

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
May 21, 2014
MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Madsen called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Minutes

The April 16, 2014 minutes were accepted as published.

Jail Population Report

Cmmr. Jeffreys stated the Sheriff has declared a state of emergency for the jail and the inmate population is capped at 104.

Judge Meadows and Steele spoke to the problems it causes when offenders are not being incarcerated.

Cmmr. Jeffreys would like find out what crimes have been committed for those that are on the "waiting list" to serve jail sentences.

Judge Meadows, speaking for District Court, pointed out their court filings are not up, however the county's population has drastically increased. Questioned what the crime rate actually is.

Mayor Cronce believes that the process is overregulated and it causes an increase in cost that makes it difficult to get anything done.

Jim Madsen stated it appears that one option is finding bed space elsewhere. He referred to the JDAI model which looks at are the right people housed? Is the jail population the high-risk offenders? Could sentence lengths be modified? Possibly remove lower risk population and place in programs.

Chief Vukich suggested the possibility of partnering with Thurston County and use their jail facility that is unopened because Thurston County is unable to staff it.

Harris Haertel stated that collecting the data is important in order to know the real issues and find solutions.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form

Jim reviewed the DOC reports for Daniel Batchelor, Jeremiah Neeld, Ricky Fievez, Andrea Maul.

Update on Citizen's Task Force on Public Safety and Criminal Justice. – Cmmr. Jeffreys

Cmmr. Jeffreys reported the Task Force had their first meeting last week. It was an organizational meeting and discussion about what information they need before asking criminal justice departments to come and talk about their offices. Kelley McIntosh is serving as the Chair. There are still openings for citizen-at-large positions. The tasks are to review the amount of resources to criminal justice; is that adequate and if not, how much more is needed and how to fund; develop performance measures for any additional revenues; and review alternative sentencing and crime prevention measures.

Oxford House – Marty Selvidge

Unable to attend.

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Agency/Department Updates

Mayor Cronce - Chief Eklund is retiring and Les Watson is serving at interim police chief. Very concerned there are no consequences for criminals. He suggested putting the offenders in a room and have a retired police officer volunteer to "watch" them.

Harris Haertel reported that CJTA funds are being reduced by the state; seeing progress but not solutions.

State Patrol - Sgt Conley is retiring mid-June and his replacement is Kevin Bell.

Judge Steele – the City of Shelton has been using other jurisdiction's jail facilities and due to remodeling, they are not taking new inmates. They are looking at other facilities, transport is an issue. Video arraignment is having issues but overall works well.

Discussion of informing the public of the problems with the criminal justice system. The public needs to be part of the solution and transparency is important.

Judge Meadows reminded the group that it is a small amount of the population that are the real problems and she does see success stories.

Jim Madsen recently attended JDAI training, eight strategies include looking at racial and ethnic disparities and they are looking at the tribal population; looking at creative ways to use the detention facility space; asked if the CJWT meeting should be more solution focused.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren
Administrative Services Manager