

**Skagit County Law and Justice Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 13th, 2010, 8:15 a.m.**

ATTENDANCE:

Rick Grimstead	Ken Bergsma	Scott McMullen
Dave Needy	John Lum	Gary Shand
Gregg Freeman	Tim Holloran	Jennifer Kingsley
Chuck Benjamin	Pam Springer	Linda Eiford
Andrea Vallee	Sarah Hinman	Emma Whitfield
Ed Norton	Laurie Jarolimek	

Today's meeting began at 8:25 a.m. with introductions and a welcome from **Gary Shand**, *Skagit County Jail and Law & Justice Council Chairman*.

September 15th, 2010 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second by the Council that the September 13th, 2010 meeting minutes be approved. The motion carried.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES:

Emma Whitfield, *Commissioners PIO*, Jail Video Update. Production is moving forward. 4 hours of editing so far. The final footage is expected to run 8-10 minutes. Key people from various departments were suggested as interview subjects for the video. The focus is being directed to jail issues and how the current situation is affecting the whole community. **Pam Springer** from *District Court* relayed how the current overcrowding is forcing judges to make continuous decisions to determine who has to be released in order to book someone else in to the jail. The projected completion of the video is November, after the elections. *Jail Chief*, **Gary Shand**, suggested that the Council review the piece before release. *County Administrator*, **Tim Holloran**, suggested that printed material be prepared to be used together with the video when presented to groups.

Attorney **Ed Norton**, from the *Prosecutor's office*, Update on the Grant for Consistency in Court Orders. The Prosecutors office, in particular, Shellie Algeo and Lori Churchill, along with Judge Svaren, have been working on clarifying procedures and forms in connection with Court orders. The goal is to make court orders more standardized and less confusing for victims, courts and law enforcement.

Chuck Benjamin, *Mental Health Providers Representative*, Update on Mental Health Provider's Budget cuts. A detailed breakdown of proposed budget cuts for Mental Health programs was given (see attached handout). NSMH representatives have talked with Skagit Community Services about a partnership to keep treatment centers open, and with Skagit Hospital regarding involuntary holds in the face of these proposed cuts. Judge Needy had concerns regarding these cuts and asked when the public hearing was going to be held as the courts had not been informed.

Pam Springer, *District Court Administrator*, Update on Mount Vernon Municipal Court merge with District Court. In September the District Court took over administrative functions of Mount Vernon Municipal Court. This merge makes it possible for defendants to pay fines, quash warrants, and set court dates at either location. This will also enable defendants, law enforcement and courts

to maximize efficiency by streamlining procedures and forms. Both places now have the same hours of 8:30-4:30, closing at noon for lunch.

Sarah Hinman, *Community Services*, Update on Jail Substance Abuse Program in Jail. Skagit Recovery has completed 6 assessments so far. Preparation is continuing while awaiting hiring of dedicated jail deputy for this position. Chief Shand indicated that 3 candidates are being interviewed for this position and he anticipates selection by the end of the month.

Linda Eiford, *District Court Probations*, Update on 1st time DV offender program. The first program was held on September 23-24. 10 people qualified for the course and 7 actually attended. There was positive feedback from both attendants and jail personnel. The second session will be held in January, with a target of 20 attendees.

Andrea Vallee, *Dispute Resolution Center*, Update on Victim Offender Meetings (VOM). This program was launched in March. 46 juveniles have participated so far. Offenders are made aware of the impact their acts have on the community. They have received positive feedback from the juveniles as well as participating members of the community.

Next Meeting- is scheduled for Wednesday, November 10th, 2010.
Meeting was adjourned at 9:35.

Approved 11/10/10