

**Marion County
Public Safety Coordinating Council
Draft Minutes
March 14, 2006**

Attendees:

Walt Beglau, Dick Cowan, Judge Hart, Ruth Hewett, Commissioner Milne, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Jim Murchison, Jerry Moore, Dan Murphy, Bert Ortiz, Joe Parrott, Bob Royer, Chief Scott Russell.

Guests:

Guido Caldarazzo, James De Nuit, Judge Graves, Judge Paul Lipscomb, Michael Maryanov, Elaine Martin, Undersheriff Greg Olson, Sam Skillern

Staff:

Hitesh Parekh

Commissioner Patti Milne Chaired this Meeting.

Meeting called to order at 4.05 p.m. Quorum achieved.

Judge Lipscomb said that Council member Judge Tripp will be out on extended medical leave and that he will be sitting in for her until she recovers.

Public Comments.

Sam Skillern mentioned that Raul had talked to him about the faith community and based on this he was here with good and bad news. The good news was that the faith community wanted to respond and serve to be available to kids and families. He added that it was appropriate for the leadership in the community and the MCPSCC to ask the faith community to get involved. The bad news was that the faith community still had not realized that meth was a crisis. He said that prevention is an area that the church understands, as well as treatment and recovery programs. But between prevention and treatment programs, congregations still think that there is no one (in their congregation) using drugs, or doing anything bad. Sam added that it is natural for congregations to think that within their four walls everything is great, and that people outside are the ones who have problems. He said that he and the Sheriff are still working on a strategy. He cautioned that he did not want to overwhelm the faith community. If the faith community were asked to meet too many needs it would feel overwhelmed.

Ed asked if scheduling meetings with the faith community would help. What he was thinking of was to present to congregations what meth was doing to the community at large.

Judge Lipscomb added that meth was a large problem and that there were many ways of dealing with it. The foster care issue was one that needed to be highlighted somewhere as it was a direct result of the meth problem. It was an area in which the courts could use help.

Sam said that there was a major call to the faith community on October 20, 2005 to respond to the foster care issue. Dick Withnell came up with the idea. The congregations had 75 couples go through the training. This did not mean that all 75 couples would stick with it, but it was very encouraging. Sam added that there was also talk of getting 75 more couples. He said that the faith community's response to foster care had been very encouraging.

Jerry agreed with Judge Lipscomb and added that basic education is what people needed sometimes. His police department had prepared an English and Spanish training program for simply identifying meth houses. This program could easily work for the faith community. Once congregations better understand what to look for, they would be better able to recognize the situation. He said that the Salem Police Department was willing to come out and make those presentations to congregations.

Sam said that there was an excellent relationship between county civic leaders and the faith community in both Marion and Polk counties. He thanked the MCPSCC for this open door invitation.

Sam suggested that the judges invite pastors and members of their congregation to sit and observe court sessions. Sam said that he had sat through a few court sessions and found them very compelling. While he, Sam, could invite congregations, the invitation would be more effective if it came from the county judges.

Guido added that Senator Winters and Courtney were able to convene a strong group of individuals to look at the meth problem, and develop a process and template for a solution that can be transferable to any county, so entities are a little ahead of the game. This group is currently working on prevention, treatment and legislative suggestions for senators who (hopefully) will take it to next level. Guido said that he was the layperson brought into this process and that he would educate people of the financial, spiritual, and moral costs of meth. He added that the group was focusing on what needed to go to the state legislature prior to October 1, 2006 if there was funding involved.

Patti thanked Sam and told him that he was always welcome to attend future MCPSCC meetings.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2006 MCPSCC meeting. Motion seconded by Ed McKenney and approved.

Hitesh read a list of those council members whose terms were expiring. He mentioned that unless there were objections, all past citizen volunteer members on the council would have their terms renewed.

Commissioner Milne reminded the council sub-committees to finalize work on their 2006 strategic plans. She added that she would like to have a real plan by the April Council meeting. She said that the Sheriff's Office had done some good work on the Anti- Meth Toolkit.

Undersheriff Olson said that the kit could be customized for middle and high schools as well as other community groups. Abbie Firestone, Volunteer Coordinator in the Sheriff's Office had created the kit, and that Dan Estes will put it on line later.

Walt announced a legislative breakfast at the state capital building on March 20. This meeting was about bringing legislators to one table to talk about kids. Dick Withnell had made the invitations.

