

MASON COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE WORKING TEAM
April 15, 2015
MEETING MINUTES

Chair Jeffreys called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated. A quorum was present.

Adoption of the minutes: March 18, 2015

Judge Finlay/Mayor Cronce moved and seconded to remove Judge Finlay's comments from the March 18, 2015 minutes as they are incorrect. Motion carried.

The March 18, 2015 minutes were accepted as revised.

Jail Population Report: Chief Tom Haugen stated the average daily population for March was 117. He said they are 13 over old cap and added they have contracted with Forks for outsourcing. Chief Haugen also mentioned that they have had to close a cell due to a door malfunction and they now have 66 line cell beds. He stated that the DSU is not completed yet and they still need staff.

Mayor Cronce said he wants to be part of the solution for the bed space problem.

The group had a discussion regarding the state's plan to release offenders.

Sheriff Salisbury said he wrote a letter to the Governor. It's in the house now for review. It's being very strongly opposed.

Chief Moody said in theory, it's a good idea although the State of Washington is not giving the necessary funding to the Counties.

Chair Jeffreys said an option is to call the Senate regarding Senate Bill 5755.

DOC Release reports received for the following:

Chase Temple DOC# 375411 Date of Release 03/31/2015

County of Origin: Thurston

Laura Cole from DOC stated he was released but absconded and a warrant has been issued for him.

Discussion about recording CJWT meetings:

- ◆ Laura Cole said she is uncomfortable with recording.
- ◆ Mayor Cronce said it could stifle some creative comments.
- ◆ Steve Demars said he has concerns regarding creating additional public records. He said he knows about public disclosure abuse.
- ◆ The group discussed the possibility of recording the meetings although there was some concern due to the sensitive nature and creating additional public records.

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Undersheriff Barrett/Chief Moody moved and seconded to table the implementation of recording meetings to allow further discussion on this topic. Motion carried.

Criminal Justice Working Team Subcommittee-Vision/Mission Statement:

Undersheriff Barrett spoke about having a plan. He said this is a draft and should be a suggestion. He said people need to align themselves with this mission. He asked "How do you go to the people and ask for revenue without a mission?" He commented that this group should be a visionary group. Without this mission, it feels like it keeps going in circles.

Sheriff Salisbury said that every single agency has missions and goals. He said even successful fortune 500 companies have goals. He stated that they have been asking for eight years what is going on. He commented that if you don't have a vision or mission then you don't know where you are going.

Undersheriff Barrett hopes people will take this back and massage it while keeping with the goal of criminal justice. He is asking how everyone and every department can align with the criminal justice mission.

Judge Sheldon said she is not sure if Judges can cross over.

Judge Finlay said she appreciates this and wants to be thoughtful with this.

Undersheriff Barrett said they have tried to keep this very generic and focus on the entirety of the mission.

Chair Jeffreys said she is not sure if a generic approach with each area advocating for only for their own department is the best. She suggests strategies be the next step.

Undersheriff Barrett agrees but said first there needs to be a vision/mission. Undersheriff Barrett suggests getting this done soon as budget time is approaching. He said that after a mission is accepted, they can focus on strategy. He suggested that there needs to be something to align their staff to. He reiterated that criminal justice is huge and there needs to be a cohesive mission/strategy. He hopes this process doesn't drag out for a long time.

Judge Steele said in the near future we need to move to the next step. The problem is identified so let's move forward to fix it.

Undersheriff Barrett said possibly the resolution should be updated.

Sheriff Salisbury read a news article from 1990. He mentioned that even in 1990 the jail was overcrowded and it's been an issue ever since. He added that it feels like they have been doing the same thing since 1990 and earlier.

Agency/Department Updates:

Ginger Brooks: Jury system is working well. They are striving to optimize what they have and minimize the effects on citizens.

Chief Moody: He said they will start a reserve academy soon.

Ben Johnson: He is coordinating a substance abuse coalition through education.

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There was discussion of Veterans court. There will be a potential implementation after they receive some additional input. April 30 is the next stakeholder meeting.

Judge Finlay commended DOC on their new program and hears it's working well.

Sheriff Salisbury stated that MCSO is one of seven to meet all the goals with Washington State best practices and to be aligned with state standards. He added that they will attend a 120 hour training soon and will receive career level certification. He added that this is innovative for the region.

Judge Steele said they are proud of the community service program and they have a top notch person running the program.

Laura Cole spoke about Swift and Certain. She also spoke about the "thinking through change" program and said it is going very well. Recidivism seems to be declining.

Chair Jeffreys asked Laura about the possibly of DOC working with the County with their program.

Laura said she will look into it.

Mayor Cronce spoke about unfunded mandates. He said people need to be creative in finding ways to fund criminal justice.

Chair Jeffreys suggested contacting legislature.

Undersheriff Barrett suggested writing a letter on behalf of the CJWT.

Sheriff Salisbury said he is in favor of submitting a letter on behalf of the CJWT.

Chair Jeffreys said they can type up a draft letter and send it to the other counties as an example.

Mayor Cronce/Chief Moody moved and seconded to draft a letter to send in opposition to 5755. Motion carried.

The judges will recuse themselves.

Future Topics:

- ◆ Adopting a vision statement
- ◆ Update the Resolution
- ◆ Formulate strategy from the mission.

People can send out changes or suggestions to Julie.

Chair Jeffreys said she would like to focus on care and custody for adult and juvenile.

Undersheriff Barrett stated it will always boil down to dollars so there needs to be a road map to operate from.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

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Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Almanzor
Clerk of the Board