

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

Chair Jeffreys called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. in the Mason County Commission Chambers, Shelton, WA. An attendance roster was circulated. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Minutes

The June 17, 2015 minutes were accepted as published. Laura Cole/Judge Meadows moved and seconded to approve the June 17, 2015 CJWT minutes. Motion carried.

Jail Population Report

Chief Haugen was not in attendance although Theresia Ehrich passed out the jail populations.

Undersheriff Barrett explained that boats are used during overcrowding and the jail cannot use boats as a permanent solution due to safety concerns. He added that until the remodel is complete, they have 74 beds, and so they need to outsource.

Judge Meadows said it's important to know that there are many offenders that do not respond to alternative sentences so there needs to be another solution. Some of these offenders violate over and over so it's important to find another solution.

Undersheriff Barrett stated they don't like to release anyone due to lack of space especially if they were ordered jail time.

Judge Sheldon stated it's a concern for public safety if these people are not held in the jail. They are betting the farm that these particular people will not go out and harm someone. She said she thinks it's a travesty.

Undersheriff Barrett told the group that additional space for outsourcing is not always available and when it is available, it's a matter of cost. He added that there are only a certain number of contracted beds so it's a matter of what they can contract for. He added that there needs to be an increase in the amount they are contracted for and additionally there will need to be an increase in staff and resources.

Judge Sheldon spoke about the Swift & Certain program. She stated she is just trying to prevent future liability.

Cmmr. Jeffreys asked the Undersheriff about outsourcing.

Undersheriff Barrett said it's a matter of deciding how many more can the County afford to outsource and said there should be a number to budget for.

Judge Finlay suggested to Undersheriff to start this by getting a list of people who are unable to serve their time right now and including people apprehended on warrants who are not booked due to lack of jail space.

Theresia Ehrich reminded the group that the jail is used by multi-faceted criminal justice.

Mike Evans agreed and said this problem is echoed on the streets and it does prevent arrests.

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The Undersheriff said the subcommittee met and worked on identification of immediate incarceration needs in Mason County for a 3-5 year forecast. The next time they meet they will focus on additional issues and come to the next meeting with some numbers.

Chief Moody stated that the City experiences this every day. He said right now, the City of Shelton is 300 calls for service above what they were at this time last year.

Judge Steele said he is frustrated with this situation but he doesn't blame the jail. He suggested that maybe the deputies keep a notepad and keep track of the number of people apprehended on warrants but cannot be booked so it can be calculated that way.

Chief Vukich said it is a lot of local law enforcement agencies who have this same problem.

Michael Dorcy said it's up to the Chief Law Enforcement Officer to establish a policy for an early release procedure.

Judge Sheldon said they have to do their sentence by law. She said after reading Judge Meadows' report, she would be in favor of the elimination of the Swift & Certain program.

Judge Steele reiterated that everyone is frustrated.

Undersheriff Barrett said eliminating Swift & Certain could possibly snowball into another problem and would increase the outsourcing. He recommends reviewing potential negative impacts before eliminating Swift & Certain.

Chair Jeffreys suggests finding the impacts and costs of public defense.

Judge Sheldon said that on a positive note, the Veterans Court is almost ready and they have already had one person expressing interest in it and hope others will want to utilize it as well.

The MCSO and District Court will work together. The Public Defender will come up with some numbers as well. Undersheriff Barrett will contact local law enforcement agencies.

Judge Finlay asked for the type of release to be added to the form.

Mayor Cronce said he thinks they should try to find and utilize an independent company for additional bed space in order to solve the lack of jail space problem.

Department of Correction's County of Origin Notification Form- There were no DOC notifications received.

- ◆ **Adopting a resolution to update Resolution 62A-92** – Due to the lack of time, this topic is tabled and will be discussed at the next CJWT meeting. Chair Jeffreys will add Washington State Patrol & Public Defender to the draft resolution.
- ◆ **Future Agenda Topics**
 1. Presentation by the Subcommittee
 2. Resolution 62A-92

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Almanzor
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