Walt added that congress had passed federal meth legislation and it may be a good idea to do an educational overview about this legislation at a later time for the MCPSCC. Also the D.A.'s Office was looking at moving grand jury operations to the CH2 building permanently.

Adult and Juvenile Drug Courts Grant Applications

Judge Graves gave an update on the Marion County adult drug court. He said that they were celebrating their fifth birthday next month. The adult court had been through periods of having federal funds, and these were exhausted on December 2004. He said that last year January to October it was "pay as you go" and that the adult court was able to continue with treatment funds until October. At this point the Sheriff's Office offered to assist the court through June 30, 2006 after which time the court would have exhausted its treatment funds.

Judge Graves said that they were there to ask the MCPSCC to endorse two grant applications each for \$300,000. He said that for the first time the state legislature had appropriated \$1.5 million for drug courts statewide. The idea was to enhance drug courts by adding things or enhancing existing ones. Funding for this grant was only available for a year. Unfortunately all drug courts in the state were put in the position of competing for these funds.

Secondly the adult courts were also applying for Byrne grant funds for \$3 million over a 2- year period. Focus of Byrne grant funding is on parents with children: 14, or approximately 45%, of the current 33 court participants are parents who have children in foster care. As for medication, 65% of participants have diagnosed mental health conditions; half of these require ongoing meds.

So the first grant application was to increase the size of the adult drug court to 45 from 30. If an individual has a conviction for endangering the welfare of a minor charge, the individual must deal with this charge first, after which the DA's Office directs this individual into the drug court on a diversion basis for 'possession of a substance' charge.

For the second grant application for the Byrne grant funds, parents with children were the intended targets. The Judge added that it was unfortunate that they were competing against all the drug courts in the state as well as the Marion County juvenile drug court.

Walt Beglau said that the adult drug court was a strong component of their public safety approach. It was very effective treatment to focus on family and children where the courts can add the greatest value. Walt recommended that the council endorse Judge Grave's request.

Mike Maryanov said that Judge Graves was correct in that both the adult and juvenile courts were competing for the same grant funds but not for the same programs. He said that the Juvenile drug court provided a continuum to address a spectrum of needs. This included adult criminals, juvenile delinquents and families. Mike said that Judge Abernathy and Family Building Blocks were starting a new family dependent court treatment facility specific to infants and toddlers. Babies will be primary participants. Mike said that they are calling it the Fostering Attachment Treatment court. This court was designed to accept meth moms involved in the dependency system with babies and was capitalizing on a spectrum of research. The research indicated that as soon as you can intercede and improve on an attachment between parent and child between birth and age three, the more favorable the outcome would be.

Judge Hart said that the MCPSCC had long tried to have a broad response to the needs of the community. He said that this was not a competition between the juvenile and adult courts but instead both courts were meeting different needs of the community.

He said that it was important to address the needs of newborns who are drug affected through the hospital, dependency courts, juvenile courts, and adult courts. If the Council just focused on one area it would not be addressing the issues in the community. The county adult and juvenile drug courts would be competing against everyone else in the state but not against one other.

Mike said that there were 32 other drug courts in existence in the state. The purpose of this grant was to promote these and add more courts. Council members asked if there was anything else they could do to show their support for both the adult and juvenile Marion County grant applications.

Judge Graves said that other grants he applied for always have allowed applicants to attach letters of support from important community partners. In this circumstance applicants may only attach a letter from the Local Alcohol and Drug Committee and the PSCC.

Judge Graves said that drug courts are evidence-based practices, and that their drug court was evaluated by the Department of Corrections last year with something called the Corrections Program Assessment Inventory. Through this assessment, the Marion County adult drug court received the highest assessment of any evidence-based practices in the state. Judge Graves said that with this kind of support with outside evaluators, he thought the legislators would respond favorably to his grant applications. He added that all the members of the council, not just the chair, could sign the letter of support, from the MCPSCC.

Motion made to approve the grant applications and provide letters of support for both the adult and juvenile drug court grant applications. Motion seconded. All "Ayes."

Walt Beglau: Treatment & Prevention on Forfeiture Funds.

Walt said that he was asking the members of the MCPSCC to recommend renewing a plan dedicating forfeiture funds designed by the local alcohol and drug planning committee to our adult and juvenile drug courts.

