

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 14th, 2013, 8:15 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

CHARLIE WEND	MIKE MAHONEY	JENNIFER KINGSLEY
LADESSA CROUCHER	MICHAEL ELLIS	TIM HOLLORAN
JOE VALENTINE	PHIL McLAUGHLIN	ROXANE GOSS
RON WESEN	DALE RAGAN	MARC ESTVOLD
RON KITCHENER	HEIDI KENNEDY	CATHY SISK
KAT MARTIN	GREGG FREEMAN	STEVE BERENTSON
LISA TREMBLAY	LAURIE JAROLIMEK	

Today's meeting began at 8:20 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Vice-Chairman, Charlie Wend**.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

There was a motion and second by the Council that the June 12th, 2013 meeting minutes be approved. The motion passed.

PROGRAM: **Heidi Kennedy** from CPS Mount Vernon will be heading up a new division of that agency set to start in early 2014. This new program, known as F.A.R. (Family Assessment Response), will be handling the reports of child abuse or neglect that do not indicate serious threats of substantial harm to the child's immediate or ongoing safety. This will provide an alternative option for reports to CPS. An investigative group will still handle possible criminal charges and the FAR group will focus on assessing the family needs for the large number of cases that have no criminal charges but need assistance. (see handout)

Tim Holloran suggested using the Law & Justice Council as a resource for community assistance and to let us know if there are specific needs we might be able to help with. Leadership Skagit was suggested as a contact. **Lisa Tremblay** said she would check with them.

JAIL FACILITY TASK FORCE:

Marc Estvold commented on the overwhelming passing of the New Jail initiative in Skagit County. He explained that the next big step would be deciding on which of the two locations would best suit the needs of the jail and the community. Issues on each site as well as specific studies and results will be brought out in continuation of the transparency policy that was a major factor in public support. A scoping hearing was held 8/13 with results in writing by 9/1. Draft of the results will be out in December. The final EIS results should be in by February, 2014. Planning Commission will make their recommendation on each site in May/June 2014. Future timeline is roughly: 1 year for permits; 1 ¼ year for design; and 1/3/4 year for construction; Opening Summer/Fall 2017.

Dale Ragan praised the Skagit Valley Herald in their coverage of the jail initiative. **Charlie Wend** gave **Steve Berentson** credit for new jail publications informing the public of ongoing progress. **Tim Holloran** gave major kudos to **Marc Estvold** for his organization and hard work in making it possible to reach this point in the project and to carry on to completion.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES: Cathy Sisk was introduced as the new Jail Coordinator.

NEXT MEETING- The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 11th, 2013

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05.

Approved: _9/11/13_____