

**Marion County  
Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Draft Minutes  
MAY 9, 2006**

**Attendees:**

Kathy Bebe, Walt Beglau, Dick Cowan, Faye Fagel, Delaney Hanlon, Judge Hart, Seantel Heisel, Ruth Hewett, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Elaine Martin, Commissioner Milne, Jerry Moore, Bert Ortiz, Sheriff Ramirez, Bob Royer, Chief Scott Russell

**Guests:**

Rebecca Ambrose, Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice, Guido Caldarazzo, Dr. Stan Mazur-Hart, Jennifer Lief, Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice, Glenn Gelbrich, Assistant School Superintendent SKSD.

**Staff:**

Dan Estes, Hitesh Parekh

Vice Chair Bob Royer called the meeting to order at 4.05 p.m. as Commissioner Milne was attending the county budget hearings.

Motion made to approve March and April MCPSCC meeting minutes. Motion seconded and minutes approved.

**Announcements**

Sheriff Ramirez introduced Jennifer Lief and Rebecca Ambrose both from the Center on Juvenile & Criminal Justice. Jennifer said that they are working on project "Backpack;" to provide backpacks for homeless inmates released from the Marion County corrections facility. Project "Backpack" will be collecting donations of money, and items to sell to purchase products to put in a backpack and donate to released inmates. Products will include dental floss, condoms, tooth paste, basic clothing, Jennifer said that they will be presenting these backpacks to the Sheriff's Office in late June. Prior to this they will also be holding a fundraising event.

Sheriff Ramirez said that this idea arose from students recognizing the needs and challenges of homelessness out in the community. Their goal is to put together, through fundraising, 5,000 backpacks. If this person is homeless, they will not have basic needs, such as food, clothing and medicine. From a statistical standpoint, a person released from the county jail will most likely end up in the city of Salem.

Jennifer also said that a backpack gives ex-inmates something in which to hold their possessions. Project Backpack is accepting donations, or individuals can also have their cars washed. They are also looking for volunteers who can assist with putting up flyers in the community. Bob thanked Jennifer and Rebecca and then turned over the chairing of the meeting to Commissioner Milne.

Commissioner Milne asked the Council if they had any updates to report.

Walt Beglau commented that at the March 14, MCPSCC meeting he had brought the Treatment and Forfeiture proceeds fund issue to the council, and the process by which these funds could be used by the Juvenile Star Court. This issue had to go through the local alcohol and drug planning committee. So as it stands, these funds are now available for both the adult drug court and juvenile court. Walt added that this would also be a good time to look at how the council plans to expend these funds in the future.

Walt added that he also wanted to bring the group up to speed on meth in the community from an enforcement perspective. He said that the county and local public safety partners had been focusing on the county's jail release standards and the lodge matrix to create some adjustments based on those dealing and manufacturing meth. The county commissioners unanimously approved these adjustments in April. Through the courts and Judge Lipscomb, some adjustments were made to security schedules to place higher sanctions to hold those manufacturing and dealing in meth. If the jail created space to hold dealers and manufacturers, then the courts wanted to ensure that there was sufficient security schedules and bails amounts to keep dealers there.

Walt added that finally, as part of a collective, multiple city effort, a resolution was passed with Marion County and the cities of Salem and Keizer adopting the very first steps to create a team to better serve our county in terms of those dealing and manufacturing meth.

Sheriff Ramirez added that on the realignment of the bail schedule, meth manufacturing, delivery and possession, typically would constitute \$ 40-50,000 bail. This amount was elevated to \$ 500,000 recognizing that if a meth dealer gets arrested, he/she would need \$4-5,000 cash to get out to continue with business. So depending on the circumstances, this will be more difficult to do. As the county prioritized the lodging of these types of meth offenders, they had to review who would be released to make room. So this elevation of sanctions on meth dealers is a start to hold those responsible for the manufacture and delivery of meth in our community.

