

Marion County
Public Safety Coordinating Council
Draft Minutes

July 10, 2007

Members: Walt Beglau, Faye Fagel, Elaine Martin, Ed McKenney, Commissioner Milne, Chief Gerry Moore, Dan Murphy, Bert Ortiz, Joe Parrott, Bob Royer

Guests: Undersheriff Mike Wilkerson

Staff: Dan Estes, Hitesh Parekh

Meeting called to order at 4.05 p.m.

Public Comment

Marion County District Attorney Walt Beglau distributed the *Drug Endangered Children* quarterly report for the period ending June 2007 from his office. Walt gave a few highlights from the report, and said that they were seeing a very comprehensive approach to child protection, with cases referred from all areas of the county. What was notable was a trend in more kids being exposed to marijuana.

Walt said that he had recently met with John Deits, a prosecutor from the federal Department of Justice who handles narcotics. Mr. Deits had some interesting information to share with Marion County, and Walt said that he would invite Mr. Deits to make a presentation at the September MCPSCC meeting.

Strike Out Meth Event Planning July 13, 2007

Bert Ortiz went over the schedule for the Striking Out Meth event. He said that there were roughly the same number of sponsors this year as there had been in the prior year.

Commissioner Milne said that Pete McCallum had played an active role in the organizing of this event, but his availability for the event was on hold as he was now battling cancer. City of Hubbard Police Chief Dave Dryden, who had taken in over 130 foster kids annually, would throw the first pitch.

Statewide Public Safety Conference

Commissioner Milne said that several members of the MCPSCC had attended the statewide *Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Conference* held in Corvallis. MCPSCC Vice-Chair Bob Royer said that the programs were very interesting. A presentation from the State of Washington, Institute of Public Policy was made, showing the most effective corrections programs for adult and juvenile offenders.

Walt Beglau said that the conference reminded him of the investment needed for juvenile crime prevention. He added that Senate Bill 111 required each county to establish a planning authority to address the use of force situation by law enforcement when a fatality occurred. He said that

this legislation had been on the radar for a while, but now it has become law. Marion County has a group dealing with this issue. Sheriff Ramirez is co-chairing this group. Marion County has a one-year period to create this template, which then has to be approved by the Attorney General. Walt also said that the county circuit court judges had all received a 19% pay raise from the state.

Anna Peterson said that what she liked about the conference was that in addition to receiving legislative updates, there was a theme that ran through the presentations starting with how to get the best returns from investing in an effective criminal justice system. She said that retired Chief Justice Wally Carson did a great job pulling these themes together. All the presentations had tools that counties could use- such as alternative funding, and partnerships for programs when state dollars are scarce.

Anna Peterson went over some of the legislative changes made by the 2007 State Legislature that was presented at the conference. She said that one of the two state legislative bills dealing with annual reports from local public safety coordinating councils had passed. The bill required public safety coordinating councils across the state to develop annual reports regarding service or budget changes in county budgets in response to what their LPSCC's have been recommending. This was one way for the legislatures to measure their effectiveness. Anna said that a companion bill which had resources attached did not pass, and would most likely be reintroduced at the next legislative session. Anna also mentioned that as a result of another bill passing, a public safety strategy task force would be formed for the first time: Members would be appointed by house, senate and governor's office. The Task Force would be looking at investments in state funded programs to reduce crime, as well as program effectiveness. Other changes that may make a big difference for local governments include the increase in in-treatment funding for counties.

Chief Moore said that he had received an e-mail from someone asking how he or she can get treatment. "Which local governmental organizations receive treatment funds in Marion County, and do these all go to corrections agencies"?

A: DHS and the county health department also receive treatment funds.

Q: So how does one get access to these funds? Does a crime have to be committed first?

Faye Fagel said that in terms of treatment, what Max Williams had been referring to at the Conference had been a longstanding discussion with those in the corrections field. The question was essentially do you provide treatment services for those that are already in a corrections facility, or do you provide it outside of the facility- when an offender leaves? This is a policy choice discussion. It has always been very difficult for both juveniles and adults -once they have been released back into the community – to receive residential treatment.

US Mike Wilkerson said that the State A&D budget had increased by \$50M, so Chief Moore's question was very appropriate. The question was how to keep people diverted out of the criminal justice system, because once they get into the system it was a very expensive process for all involved. What the economics came down to in the Marion County jail was spending \$1M a year for community corrections treatment but serving less than 10% of our jail pop that are under supervision. So while we have 4,500 offenders under supervision we only have 450 slots out of this \$1M and only two in-patient beds.

