

**MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM**  
**September 17, 2014**  
**Meeting Minutes**

Jim Madsen called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated, introductions were made and a quorum was present.

Adoption of Minutes: Cronce/Jeffreys moved and seconded to adopt the August 20, 2014 meeting minutes as published.

Jail Population Report

Jim Madsen read Chief Haugen's population reports. The daily average inmate population for August was 119.

Males: 96

Females: 23

He added that they are 15 inmates over the 104 jail cap on average per day.

Department of Corrections County of Origin Notification Forms

Brian J. Endsley                      DOC# 704542    Date of Release 09/22/2014  
County of Origin: Grays Harbor  
He will release to Mason County (Union)

- ◆ Discussion of the request from the Public Safety & Criminal Justice Citizen's Task Force.

Jim Madsen explained they have been asked to come up with ways to reduce recidivism. They have been asked to come up with a vision statement.

Sheriff Salisbury commented that the ideas are due at the Task Force meeting tonight.

Superior Court Commissioner Sauerlender asked what specifically is needed by tonight at the Task Force meeting.

Pat Utley explained that there has been discussion about criminal justice not being funded correctly and the Task Force wants to come up with better ways to fund criminal justice. He said they need help from the Courts and MCSO. The ideas will be broken down to short and long term ideas to improve funding. The Commissioners need this information by November 1, 2014. They need to know what to do to get criminal justice moving forward.

Tim Whitehead thanked Mr. Utley and assured him that he is on board with establishing a vision statement.

Undersheriff Barrett commented that Mason County has no direction. The task force asked everyone to come up with a vision. They can then begin to move forward. A sample has been reviewed but they need to collectively agree. He added that he has no idea how to find a policy on Law Enforcement in Mason County and this will be a group effort.

Sheriff Salisbury said he has always felt that his office should take part and doesn't see it as unethical.

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Judge Meadows said silence by the judges doesn't mean yes or no. She stated they just don't know if they are allowed to comment.

Cmmr. Jeffreys asked Judge Meadows if she foresees an ethical problem with them participating.

Judge Meadows said it depends and that unethical statements could be made.

Jim Madsen stated he would like to provide what the Task Force needs. He said he doesn't want people to feel like the working team is bulldozing this because it does include everyone. He would like to formally establish a subcommittee to accomplish the vision. He thinks the working team has a broader scope and there are other things to discuss in the working team group.

Susan Sergiojan stated that she understands that all that is due tonight is the broad vision statement. She would like the people who are interested to meet today.

Jim said he would like a point person for the subcommittee. He added that they all felt there were needs for the County. The initial piece of information is due tonight at Task Force meeting. He asked Cmmr. Jeffreys about a time frame.

Cmmr. Jeffreys stated that the budget details should be completed by December.

Sheriff Salisbury feels this group keeps getting stretched out.

Mike Dorcy commented that it seems like all they do is form committees and have meetings and don't get anything done. He volunteered to chair a subcommittee.

Pat Utley asked Mr. Dorcy to please focus on short term.

Laura Cole asked who will be invited to the subcommittee meetings.

Jim stated that every department head and all elected officials should be invited to the subcommittee meetings.

◆ 8:05 a.m. Judge Buckley-Thurston County – Veterans Court

Tom Davis introduced Judge Brett Buckley and Stacy Coleman.

Judge Buckley said Mason County needs Veterans Court because every court deals with veterans. He explained that veterans usually going through the criminal justice system due to impacts of military service. He said "you can't go to war without being impacted". He said as a society we need to recognize and acknowledge this. The motto in their court is "Serving the people who have served us". The main reasons veterans experience changes are post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries. He stressed that Veterans Court is not for habitual offenders and is only related to people who come out of service and engage in criminal behavior due to the effects of military service. The veterans undergo an evaluation and mental disorders need to be caused by military service. They will be assigned a case worker in lieu of incarceration and the case worker will assist them with following through with treatment plans and accessing resources.

Judge Buckley said in order to participate there are two things to do: 1. Find a judge and 2. Fund social workers. The cost of incarceration is greater than providing a Veterans Court.

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Judge Buckley went on to say that these people usually don't reach out for help but instead a red flag goes up when they commit a crime. The Judge pointed out that when Veterans Court is utilized, the recidivism rates drop off the charts, it reduces jail bed costs, and the veteran will benefit. Judge Buckley gave an example using the Pat Tillman story. He said the trauma of an event changes people and it is very powerful.

Court Commissioner Sauerlender said Superior Court is very interested and wants to know what time they have Veterans Court.

Judge Buckley answered Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

Judge Meadows stated that they need full components

Laura Cole asked what percent of jail population are veterans.

Sheriff Salisbury stated approximately 10 percent.

Victoria Meadows told everyone about the book, Veterans on Trail.

Judge Buckley stated they have great resources in Veterans Court. If you don't have Veteran's Court, you will not be accessing the necessary resources.

Harris Haertel commented that a model for this Court already exists.

Sheriff Salisbury said he would very much like to have Veterans Court.

Stacey Coleman stated there is a diversion re-entry person. She also gave statistics. She stated that 45 people have graduated from Veterans Court. If they would have been incarcerated, it would have cost a correctional facility \$736,000. She passed out a statistics reports.

Judge Buckley said he thinks Veterans Court is necessary and thanked everyone for listening. He reiterated the dates and times of Veterans and Mental Health Court in Thurston County.

Wednesday at 4 p.m. is Veterans Court.

Thursday at 3 p.m. is Mental Health Court

Agency/Department Updates:

Mayor Gary Cronce spoke about levy shifts and long term effects on the City of Shelton. He stressed that the City of Shelton cannot afford to lose any money.

Laura Cole from the DOC Shelton field office introduced Jeff Gunsolley.

Future Agenda Topics

There were no future agenda topics.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, October 15, 2014.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Almanzor  
Clerk of the Board

