

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
March 18, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

Chair Jeffreys 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 January 21, 2015 minutes were accepted as published.

MacArthur Foundation Safety & Justice Challenge: Chair Jeffreys explained that this would offer a six month period for creating a data plan. The Commission would take the lead in writing the grant although if other departments would like to jump in that would be fine too. Chair Jeffreys asked the group if there is willingness to participate.

Undersheriff Barrett stated the County paid \$50,000.00 for King & Associates for a similar study in approximately 2008 and for the most part, nothing has changed since then. He added that much of the data collected is still available and the size of the jail is the same. Undersheriff Barrett will provide a copy.

Chair Jeffreys commented that there should be more jail space soon.

Undersheriff Barrett stated that the DSU should be completed soon although they are down by seven positions.

Sheriff Salisbury added that they will make everything work but the bottom line is they need more staff and space.

Chief Haugen added that even when the new facility is opened, it won't be fully open due to lack of staff.

Undersheriff Barrett clarified that the jail was redesigned to facilitate safer housing capabilities. He said there is no additional space. He spoke about how many beds the County need to have in order to accommodate all the County needs for the next 30 to 40 years. The estimate would be approximately four hundred beds.

Sheriff Salisbury added that the Department of Corrections wants to allow early releases with supervision although it doesn't appear they are expanding on their end. He said if the state doesn't build anything bigger, recidivism will not be reduced and the inmates will be back.

Undersheriff Barrett said they will help provide data.

Mike Dorcy stated he does not understand exactly what this is for and what they will get with this grant.

Chair Jeffreys said it will provide technical assistance to create a data pool for jail population. It could possibly be used when building a new jail.

Sheriff Salisbury said it's an information system and he read portions of the grant application.

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Undersheriff Barrett said no matter what they do, the data has to be collected one way or another. Regardless of if the grant isn't awarded, it needs to be done. He added that they are tapped out of space at the jail so the only option at this point is to outsource.

Theresa Ehrich stated that it costs \$50,000.00 a month for outsourcing. She added that she noticed other requirements in the grant. She encouraged the group to consider the application of resources and additional requirements in the grant. She commented that possibly the application of resources, applied funding, and all the requirements may not be worth the grant. After looking at the details, she suggested being cautious with this and consider all facets.

Sheriff Salisbury said they will produce the data they can produce although he is not willing to dedicate all of his staff for this. He commented that they need to be careful not to spend money on something they already know the answers to. He stated they will provide what they have.

Judge Steele said it appears the focus of grant is to reduce the jail space.

Undersheriff Barrett said a lot of other counties are applying for this same grant.

Sheriff Salisbury said a common sense approach tells a lot too and they don't have the space or staff.

Jim Madsen said this looks similar to what they are currently doing in Juvenile. He said there may be things they don't know and ways to improve. He added that he thinks part is data driven but some is system reform. Where are we going and what do we want to do in this County.

Chair Jeffreys left the meeting at 8:00 a.m.

Undersheriff Barrett said he would like to move forward and if this helps that would be fine but said they need to find better ways to deal with alternatives to incarceration.

Sheriff Salisbury added that it costs approximately \$47,000.00 per year for a jail cell.

Undersheriff Barrett said that as a committee they need to decide whether or not to pursue this opportunity.

Theresa Ehrich stated that they should do a vision statement and suggested that time is better spent deciding on what can be done for criminal justice in our own local jurisdiction.

Mayor Cronce said the economic future of this County doesn't allow for building a new jail.

Theresa said we don't have the resources to outsource and there needs to be an action plan and doesn't know that doing any more studies will accomplish anything.

Sheriff Salisbury said they will provide data but he's not sending a bunch of staff.

Ginger Brooks reminded the group it's just not about the jail.

Theresa Ehrich said they need a vision for criminal justice. She feels like they are always going around in circles. She added that criminal justice is all facets.

Undersheriff Barrett stated he doesn't want to wander aimlessly and would like to have a vision and a goal in order to know which direction we are working towards in the criminal justice system.

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Mayor Cronce said they need to find a better way to deal with their frustration and adversarial relationship with the County Commission.

Theresa Ehrich stated nothing is meant to be adversarial and added they are just trying to make improvements to criminal justice. By having a vision, mission and goals it will aide BOCC in the allocation of resources and focus during the budget process each year.

Undersheriff Barrett stated they need to get some definitive guidelines on what they can. He said instead of waiting until next month's meeting to re-hash these issues, he would like to start a sub-committee.

Judge Steele suggests a sub-committee to form options to submit to the Commission. He stated the subcommittee can formulate some options and create a breakdown of costs and details.

Theresa Ehrich said public safety, education and health need to be addressed holistically.

Judge Steele/Sheriff Salisbury moved and seconded to form a sub-committee to gather data and create a vision/mission to make recommendations to the Commission for criminal justice. Motion Carried.

Sheriff Salisbury said last summer they had a great committee and made recommendations and none were accepted.

Mayor Cronce said for short term they need to find alternatives to the new jail. There is no other choice.

Undersheriff Barrett said the strategic goal would be a new jail and a plan to achieve that goal should be developed so it will happen.

Ginger Brooks stated they need to stop talking about just the jail and focus on criminal justice in its entirety.

Jail Population Report - Chief Haugen

119 daily average in February
115 daily average for last year.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form

Patricia Sullivan DOC 877477 Date of Release 3-16-2015

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Almanzor
Clerk of the Board