A recommendation from the MCPSCC would not specifically allocate any funds to anyone. The MCPSCC would simply be saying that the local planning committee should seek a renewal of this plan. Decisions down the road will be made in terms of specifically asking for funds. The recommendation from the MCPSCC should also add that the committee engage in a discussion that looks long term at all the stakeholders in the use of these forfeiture dollars.

Walt said that the history here was that the 2001-2003, 72 legislative session approved SB 914 and then established a procedure to allocate forfeiture funds. A portion of these funds were for substance abuse. They required that to retain the funds locally, a plan had to be developed involving the local DA, MCPSCC, local mental health advisory committee, local alcohol and drug planning committee. These agencies would look at how to integrate drug treatment services into the criminal justice system for non-violent felony and property crime offenders.

Walt said that his office had an account with \$34,000 of this money. The legislation was renewed on September 3, 2005. He said that there was a need for these funds in the county juvenile drug court.

He added that for the future these funds could also be used by Judge Graves, as these funds were restricted to drug treatment & prevention.

The law said that forfeiture proceeds should be distributed in the following manner: 3% to asset forfeiture oversight, 7% to illegal drug clean up funds, 10% to the general fund, then of the amount that remains, 50% to law enforcement and 50% to substance abuse treatment pursuant to a plan as developed or required by the statute. This was readopted in the last legislative session.

Walt said that as the local alcohol group is meeting next Thursday, the MCPSCC should recommend to the Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee to renew this plan to allow access to forfeiture funds for treatment for Drug Courts.

Motion made to recommend that the Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee renew this plan to allow access to forfeiture funds for treatment for Drug Courts.

Motion seconded and passes.

Anti-Meth Funding Grant Award.

Commissioner Milne said that Senator Smith came to the county commissioners two weeks ago to present \$444,000 for meth treatment and prevention in the Marion County jail. Over \$300,000 will be spent on treatment, in and out of custody. Some will be for over-time training, but the Sheriff's Office will not be buying equipment. The treatment dollars will cover about 200 clients in the jail for a year. There will also be in custody and follow up out of custody.

Commissioner Milne updated the council on planning for the Volcanoes Stadium 'No Meth' event. She said that the date had now been moved to Friday, July 14, which meant that there will be more people there. Moving the date ahead also gave the council more time to plan activities. The events planning team will be visiting the stadium on April 3 to review it first hand. She said that many great ideas had come from the Sheriff's Office.

Pete said that this was a great opportunity with a captive audience. This event will also give the MCPSCC an opportunity to celebrate some successes that are happening, honor some people that are in the fight against meth, along with businesses. It was a good opportunity for the MCPSCC to get the message out. The team was getting a lot of help from the Volcanoes in terms of promotion. Patti said that the planning team had come up with a slogan: "Striking Out Meth in Marion County." The Volcanoes organization is creating the logo. This is a family event.

Educators Breakfast Meeting

Ruth said that Kathy Bebe and her had met and set May 4 as the breakfast meeting day with educators, from 7 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. in the Public Works building. Ruth said Patti put together a great letter asking school superintendents to bring school board members and others to look at the issues around meth and the school community. One of the greater issues was the families of the kids on drugs, how they manage, keep parents together. When the Steering Committee meets, questions will be finalized for each of the school districts that attend the breakfast. The meeting format will be similar to what was done in the past, a panel then small table discussions.

Ruth also said that Jason Walling will be with the schools counselors on May 12. Maureen Casey, the ESD Superintendent said she would be willing to convene all of the principals, (middle, elementary and secondary) in Marion County at this meeting.

Ruth said that at the last MCPSCC Steering Committee meeting, the group discussed what happens to kids who are kicked out, or drop out of school. The group decided that prior to our breakfast meeting on May 4, it may be an opportune time for the full MCPSCC to understand what schools can and cannot do. Ruth said that they would be inviting individuals from the ESD to educate the full council about drop out school kids at the April council meeting.

Ruth then went over the questions that the school districts would be asked at the May 4, meeting. She said that other external individuals would also be invited to facilitate such as Sam Skillern and Guido.

Judge Hart suggested that a representative from alternative schools also be invited.

Bert Ortiz said that the Business Sub-Committee of the MCPSCC was sending out a survey to find out what businesses are doing with regard to drugs and meth. The survey would be for local chambers of commerce. Once the sub-committee receives this info they would come up with a plan.

Adjourned.