THURSTON COUNTY LAW & JUSTICE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 16, 2014

PURPOSE: Provide an inter-jurisdictional forum for consideration of initiatives and resources to improve criminal justice services, enhance public safety and reduce crime throughout Thurston County.

In attendance: Robin Campbell, Judge Jim Dixon, Mike Fenton, Ken Garmann, Kristin Guizzetti, Judge Anne Hirsch, Chief Dusty Pierpoint, Bob Ritchie, Daryl Rodriguez, Kurt Smith, Dave Schneider, Charles Shelan, Todd Thoma, Jon Tunheim, M. John Way, Judge Kalo Wilcox, Commissioner Cathy Wolfe
Staff: Gail Gosney
Cliff Moore
Vicki Larkin
Guests: Michael Ison, DOC-Olympia Work Release; Shelly Willis, Family Education and Support, Mica Anderson, Family Education and Support.

Introductions:
Jon Tunheim welcomed everyone: self introductions were given. Jon welcomed the new representative from Tumwater to the Council, John Way. Cheryl Selby, Olympia City Council member (not present) has also recently been appointed to the Council. The minutes of the November 14, 2013 Council meeting were reviewed and approved. Jon then introduced Jim McDevitt, Spokane Regional Justice Commission.

Spokane Regional Justice Commission Report – A Blue Print for Reform:
Jim McDevitt presented an overview of the recent work of the Spokane Regional Justice Commission. The three-member (volunteer) Commission spent all of 2013 reviewing and analyzing both the Spokane County criminal justice system and the City of Spokane criminal justice system. The Commission completed over 300 interviews with stakeholders, held three public hearings and reviewed case load data for both Spokane County and the City of Spokane’s criminal justice agencies. The Commission found several redundancies between the two
systems, identified several components of the law and justice system that are inefficient and provided several recommendations for reform.

The major areas of recommended reform included 1) governance – recommended a regional Justice Commission to oversee combined city and county criminal justice services; 2) coordination and enhancement of technology and information systems in the jail and the courts; 3) development of a law enforcement assisted diversion program (LEAD); 4) implementation of the Operation Ceasefire model piloted in Boston, MA; 5) expand neighborhood crime prevention programs and Crisis Intervention Teams (across all law enforcement agencies; 6) combine various law enforcement functions region-wide to increase operational standardization and reduce costs; 6) expand diversion and alternative programs for low level and first-time offenders; 7) consolidate court hearings for offenders who have multiple cases and hearings; 8) reduce number of unnecessary court hearings; 9) reduce number of warrants issued for delinquent Legal Financial Obligations and reduce number of court hearings related to compliance issues; 10) recommended several procedural changes for the Prosecutor’s Office; 11) implement a video conferencing system in the Spokane County Jail for use by indigent defense attorneys and increase technology options for communications between jail inmates and indigent defense attorneys; 12) create a Community Corrections Center (modeled after the Center in Hillsboro, Oregon); 13) develop alternative sentencing programs; 14) combine City and County probation services functions; 15) develop a standardized risk/needs assessment tool that is utilized by every intake function in the law and justice system; 16) Reduce probation caseloads to effective, manageable numbers. There were a few other recommendations from the Commission as well. The full report can be found at:

http://www.spokanecounty.org/data/srcjc/Blueprint%20For%20Reform_Final.pdf

Several questions and discussion followed the report. A small workgroup has formed in Thurston County to develop a similar list of proposed system improvements and changes in order to increase efficiencies within the law and justice system and reduce costs.

**Updates:**

✓ Gail Gosney reported that Thurston County has been selected by the State of Washington to receive $1.88M in capital funding for a hardened triage facility for mentally ill adults; however, there are many legal concerns to be addressed before actual project planning can begin. 1) The award has been verbal so far; TCPHSS is waiting for a written confirmation of the grant award; 2) Currently, the Regional Support Network (RSN) is the legal entity should liability issues arise – if the State disbands the current RSN structure, who will hold the legal liability for the new triage facility?; 3) Will the grant award be adequate to cover the costs of building renovation/new construction and what is the ideal facility? Mark Freedman, Social Services Director at TCPHSS will be working
with DSHS to get a written notice of the grant award and approval to conduct a 6-month feasibility study.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Next Meeting, March 20, 2014 4:30 PM, County building 1, room 280
- Discussion of proposed changes to the Thurston County criminal justice system
- Update on recommended action steps related to Mentally Ill Offender issues and hardened triage services
- Update on drug interdiction strategies and drug treatment capacity

Law & Justice Council meetings – 2014 (4:30-6:00 p.m. in County bldg 1, room 280)
March 20
May 15
July 17
September 18
November 13