

Reentry Council Meeting
March 15, 2011
Board of Commissioners Office
MaPS Building - 2nd Floor

Council Members Present: Commissioner Janet Carlson, Sheriff Jason Myers, Vice-Chair Teresa Cox, Chair Commander Jeffrey Wood, Gregg Peterson, Sarah Spinks, Mike Laharty, Cheryl Roberts, Chase Tedrow (on behalf of Rep. Kevin Cameron), Dick Withnell

Council Members Not Present: Mike Ryan, Ray Berstedt, Lamar Burrell, Michael Rideout

Visitors: Steve Silver, Sgt. Matt Meier, Mike Mayes, Doug Harclerod, Sara McDonald, Bryan Birkholz, Jan Calvin, Kevin Mannix, Frank Thompson

Welcome and Introductions - Commander Jeff Wood

Commander Jeff Wood welcomed Sarah Spinks to the Council. Sarah is the Executive Director of Mid Valley Mentors. She is replacing Sue Miller.

The Council discussed finding a replacement for Jason Tokarski who recently resigned from the Council.

Reentry Resource Center: (Handout.) Mike Mayes with Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (CAA) discussed the opening of Pine Street Resource Center. The Pine Street Resource Center (PSRC) is seeing more people coming in and using their resources each day. Craig Bazzi is the coordinator and he has done a great job at promoting the PSRC and networking with other agencies so not to duplicate services, but to bring them to one place. Services offered are navigator services, transition case management, SOAR support group, computer access, financial education services and employment support and advice. The PSRC will soon offer a 5-week class to promote positive lifestyle changes.

The PSRC has started partnerships with Goodwill, Chemeketa, Mid-Valley Mentors and others. Mike discussed offering their services to family members of offenders also. If a family member is in need of some resources they are welcome to stop in and get some help. Commissioner Carlson commented on the fact that from the first discussion of a resource center in July until the end of January, The PSRC has come together in a very short period of time, seeing 143 service contacts the first month. She gave special recognition to Jan Calvin, Community Action Agency, Craig Bazzi, Diane Rivera and Gary Babcock.

The Council discussed how information is getting out to promote the PSRC. Mike stated that they are in the process of developing a brochure, cards and other marketing tools. The Council discussed targeting medium and high-risk people who are just coming out of incarceration. These individuals should already be seeing Parole and Probation officers who can be used as another marketing tool for the PSRC. The Council discussed getting help in the community to promote the PSRC. Mike and Craig Bazzi are planning on going door to door to introduce themselves and leave a contact number. Commander Wood gave special recognition to Mike Mayes for his work in reaching out to the Highland Neighborhood Association. Frank Thompson, Oregon DOC, discussed transitioning high-risk offenders from the services inside their facilities to the PSRC. The Council discussed that one of the barriers of transitioning has been the training schedule for possible mentors on the outside. Representative Cameron should be asked to bring this up with the Reentry Council so that where, when and how long the training is for prospective mentors can be addressed. Sheriff Myers discussed the possibility of giving the bench probation population access the PSRC.

Program Funding Updates: (Handout.) Jan Calvin reported on the use of the allocated \$4,000.00 in donated funds to the MCRI Client Support Fund. CAA serves as fund administrator and just over \$2,000.00 has been used to help 22 individuals (on handout). The CAA looked at other resources first and then used these funds as a last stop. The Council discussed that this initial \$4,000.00 is from the breakfast fundraiser in 2009 and that an additional \$3,000.00 was raised at the 2010 breakfast fundraiser, which is being held by the Professional Mortgage Foundation. Mike Mayes stated that this money has been incredibly useful. He gave an example of individuals going back to school and not being able to see. Having eyeglasses can make all the difference. Getting a job without an Oregon ID or drivers license is very difficult so these things have been extremely important. Mike and Jan estimated that the remaining funds currently being held will last about six months. The Council agreed to put on the agenda for the next meeting a vote to reallocate the additional \$3,000.00 to the MCRI Client Support Fund. The Council also discussed updating the donors on how the funds have been spent and also the possibility of another fall breakfast.

Jan Calvin gave an overview on the MCRI Budget - Macro Level (on handout). The Council discussed adding another column that shows money saved by not having a person go back to prison. The Council discussed the other output side being able to show recidivism going down and employment rates going up.

Commissioner Janet Carlson discussed some of the thoughts behind the funding. She mentioned that a number of different things are being done, but we are not even close to serving the whole population. With what is laid out (on handout), there is about \$2,000,000.00 a year, primarily from federal funding sources. The Commissioner stated that we were fortunate enough to get two Second Chance Act grants in 2009 and some earmark money. Commissioner Carlson was just in Washington meeting with our congressional delegation, Bureau of Justice Assistance and the

Community Oriented Policing Services Office (COPS). They are all supportive, but unsure of what will be available. There will be no earmarks.

Commissioner Carlson noted that what she left with, particularly from meeting with the COPS Office, is an opportunity to look at the federal level through a different lens. The COPS Office and BJA have a couple other initiatives that they are looking at. One of the opportunities is called Justice Reinvestment, which emphasizes the return on investment idea. The other opportunity is hiring through the COPS Program. The Commissioner was told since our P&P officers are sworn they would qualify. Possibly Marion County could fund our transition P&P officers through this COPS Program so to free up Measure 57 funds for other things.

