

**Reentry Council Meeting**  
**May 3, 2010, 3:30-5:00**  
**Senator Hearing Room**

**Council Members Present:** Mike Ryan, Jason Tokarski, Ray Burstedt, Lamar Burrell, Chair Cmdr. Jeff Wood, Mike Rideout, Sheriff Jason Myers, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Gregg Peterson, Sue Miller

**Council Members Not Present:** Rep. Kevin Cameron, Cheryl Roberts, Dick Withnell, Teresa Cox, Michael Laharty

Visitors: Lt. Doug Cox, Sgt. Matt Meier, Sue Blayre, Nancy Green, Deb Giard, Sara McDonald, Matt Meier, Sara Spinks, Suzanne Jorgenson, Tara Lawrence, Jan Calvin, Kimberly Allain, Sara Zavala.

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Motion to approve minutes: Cmdr. Jeff Wood, Second: Mike Ryan. All aye.

Vice Chair Nomination: Cmdr. Jeff Wood requested anyone who may be interested in serving as vice chair contact him. He received an email from Teresa Cox, who expressed an interest.

Motion to appoint Teresa Cox as Vice President: Cmdr. Jeff Wood. Seconded by Commissioner Janet Carlson. All aye.

SOAR Update: Cmdr. Wood asked Nancy Green (Chemeketa Community College) and Sue Blayre (MCSO) to present information on the first Student Opportunity for Achieving Results class. *See attached PowerPoint presentation.*

SOAR is a collaborative partnership between Chemeketa Community College, MC Sheriff's Office, MC Health, Mid Willamette Valley Community Action Agency. The 12-week program occurs four days per week with participants who are ready for change. The participants must demonstrate they are ready for change, and must have been charged with a crime within a specific range (ORS 137.717). Each inmate being released to supervision in Marion County undergoes a test called University of Rhode Island Change Assessment to determine at what stage of change s/he is at. The curriculum for SOAR is evidence based (by law – SB267);

Commissioner Carlson asked about health care for those who are released – Cmdr. Wood responded that those who are released, have at best a 30 day supply of any medications. There are a number of issues with any medical issue when an offender is released – wait time for OHP, limited amounts of funds for prescriptions, lack of proper prescriptions, etc.

Sgt. Matt Meier discussed sanctions that are used for class members, including short jail stays, family interventions, etc. Immediate termination is not necessarily the best option at all times. Gregg commented that a relapse occurs when the “acting out” behavior begins, and asked that we identify that point to intervene before the relapse. Sue agrees.

Participants are required to go to three community supported groups per week. Twenty-eight began and 22 graduated. Group completion rate was about 70%.

- Four began Spring term at Chemeketa
- One offered a job by an employer who participated in employer panel
- One placed in on-the-job training
- One obtained flagging certificate
- One offered a job at Oregon Garden
- Five identified for GED.
- Two started their own business.

Class completed FAFSA, iMatch.

There is student input allowed via a locked suggestion box which has been a very valuable tool in identifying needs of the group. Something as simple as releasing class at a time that allowed them to catch the bus was voiced. There is also a grievance procedure. Two were received during SOAR 1. A survey is also distributed to review facilitators, which is compiled and is given to facilitator.

There were a number of “lessons learned” from this first class:

- Three day weekend is too much free time
- Extended structured programming
- Require GED orientation and follow up
- Need for random drug testing
- Need for more campus cultural information
- Smaller classes
- Need for population-specific team member trainings
- Need for partners to regroup and discuss goals of each partner/roles

Action steps from here:

Gregg suggested having participants connect for service project through the Hands on Mid-Willamette Valley.

Mike Ryan asked about the continued support for both the participant and the potential employer (if a person is hired). Deb Giard said that there is support beyond the class; Cmdr. Wood also mentioned that there is also support from the PO. There is also the potential for an ongoing support.

At graduation ceremony, certificates and awards were handed out. Commissioner Carlson talked about the connection that the participants had with those who have supported them along the way.

Cmdr. Wood commented on the dramatic success of this program and the teamwork that went into designing and implementing the program.

**Fall Reentry Breakfast:** Commissioner Carlson discussed last year’s breakfast. Next breakfast is 10/21/10 at Red Lion. Invitations will be sent. Funding was awarded through the second chance grant. There may be some “success stories” included in this year’s program. This council will be kept informed of the breakfast details as they come together. Mike Ryan suggested also having an employer who has hired a participant from SOAR give a testimonial. Table captains will be utilized this year. After the breakfast is over, there will be a bureau of speakers to follow up with interested parties.

**Support Letter for Funds for Initiative:** A letter of support is requested for the Second Chance Act funding for transitional housing (Quest for Change, Center for Family Success); 165 million in grant opportunities.

Cmdr. Jeff Wood moved to approve the letter; Commissioner Carlson seconded; all aye. Passed around for signature.

**Future Agenda Items** – Please email suggestions to Cmdr. Jeff Wood <jwood@co.marion.or.us>.

- SOAR participants share
- Action list from January meeting

Meeting adjourned at 5:00.