

**Benton County Law & Justice Council
Meeting Minutes – 4/12/17**

Present: Judge Dan Kathren, Benton County District Court
Jacki Lahtinen, Benton County District Court Administrator
Shyanne Faulconer, Benton County Community Programs & Public Relations
Coordinator
Josie Delvin, Benton & Franklin Counties Superior Court Administrator
Dave Giles, City of Prosser Police Department
Ray Kofoed, Citizen Representative
Fred Bank, Citizen Representative
Ken Hohenberg City of Kennewick
Rusty Morris, Citizen Representative
Brent Gerry, City of West Richland Mayor
Eric Hsu, Benton County Office of Public Defense
Karissa Garza, Benton County Office of Public Defense

Benton County Crime Prevention Initiative – Shyanne Faulconer

Year End Report

- Update on 2015-2016, statistics will be going out to the public very soon, still working on those
- Broaden communication with media and statistical information
- 7 programs that are participating in the public safety sales tax. 5 are returning from last year and 2 are new

Comments –

- West Richland possibly having the sales tax progress on their brochures
- Annual reports are usually presented in City of Kennewick; can possibly give updates there
- Majority of the community are appreciative with where the money is going

Update – Programs and Departments

Mental Health Court

- Has had successfully 9 people graduate to the next level
- Members have jobs and/or hundreds of hours of community service
- There is now a waiting list to get into this program
- Kennewick police department has donated an officer to help – has been really beneficial
- Overseeing and trying out new ideas that are from other county mental health programs

Josie Delvin– Superior Court

- Has hired one more clerk using the Public Safety Sales Tax
- Is able to have more time to do jobs that were always pushed to the side
- Since mental health court is running, more defendants are able to have their LFO fines lowered

City of Prosser

- School Resource Officer hired (updated)
- Hired an administrator to support the school
- Computers for Patrol Cars purchased

City of West Richland

- Hired three new officers
- Great benefit for the community
- Continue in participation with Metro as well as work with SWAT

Office of Public Defense

- Continue funding for legal assistant
- Funding for attorney that helps with Mental Health
- Funding of our contract attorneys
- Not seeing a large amount of caseload increase but seeing increase of crimes.
- Looking to start funding for Superior Court attorney

L&J Council Chairperson - Discussion

- Eric Hsu is resigning from this position at the end of 2017.
- Eric Hsu asking for any nominations: No nominations at this point, however would prefer someone from Benton County.

Other Business

- Ray Kofoed – Let the community know who the people are that help run the police departments or any department.
- Action – Eric Hsu – Jerry Hatcher

Adjourn at 12:34pm