There was also discussion about Senator Winters' request to write a policy bill around reentry. Commissioner Carlson confirmed with Doug Harclerod that he was working with Senator Winters on the legislative concept. Mr. Harclerod stated that he intended to submit an amendment to SB 416. Commissioner Carlson asked Mr Harclerod to check in with Senator Winters on her preference. It is possible that SB416 could get tied up in Ways & Means, because it will have a fiscal impact. There would be no fiscal impact for a bill that simply states that it's the policy of the State of Oregon to support reentry and the bill could also define reentry. Mr. Harclerod stated that he would talk with Senator Winters. The Commissioner reported that the Community Corrections budget is less, but not as bad as anticipated. She also discussed the fact that the delay of Measure 57 money (on handout) is at the same level in the Governor's current budget, and it actually benefits us with the delay.

Commissioner Carlson reported on the need for people to testify at the hearings for House Bill 3309, which is an on-the-job training bill.

Doug Harclerod discussed Senate Bill 416. It states that people who are presumptive prison will not go to prison if they meet certain criteria and if there is a program available in that community to provide special and high treatment to the person. This will save a lot of money and could give a big chunk of money to the community. There is also an independent evaluation piece. The third piece is the reentry side, where people coming out of prison will get a higher level of service like what Marion County is already doing with the Resource Center and the SOAR Program. The work group has a meeting tomorrow to see how this can work for all 36 counties. There is a public hearing set for next week and it has some momentum.

Sheriff Myers discussed the funding mechanism for Community Corrections. He stated that it is based on numbers. If we are successful and our numbers go down then our funding for Community Corrections also goes down. The Sheriff has discussed with Community Corrections Directors and our legislators a different algorithm that incentivizes results. He expressed that we are doing great things that may change the population, but at the same time it will effect our funding in the future. Commander Wood stated some of the discussions are based around the possibility of funding successful programs so to incentives good work.

The Sheriff stated that they have some sympathetic ears to this, because we would hate to go full circle and see ourselves ending up back where we were in 10 years with downsizing.

Jan Calvin discussed a United Way grant she is coordinating. The grant would be used for education and employment support to focus on sustainability of income.

Second Chance Act Letter of Support: (Handout.) Sgt. Matt Meier submitted a Letter of Support from The Council pertaining to the Second Chance Act. Commander Wood stated that this is an opportunity for the Reentry Council to sign off on a letter expressing our support of the Second Chance Act. The Second Chance Act is funding Quest, our transitional house, and the Community Action Transition Services (CATS) position. A motion was submitted and approved to support the letter.

SOAR CPC: (Handout.) Commander Wood submitted the CPC's evaluation of the fact-based SOAR Program. The SOAR program is an intensive 12-week program dealing with housing, employment, treatment, cognitive work, family reintegration and parenting classes. A truly wraparound program that deals with multiple skill sets to help people entering into the community from incarceration.

The program started in January of last year and it just graduated SOAR 4.

This program is somewhat bounded by Senate Bill 267, which states that any public funding program has to be evidence based. This assessment evaluates if The Program is evidence based and it received an overall score of 70%, which succeeds expectation and proves that SOAR is evidence based.

One of the areas to work on is the Quality Assurance. One issue was that some of the risk assessments weren't getting to the treatment program. Commander Wood stated the need to make sure these scores are getting to the program so that they are in the treatment folders for the program evaluator to review and address. Other issues are the challenge of reassessing in such a short period of time and also to broaden the client satisfaction form.

Other Business: Gregg Peterson asked for an update on the Clean Slate Project.

Commissioner Carlson stated that a small group of people had a meeting in Portland with the Multnomah County courts to see how they structured it. Commissioner Carlson stated that if our courts are not interested it will not be possible to implement in Marion County. Another issue is that we do not have extra money to create a whole structure so we will have to integrate it with the staff we currently have.

The Commissioner explained that Multnomah County has a unified court, which means that everyone that has issues goes to one court and the Judge deals with driving records and child support issues. She stated that Marion County does not have a unified court system. Marion County has justice and circuit courts, but Salem Municipal Court will have the majority of offenders that the Clean Slate Project would affect, to which Marion County has limited connection. The Commissioner mentioned that they would need to have more conversation with Salem Municipal Court, but it needs to wait until Marion County is done dealing with their jail management issues.

Sheriff Myers believes that this could be doable, but there needs to be relationship building with Salem Municipal Court.

There is a follow-up meeting next week with the group of people who went to Portland. Commissioner Carlson believes the next step will be to develop a plan to approach the Salem Municipal Court.

Multnomah County stated they needed an additional court clerk which would have to be part of the proposal.

The Commissioner stated that Marion County would be building on what is already established through SOAR and Quest for Change, if starting with the population that is being worked with already.

Gregg Peterson discussed the need to be part of this project and to have someone invested in the county to be a champion to run this project. He believes the buy in is there and that it is important to bring someone from outside the system to develop something that is going to change the needle in the black community. Gregg loves what Marion County is doing, but he believes that the systems currently in place are not helping the black community. He believes the Clean Slate Project could be a great benefit for the black community.

Commissioner Carlson believes it is possible, but harder than originally thought given the court structure. She believes the group as a whole should approach Salem Municipal Court.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.