacy as well, meaning DOC uses discretion and informs about early release of offenders.

Rep. Hayes does not want to see any more unfunded mandates that burden local government. One idea to explore is to increase liquor revenue sharing on a step up basis, as was once done.

Initiative I940-Citizens Initiative changes charging standards for officer in line of duty. The group Deescalate WA proposed to redefine good faith statutes to "Reasonable cause a LE has" in statute. The idea is to remove word "malice" and go with "good faith" standard objective so that a peace officer is not held criminally liable. Current LE standards and case law language would have protections. I-940 was a divisive issue. HB 3003—was reversed based on state constitutions standards for initiatives. WA State Supreme Court will hear the case. The bill may need to be re-passed in committee in November; stakeholders stayed together.

Also, E911 fees are short and funds are swept to other uses, like the National Guard. State patrol wants that funding too. E911 is supposed to be a local issue and recipient of the funds.

The website Leg.wa.gov is a great resource for public engagement.

One idea that originated in the meeting was to create a unified legislative effort that represents and communicates the needs of the Skagit County law and justice community to state leaders in an organized and coordinated fashion. Tim Holloran mentioned a hope for permanent supportive housing, additional embedded social workers in communities, plus addressing county radio reception with the need for a new telecommunications tower provider based on geography.

VI. Announcements

Wende Sanderson, (Skagit DRC & LWV), Skagit Civility Project (flyer attached)

Register online: <https://www.voaww.org/drctrainings>

Tim H: Sheriff Reichardt was attending the WA Sheriff Police Chief Association (WASPEC) Meeting in Olympia today. Thanks you to local Law Enforcement for supporting the Torch Run & Special Olympics.

Chief Mike Luvera: Law Enforcement hiring and onboarding process is very slow because there is one police academy facility that is at capacity. Industry wide, large cities are offering 10k signing bonuses to accredited officers 1-2 years in to the profession, which circumvents the academy backlog issue.

MVPD- Continuing to build on the proactive plan for working with Homeless people in two ways: 1. A dedicated officer to patrol area between Bill Howard Lions Park to Section Street in a systematic approach with

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MVPD embedded social worker Erin VonFempe, merchants, Friendship House, and others. Lt. Mike Moore is spearheading this. 2. A new LE Park Ranger position who will patrol parks and encampments. Candidates will undergo the formal civil service competitive hiring process and will be expected to attend the LE academy to protect one's self and others (ranger will be armed).

Chief Dodd: Wished to emphatically dispel a regional rumor.

MVPD does not transport and drop off homeless people or troubled folks into any new jurisdiction. Staff has direct orders that they *shall not* do this. As an organization that is extremely poor practice, and the rumors and accusations to MVPD are insulting to Chief Dodd and Skagit County LE professionals. The rumors are unfounded and will not happen in Mount Vernon. On occasion, the embedded social worker may assist a client to access treatment resources in surrounding communities, or access a bed at the Bellingham Mission. MVPD does not transport and drop off homeless people or troubled folks into any new jurisdiction

Rich Weyrich- His staff can deliver an informational presentation about Opioids to interested organizations.

VII. Next Meeting: Wednesday July 11, 2018

VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.