

**Benton County Law & Justice Council
Meeting Minutes – 6/14/17**

Present: Jacki Lahtinen, Benton County District Court Administrator
Shyanne Faulconer, Benton County Community Programs & Public Relations Coordinator
Judge Alex Ekstrom, Benton and Franklin Superior Court
Dave Giles, City of Prosser Police Department
Ben Majetich, City of West Richland Police Department
Josh Shelton, Benton County Sheriff's Office
Scott Souza, Benton County Sheriff's Office
Craig Littrell, City of Kennewick Police Department
Darryl Banks, Benton and Franklin County Juvenile Court
Paul Parish, City of Kennewick Council Member
Ray Kofoed, Citizen Representative
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 Jail Administration Report – Commander Scott Souza and Captain Josh Shelton

Accommodations for Disabled Inmates

- Everyone is booked the same way: Screening process (identifying any disabled needs) – Traumatic brain injury screening, or any medical needs.
- Hearing impaired inmates: Jail offers video related systems, as well as teletypewriters.
- Physical accommodations for inmates that are in wheelchairs: Two units that have a design for larger showers, cells on the first floor.
- Jail staff have team meetings regularly to address individuals and what special needs they can provide for that person.
- Commander Scout Souza: Allowing council members to set up a time to walk through jail and see for themselves what accommodations there are.
- Transportation for disabled inmates: Jail provides walkers, wheelchairs, as well as crutches.
- Suggestion by Dr. Morris: Possibly contact media to explain to the public how the jail is equipped for disabled individuals.

Questions from Council: Who would be the best contact for any inmate has mental health needs? – Captain Josh Shelton would be the best contact, and if there is an issue, the inmate will be brought downstairs for observation.

Update – Programs and Departments

Shyanne Faulconer - Community Programs and Public Relations

- Has the biennial report finalized – it is on the Benton County Website
- Already half way through the year so will be giving an update to the Board of Commissioners sometime in late July or early August.

Jacki Lahtinen - Mental Health Court

- Four graduates in a little over a year.
- Has been a very successful program.
- Graduation ceremonies are held unless individual opts out.
- If anyone would like to see what a ceremony looks like, you may contact Tara Symons, Mental Health Court Manager.

Judge Ekstrom - Superior Court

- Have hired a new commissioner; which has been very beneficial.

City of Prosser

- No updates

Office of Public Defense

- No Updates

Craig Littrell - City Of Kennewick

- Four cadets in the Police Cadet program; ages from 18-22.
- Once cadets turn 21, they can apply to regular fully-commissioned police officer position.
- Seven police officer openings at Police Department because of retirements.

Brent Gerry and Ben Majetich - City of West Richland

- Looking at getting more School Resource Officers at new schools, possible including middle school and grade schools instead of just high schools.
- Have come together with the City of Richland to help fund for new School Resource Officer.
- In 2018 - Will have two middle schools, three elementary schools and start on a new high school very soon.

L&J Council Chairperson - Discussion

- Eric Hsu is resigning from this position at the end of 2017.
- Eric Hsu is asking for any nominations: No nominations at this point.

Adjourn at 12:22 pm