So if there is a way to access treatment dollars when someone recognizes that their family or friends are getting into drugs etc; this would be great. But generally speaking, the folks that have a drug issue, simply don't have any funds for treatment, and don't qualify for health plans. Unfortunately, once they are arrested they do have access to treatment. In jail, you have a captive audience and a long-term facility where you can make a difference. But then the question is who gets what type of treatment? There are some great assessment tools that Max Williams

mentioned. Some programs by themselves won't do anything unless they are combined with treatment.

When the Council visited Coffee Creek, the message was that the average stay in jail is just 21 days, -hard to put someone under treatment for such a short amount of time. Also, jail is a captive audience, so just going through the motions. However, there is a level of skill development offenders can have before they are released, so being incarcerated provides a small window of time for offenders to learn these skills.

Q: If increased funding for treatment is going through the DHS, how do we access this?

Dan Murphy said that in Marion County this will be through the Health Advisory Board, which is chaired by the county's Public/Mental Health Director. So question would be how do we dispense with this proportionately.

Faye Fagel said that local public safety councils came together around SB 1145. SB 1145 was a commitment counties had to hold offenders that were sentenced to less than a year in local jails, versus serving their time in state prisons. So a lot of discussions were around the adult population. Need to have this discussion in a broader sense now that we've moved away from SB 1145, which MCPSCC has been trying to do all along.

Dan Estes asked if a joint meeting with the health advisory board and the MCPSCC would be worthwhile in the future?

Council members agreed that it should be considered.

Dan Murphy said that he had met Martha Brooks who is affiliated with the national *Fight Crime, Invest in Kids* organization. If we really want to fight crime, we have to make some policy decisions about investing in kids. So the question was how to make wise investments across the continuum – not just the jail. Need to invest in kids. Dan Murphy said that the MCPSCC should consider inviting Martha to make a presentation to the Council in the future. Council members agreed.

School District Presentation

Commissioner Milne said that their panel discussion with the School District also went very well. Approximately 100 professionals from schools were there representing kindergarteners to grade school.

Dan Estes said that since it had been hard to break into the education community, this was an excellent opportunity and was well attended.

Sub-Committee Updates

Meth Strike Force

Walt Beglau said that there had been an article in the paper recently involving a Salem case where the Meth Strike Force Team did a small strike. Walt said that they are continuing to make a difference at the supply end of meth.

Walt added that on a policy basis, the group would be looking at the long term. While it was hard to measure the impact they were having on the supply end of meth, they were definitely having an impact, and the US DOJ will corroborate this.

Medical Meth Sub-Committee

Anna said that the MCPSCC Medical Sub-Committee continues to move along. The Committee had received funds from the County CFC of \$5,000 to produce a training DVD for medical practitioners. They want to educate doctors, nurses, office staff and medical clinic staff on how meth affects patient's children of users etc. Thanks to Joe Parrott's assistance, CCTV will be doing some of the filming for us at no cost in August. The Sub-Committee also asked the Mid-Valley Independent Physicians Association for a contribution. A presentation was made to them a few weeks ago and they liked the idea.

MCPSCC Biographies

Dan Estes said that he had been putting together some biographies on the MCPSCC members. These had been shared at the educator's panel discussion. Dan also distributed an anti-meth DVD for school kids called the "Long Road" produced by the Sheriff's Office.

Minutes MCPSCC June 12, 2007

Since a quorum was now achieved, Faye Fagel made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, MCPSCC meeting. Motion seconded by US Wilkerson. Motion passes.

Other

Anna Peterson said that the legislature increased drug court funding by an additional \$500,000 for a total of \$ 8.5M this next biennium. RFP's for funding will go out in September. This session, the legislature was looking for outcomes and best investments. Anna said that the Legislature's understanding of meth is maturing, and they are not just reviewing it as a law enforcement issue. Funding for drug court and treatment is very encouraging. This is because people have spoken to the Legislators. Mental Health, Family and Juvenile Courts are definitely a component of this. Anna said that she thought the \$ 8.5M in total grant funds included mental health court dollars as well.

Commissioner Milne said that MCPSCC member Pete McCallum-will be on leave of absence since he will be undergoing eleven months of chemotherapy for melanoma.

ADJOURNED