

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
February 15, 2012
MEETING MINUTES

Co-Chair Haertel called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated.

Adoption of Minutes

Chief Haugen corrected the jail inmate medical cost in the January 25 minutes. The cost was \$150,000 for only December and the annual total was over \$560,000 for the county's inmate medical cost.

Laura/Pat moved and seconded to approve the corrected January 25, 2012 minutes. Motion carried.

Jail Population Report

Chief Haugen reported for January the average daily population (ADP) was 105, which is slightly over their cap and does not include a few more inmates that are housed in other institutions due to their individual circumstances. Female population was 16 and males were 89 with 64 being felons and 41 misdemeanants. He noted they are dealing with more mentally ill and/or violent inmates. Western State is so backed up that two inmates have been ordered but have not been able to get in and it is taking about three months to get into Western State. These individuals are in holding cells because they cannot be placed in the general population.

Sheriff Salisbury noted the Jail staffing is also low and they may have to lower their jail population cap.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form

DOC Release reports received for the following: Scott Koth, Jason Nolte, Gregory Pursey. Laura Cole reported on Greg Pursey – classified as high violent, was on DOSA and that was revoked, released to his mother's house on Moreland Street in Shelton; Scott Koth – classified as high violent, being released to fiancé on Arcadia Road in Shelton, Laura will be closely supervising him; Jason Nolte – classified as high violent, releasing to an approved DOC house, S. 8th Street, Shelton.

Laura explained that a high violence classification is a top-level supervision classification but doesn't necessarily mean they have a violent background. She further explained the policy on supervision; community safety is paramount with DOC.

Laura then reported on statistics on those individuals released to Mason County. She is still working on data for new crimes or convictions and will continue to work on obtaining that information.

Website Information under Advisory Board Tab on County's Website

Diane Zoren explained the Commissioners have asked that additional information be available on the county's website for advisory boards. For the CJWT the following is on the website:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM

This board is recognized as Mason County's Community Corrections Board as authorized by RCW 72.09.300 and was organized to reduce the demands on, and respond to the needs of the criminal justice system.

Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30 a.m. in the Commission Chambers.

For more information, please contact the Commissioners' Office, ext. 419.

There will be links to the agendas and approved minutes.

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There was a discussion of whether there are by-laws. Pat will check her records and Diane will bring forward a draft by-laws to the March meeting.

Collection Agency approach for Superior Court Legal Financial Obligations

Judge Sheldon explained that at the time of sentencing, the court assigns fines/fees that have to be paid. DOC used to collect the fees and they still do for those they are supervising. For those not supervised by DOC, collection is under the Clerk's office. Pat hired Mark Jaros to do collections and he works with the individuals so the process works very well for most people. For those that it doesn't work, Judge Sheldon suggested using a collection agency for the legal financial obligations.

Judge Sheldon gave an example of an individual who had an original legal financial obligation of \$960, \$103 has been paid and the current balance due, with interest, is \$3,142.20. It is not cost effective to continue to bring him in, but she feels an obligation to try to collect. She would like to find out the experience with using a collection agency.

Sheriff Salisbury said the jail uses a collection agency and it is very successful and other counties are now starting to use the same system.

Chief Haugen stated the Jail and District Court use Dynamic Collections out of Chehalis. He explained the process, which is that the money comes to the county first; then the collection agency fee is collected. This was put into place in June 2011 and within the first six months, they recouped \$21,000, and another \$14,000 - \$15,000 since then. There is no cost to the county. Chief Haugen agrees that for most of the individuals who won't pay, jail time will not make them pay.

Pat Swartos referred to the RCW that states it must be a bid process to select the collection agency. She noted that since Mark was hired, he has collected over \$1 million. She surveyed County Clerks and Kitsap County uses Dynamic Collections for certain individuals. Her position is that if it is necessary, she will do it.

Shelby Conklin stated Municipal Court has been using a collection agency for 10 to 15 years, the City does not put people in jail for not paying a fine because it is not cost effective. Collections has been successful for them and they collect \$4,000 to \$5,000 a month, which wouldn't be collected otherwise. They use Dynamic Collections and they do add a percentage for their fee and interest, which half goes to Dynamic and half to the City. They do everything they can to collect before writing off as a bad debt.

The CJWT recommended that Pat Swartos go out for bid for a collection agency. This will be on the March agenda for a follow up.

Agency/Department Updates

Commissioner Bloomfield – lack of money continues to be an issue.

DOC – Laura Cole stated their office has changed the section they work with, it is now Olympia. They have lost two staff and their caseloads are on those left behind. They have a new database system.

Risk Management - Dawn Twiddy offered to talk about public records requirements at next month's meeting. She is working on policies and trainings. Right now she is working on a driving policy to reduce risk.

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State Patrol – Sgt. Conley –they are running at full staff in Shelton. They will have transfers in April, but will keep a full staff.

Clerk – Pat Swartos stated her office situation is worse than last month, cases are increasing. This is affecting staff due to workload and stress.

Emergency Management – Marty Best is working on an emergency declaration for the snow storm. 2013 homeland security grants guidelines are changing.

Municipal Court – Shelby Conklin – a metal detector is in place for municipal court and the police department is managing that. Video conferencing should be getting ready to go out for bid.

Denny Temple asked where the collected money goes. Ms. Swartos explained that it is divided according to how it was assigned.

Sheriff Salisbury has met with the school districts. They are having a problem with kids not attending schools and that cannot be a priority for deputies. The Skokomish Tribe has a new chief, Joe Vukich, and the Sheriff is very happy with this choice, he has worked him with in Thurston County. He suggested that Chief Vukich be added to the CJWT list. At the law enforcement breakfast this month they will be honoring kids who have recent accomplishments.

Pat Swartos noted that her son is back on KMAS on Saturday mornings and he is looking for topics to discuss.

Future Agenda Topics

The following items were brought up as future agenda topics:

Public records information

Clerk's collection process

By-laws for the CJWT

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, March 21, 2012.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren
Assistant to County Commissioners