Q: How many beds will we be impacting by doing this?

Sheriff: Looking at around 30-40 as a starting point. Larger number as far as delivery and possession is 2-300 beds in a year.

As an adjunct, the Sheriff also added that Marion County is putting together a 20-year facility needs plan, looking at jail needs 5-20 years into the future.

### **Statewide Jail Survey on Mental Health**

The Sheriff said that one of the issues his office has been grappling with is the increase of the mentally ill in the criminal justice system at both the juvenile and adult level. The numbers have ballooned in the past five years from 17% to almost 40% of the county jail population. The Sheriff said that this was a common theme across the state. Dr. Stan Mazur-Hart had led the charge in trying to develop a strategy with the State of Oregon with regard to the mentally ill in jail facilities. Dr. Stan Mazur-Hart had conducted a statewide survey of mentally ill offenders in county jails and had developed a report based on his findings. With that the Sheriff introduced Dr. Mazur-Hart.

Dr. Mazur-Hart distributed his survey findings to the MCPSCC and said the survey was done under auspices of the State Jail Managers Association and State Offices of Mental Health Addiction and the Department of Health Services. This was a follow up on President Bush's Mental Health Commission that was set up a few years ago.

Governor Ted Kulongoski had also set up a mental health task force a year or so ago to look at those incarcerated with a serious mental illnesses, who may not represent much of a public safety list in the long run. Dr. Mazur-Hart said that the idea was to identify the scope of the problem, as there were no current studies about this population.

He added that this problem is all across the U.S. The largest in-patient psychiatric facility is the LA county jail. As the survey showed, inmates with a mental health illness and not much of a serious public safety risk don't belong in jail. Adequate housing and psychiatric medication for this sub component of the population is critical to success.

Marion County jail commander Chris Hoy was a prime contact in getting the survey completed. The survey was completed in 2005 and had a 100% return rate. All 30 jails in Oregon responded. Dr. Mazur-Hart mentioned that the survey was about serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, bi-polar manic depression, and major depression. There were specific instructions about these definitions so all survey administrators were on the same page.

Sheriff Ramirez said that looking at strategies and solutions, they are not currently working with the DPSST to incorporate crisis intervention training. In the future, this training will be provided to new law enforcement recruits. He added that they are also working on being able to locate best practices across the state from county to county, to review their findings and then develop templates. In Marion County, with the mental health task force, one of the strategies is to develop our mental health court. We are realigning our existing resources: three years ago Marion County had no mental health assessment. Today they have 3.5 FTEs that provide mental health assessments & transition services from the jail to the community. While sharing of information is important, HIPPA is an issue and we will be meeting with the Attorney General's Office to get advise on this issue.

Faye: I know that the data was specific to the jail and adults, but can you interpolate what the data might look like for youth, as mental illnesses are lifelong?

Response: I don't know what the data would show in terms of county juvenile systems. But some serious mental illness is only identified in early adulthood, between the ages of 19-25. That being said, the OYA has a significant number of youth with severe emotional disorders- many of which do carry through to adulthood. With youth it is harder to identify mental illness because there is a lot of conduct disorder that may be related to family situations, living situations etc. But this population is also very much at risk. The OYA has a very high number of kids who are identified as having emotional disorders. Diagnostically, you cannot be as precise with kids as you can with adults. I suspect that the problem is more serious than it is with adults of the kids who are incarcerated.

Judge: Some of the bookings are repeats, any way to evaluate how many times one individual came through?

Response: Every county has a horror story.

Dr. Mazur-Hart said that there was a clear relationship between mental illness and bookings. Multnomah County also had a similar story with booking the same offenders over and over again who are mentally ill. As there are front-end costs associated with intake and diagnosis in jails, this can get very expensive.

Q: How much money can we save statewide if all jails purchased their drugs collectively?

Response: Marion County gets a fairly good price in terms of their meds. Smaller counties don't benefit as much. There are a number of bulk purchasing plans, so based on volume the larger the county, the more beneficial the purchasing.

