

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
January 25, 2012
MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Harris Haertel called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated. This meeting was rescheduled from January 18 due to inclement weather.

Adoption of Minutes

The December 21, 2011 minutes were accepted as published.

Jail Population Report

Chief Tom Haugen reported on the jail population. For December the average daily population (ADP) was 96 with 19 being female; 77 male; 58 felons and 38 misdemeanants. For 2011 the ADP was 104, which is the maximum; 15 female and 89 males on average.

Chief Haugen reported they are down 3 FTE due to medical and down one person for weapons screening. In December 2011, \$150,000 was spent on inmate medical; the 2011 total was over \$560,000 for the county's inmate medical cost. They have had an increase in inmates with mental health issues, which is very tough on staff.

Sheriff Salisbury stated there is a possibility they will have to reduce the jail population cap due to budget cuts.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form

Laura Cole reported on Jeremy Sorrell who is living with his father on My Road (off Lynch Road) and classified as high non-violent and is in compliance.

Harris asked if there is any data on those who release to Mason County showing if they were successful. Laura will look into it.

2012 Agenda Topics

Starting in 1989, when a criminal justice task force was formed, he has kept track of issues that have been discussed to improve community safety. He would like to hear what agenda topics the group would like to have discussed in 2012.

Pat Swartos - courthouse security and video appearance.

Judge Meadows – jail issues. She has concerns with population caps.

Judge Sheldon – using a collection agency for those who don't pay court fees. Chief Haugen said they started doing that in 2009 and in the first six months they collected about \$25,000. They have had some success with the program although there are those that will never pay.

Agency/Department Updates

Emergency Management - Marty Best – assessing the impact of the storm event. Mason County wasn't hit as hard as some areas. He continues to work with IS to get the information out on Twitter and Facebook but retention and public disclosure laws are making it difficult.

Clerk – Pat - has again requested a budget supplement. The holidays and snow days have set them back.

DOC – Laura - their office has lost two staff.

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District Court – Judge Meadows – they have absorbed District Court Probation clerical duties and moved the Probation Officer into their office area and are working on improving that.

Denny Temple – sympathizes with staff but reminded everyone a person can only do so much.

Superior Court – Judge Sheldon – appreciates Pat's staff. They are transitioning out the administration of indigent defense and it will become a new department under the Commissioners. They are taking on the dependency drug court that is required by the mental health tax that was passed. She recognized Harris who is taking on the coordination of the problem solving courts.

City of Shelton – Chief Eklund – the City has also had inmate medical expenses. They will be down an officer in February who will be replaced.

Risk Management – Dawn Twiddy – dealing with vehicle damage due to the storm event. Working on staff training. Asked about the location of the indigent defense office, she has safety and security concerns. Judge Sheldon stated that in the courthouse remodel plan, there is office space but there is no funding at this time.

Commissioners – Cmmr. Bloomfield – has concerns with lowering the population in the jail and staffing.

City of Shelton – Mayor Cronce – appears there are problems everywhere. He will do the best he can.

Sheriff Salisbury – has a letter from the school districts asking about truancy, harassment and bullying. Concerns include that school staff sit too long in court and court orders placing students in schools that can't accommodate their special needs. They are asking when to report crimes and training. The Sheriff will be meeting with the ESD 113 superintendents. There was a short discussion that part of the problem is the schools need to be educated on the process.

Judge Sheldon noted that court orders for schools is an issue that needs to go to the legislature.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren
Assistant to County Commissioners