

**Marion County Reentry Council**

January 21, 2010

*Marion County Courthouse Square Building,  
Senator Hearing Room*

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Council Members Present:

Janet Carlson, Jason Myers, Jeff Wood, Doug Cox, Dick Withnell, Mike Ryan, Mike Rideout, Teresa Cox, Lamar Burrell, Ray Burstedt,

*Guests: Kimberly Allain, Shirley Parsons, Chris Murfin, Debra Giard, Matt Meier, Kevin Karvandi, Troy Clausen, Sara McDonald, Sara Zavala.*

Welcome: Sheriff Jason Myers welcomed everyone. This is the first reentry council meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Initiative Overview: Commander Jeff Wood showed the group a video regarding the issues inmates face as they are released from prison. *See attached for copy of PowerPoint program.* Why should we care? If we have successful reintegration, we have fewer crimes, fewer victims.

Second Change Act Grants: Quest for Change; Center for Family Success; Mentoring grant: Mid Valley Mentors to be paired with our population; provide positive pro-social support.

Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR) – New collaborative program of 12 intensive weeks to deal with criminogenics – help move past ambivalence. There will be intense evidence-based programming, and they are targeting 300 offenders. Scale of programming needs to be expanded – with 900 people coming to the County, programming provides for: 350

Chart Explanation (from PPT):

Jeff explained that a one point recidivism reduction can equal upwards of a million dollars in savings. However, success is both encouraging and terrifying. The formula for funding, which came into effect several biennia ago, is one that “punishes” counties who have reduced recidivism rates. We want to reinvest dollars that are saved into programs that work. Mike Ryan added that disincentives are built into certain systems and the legislature needs to come to a conclusion; Max Williams has invited Marion County to be a pilot for a new reinvestment program; we need a rational way to build programs that includes incentives for positive strides that are made.

Charter Review: Sheriff Myers asked that Jeff Wood chair the Council. A council member will serve as a vice chair. The meetings will be quarterly – time and date are to be determined. Dick Withnell suggested contacting the faith community to include that group as well – possibly Sam Skillern’s group; he also suggested reaching out to a Judge

or district attorney, Willamette Education Service District or the 24J School District or Juvenile. Commissioner Carlson would like to provide reports to other public safety coordinating council groups. Mike Ryan reiterated some staggering statistics: 75% of the population didn't graduate from high school and 96% have been in the juvenile system; Sheriff suggests adding Faye Fagel or a Juvenile rep to the Council; Dick also mentioned that a Chemeketa employee who helps students earn GEDs may also be a good addition; Mike Ryan added that cooperative work with the Statesman Journal has been positive in the past and may want to consider that aspect.

Identifying Priorities: Commissioner Carlson began the conversation to outline priorities. Second Chance Act requires that we have a Council; Barrier Busters started in 2006 on this issue; breakfast in October 2009; With the Sheriff at the helm, this council has the opportunity to bring these other efforts together. She asks for the group's expectations. Mike Rideout commented that Union Gospel Mission is a Christian-based organization; they have been providing reentry services for some time as 50-60% of the people come directly from jail; UGM is more than just a meal and a bed.

MCRC Work Plan:

- Communication Strategy
  - Different audiences
  - Messages that fit audiences
  - Methods of communication
    - Social networking – Facebook, Twitter
    - Media
    - Face to face
    - Breakfast planned for Next October
      - Need a progress report
    - Facts of ROI (return on investment) – quantify
    - Report the results
    - Aggressive leadership
    - Partnerships
- Faith Connections
  - Home for Good – connecting faith based initiatives
  - Union Gospel Mission
  - Stepping Out Ministries
  - Salem Leadership Foundation
  - Importance of positive relationships – pro-social contacts
- Policies
  - Clean Slate Program – removing certain crimes from records
  - Legislative process
  - Formula / Pilot Project
  - Sustainability
    - Government
    - Grants
    - Contributions

- Partnerships
- Role of council to recommend resource direction

Mike Ryan said that it has been 24 years since we have had a meaningful conversation between the community and our public safety system.

Commissioner Carlson added that looking back at what we have accomplished will be important to this council. Marion County has received two Second Chance Act grants in the past year.

Commissioner Carlson suggested Jeff Wood or designee visit those council members who could not make it today. Jeff agreed.

Next Meeting: TBD