Sheriff Ramirez added that the county is always reviewing how it can save costs with prescription drugs. For example, buying generics instead. Only problem is that generic drugs take longer to get into the pool.

### **Debriefing of the Educators Breakfast Meeting**

Commissioner Milne thanked everyone who attended, and especially the presentation panel: Faye, Walt, Raul and Jerry and Judge Leggert. Ruth thanked all the volunteers and facilitators. She stated that most of the people were impressed with the statistics and being able to work together. Also, some of the comments were for the districts to meet again in the fall.

Assistant school superintendent Glenn Gelbrich of the SKSD, said that the school district discussed the meeting and follow up. Suggestions were made that when they next met, it would be helpful to have a schematic of some kind for the educators, pre-school childcare, anyone in the community. Glenn said that he was quite concerned about this problem, and a child affected by a meth home, parent using, middle school student experimenting, whatever the case may be, needed assistance. So the question he had was how could the school districts access the system so that one phone call is made, and teachers/administrators know exactly who they need to talk to get the child some attention? Glen said that the school districts are eager to participate and look forward to a fall meeting.

Glen added that the meeting also prompted the school district to ask some internal questions.

Ruth said that the ESD might have a different location for their next meeting with the MCPSCC. Also, it is better for the school staff to meet in the morning before 8 a.m. so that substitute teachers don't have to be hired to teach classes. Sheriff Ramirez said that they would be meeting with all of the student councilors at the SKSD to look at the issue of violence, and drugs. They will be working with Anne Kelley to get student leaders involved, and look at how these leaders can make a difference. This conference will be at the work center in the county jail. Ruth added that the meeting with the SKSD counselors has been set for May 12. The counselors were surveyed and they had several questions about foster care kids, and also youth and the criminal justice system.

Pete McCallum said that the panel did an outstanding job. Just the fact that the schools had an opportunity to attend accomplished a great deal.

## **Approval of the 2006 Anti-Drug Strategic Plan**

Commissioner Milne said that she would like the MCPSCC to approve the 2006 Strategic Plan. If any of the Council members had any more changes they should add it to the document. Once the MCPSCC approved the plan, then it would be taken to the Commissioners for their approval.

Ed asked if the document could be approved in the June meeting as members were still reviewing it.

## **Striking Out Meth in Marion County: Volcanoes Stadium Event**

Commissioner Milne said that another planning meeting had been held for this July 14 event at the Volcanoes Stadium. Raul, Dan, the Sheriff, and Bert are on this planning committee.

Sheriff Ramirez said that they will be using the theme of a baseball to share the anti-meth message with up to 4-5,000 people. They will be purchasing 1,000 t-shirts with the 'Striking out Meth' logo. On the day itself they will end up with 20 or more exhibitors, spearheading the anti-meth effort. The theme is to engage the community. The Committee is still working on finding exhibitors.

Pete McCallum said that he was duly impressed with the Volcanoes, and that this was a very positive event. This anti-meth message would be exposed to a lot of people. The Committee is also looking at recruiting non-profits and other organizations. While their expenses are small they currently have one sponsor and need to raise up to \$ 3,500. They currently have a major sponsor donating 30 tickets. The Sheriff is looking at making these tickets available to foster parents/kids.

Dan Estes said that they are confident that since this is such a high profile issue, and costs are under \$4,000, they will not have too much of a problem getting sponsors from businesses and private donors.

## **Courthouse Square Update**

Walt Beglau said that things were moving along very well and that the basement and first floor would be open to the public sometime towards the end of June or July. Hopefully they will have the whole building back by September, since the courts have received notice from the State to vacate the rooms currently being used for court cases.

The Sheriff asked the Council if they would like a tour before all the departments move in again.

Hearing an affirmative response, the Sheriff said that he would work on organizing a tour.

ADJOURNED

