

# Skagit County Law & Justice Council

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**Charlie Wend**  
Jail Commander  
Chairman

**Lisa Tremblay**  
Sup/Juv Court Admin.  
Vice-Chair

**Rob Sullivan**  
Director PHS  
Member-at-Large

**Cathy Sisk**  
Jail/Court Coordinator  
Executive Assistant

WEDNESDAY, October 14, 2015  
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

## Attendance:

WILL REICHARDT  
CATHY SISK  
DALE RAGAN  
MAVIS BETZ  
NANCY TIFFANY  
LISA LEE

CHARLIE WEND  
DAVE NEEDY  
BONNIE BOWERS  
ROXANE GOSS  
AARON DOYER  
STEVE BERENTSEN

TIM HOLLORAN  
MARC ESTVOLD  
JERRY DODD  
MIKE MAHONEY  
LADESSA CROUCHER

LISA TREMBLAY  
LIN TUCKER  
MARGARGET ROJAS  
SLOANE WINKES  
AUDRA JUNG

## I. Welcome – Charlie Wend, Chair

Chairman Charlie Wend called the meeting to order at approximately 8:15 a.m. and welcomed the Council and guests.

## II. Introductions

All present introduced themselves with the names listed above.

## III. Review and approval of September 9, 2015 minutes

The minutes from the September 9, 2015 Law & Justice Council meeting were reviewed. The minutes were approved.

## IV. Jail Update – Marc Estvold

Marc Estvold gave an update on the progress of the new jail. A preconstruction conference has been set with the City of Mount Vernon. This past Monday the Commissioners approved Lydig as the jail project builders. They will give Lydig notice to proceed on November 2, 2015. They will mobilize November 9, 2015 and construction will start shortly thereafter.

We are working closely with the Department of Ecology (DOE). We have received notice that the soil samples from the jail site are now clean. We received word last week that we do have a 90/10 grant from DOE, where DOE will pay 90 percent of the clean-up costs. Tim Holloran advised that the soil had been re-

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contaminated after the original clean up and that is why additional cleanup was necessary.

Mr. Estvold shared that an underground oil tank was discovered, but it is where the retention pond is going in so it was less of an issue than it might have been as the soil was scheduled to be removed anyway.

The construction period is expected to take 20 months.

Chief Dodd asked if there will be security at the building site at night. Mr. Estvold replied that there will be a six foot fence around the building site. They will also set up a web cam for added security. Chief Dodd advised that he will be talking to the contractor about security.

Chief Wend stated that the SCSO Corrections Division is about ready to appoint the Jail Transition Team. The team will focus on things such as post orders, staffing, policies and procedures, training, etc. There has been a lot of interest from staff wanting to be part of the Transition Team.

### V. Presentation – Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment Program by Nancy Tiffany and Aaron Doyer, Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services (DVSAS)

Nancy Tiffany and Aaron Doyer gave a presentation on behalf of Skagit DVSAS and the Skagit DV Task Force.

In many communities across the county there are systemic responses to domestic violence where the focus is on the perpetrator. Skagit DVSAS feels that a victim focused approach will be more beneficial to those victims who are at the greatest risk of being killed or seriously injured.

They searched across the country and found a program that is more victim focused. It is called the Maryland Model Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP). It is currently being used in 34 states.

The purpose of LAP is to identify DV victims at greatest risk of being killed, to reduce the number of fatalities, the number of non-fatal serious injuries, and the number of re-assaults on the victim.

The process of LAP begins when the officer responds to a DV call. If during the interview process the officer concludes the victim is in danger, the officer will initiate the LAP questions. If the requirements are met, a phone call will be made

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to a DV advocate who will talk to the victim about her/his options. If the victim agrees, a safety plan is then put into place with the advocate's assistance.

LAP has 10 years of effectiveness evidence. It has a proven success record of reducing homicides, near homicides, and re-offenses by the perpetrator.

Whatcom County implemented LAP in 2014. In 2012, Whatcom County had six DV related homicides. Since LAP was implemented there have been no DV related homicides of victims who had been screened by the tool.

LAP will increase the number of calls DVSAS receives and also increase the amount of time the officer spends with victims. Implementing LAP will generally add approximately 15 minutes of time to the officer's call out. What balances this extra time spent with victims will be the reduction in call-outs because of the projected drop in victim re-assault rates.

Training won't be available immediately. However, trainers are willing to come from Maryland to train law enforcement officers here.

Chief Dodd asked the presenters for a presentation to LE Chiefs and Sheriff at their monthly meeting to talk the process out. There they can ask questions relative to their specific offices.

Chief Dodd also asked if once you develop a "special relationship" with the victim, has the City then developed a relationship that creates liability if the victim is harmed. This type of information is important to discuss so the City is prepared before going forward with LAP.

Tim Holloran commended Ms. Tiffany for bringing the LAP program forward and welcomes her to make a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners.

There was much interest from the members in pursuing this victim focused DV model.

### VI. Announcements

Chief Tucker advised that SWPD took over the Northern State grounds. They will get to know who is working up there in that area.

Lisa Lee announced that DOC is looking to move to new site in Skagit County and is hoping to be in a new building by November 1, 2016.

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Ladessa Croucher introduced Audra Jung. Audra is their new Restorative Justice Coordinator.

Margaret Rojas of the North Sound Mental Health Administration said they are working to bring in a substance abuse services, now that they are about to become a Behavioral Health Organization, working with both mental health and substance abuse disorders. They are vacating their space in Carnation building in Mount Vernon but have not yet identified new office space.

Mike Mahoney announced that October is DV Awareness month and purple is the color associated with this occasion.

Commissioner Lisa Janicki announced she will support the LAP model at a policy level.

- VII. **Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 9, 2015, 8:15 a.m.**
- VIII. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.