

**Marion County  
Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Draft Minutes**

**SEPTEMBER 11, 2007**

**Attendees:**

Walt Beglau, Rod Calkins, Faye Fagel, Ed McKenney, Pete McCallum, Elaine Martin, Commissioner Patti Milne, Police Chief Jerry Moore, Dan Murphy, Bert Ortiz, Joe Parrott, Bob Royer, Police Chief Scott Russell, Judge Susan M. Tripp.

**Guests:**

Dr. Bud Brown, *Western Oregon University*, John Diets *U.S. DOJ*, Randal Fritzler, Jail Commander Chris Hoy, Lt. Jason Myers, Gaylynn Pack, *Marion County Jail*, Scott Richards, *Marion County Health Department*, Under sheriff Mike Wilkerson.

**Staff:**

Dan Estes, Hitesh Parekh

**Meeting Called to Order at 4.05 P.M.**

Quorum was achieved.

Faye Fagel made a motion to approve the July 10, 2007 MCPSCC meeting minutes.

Elaine Martin seconded this motion.

Motion approved unanimously.

A moment of silence was held in memory of all those that perished during the September 11, 2001 attack on the twin towers in New York.

**Member Items/Updates**

Chief Moore said that the City of Salem had held a work session on a new police facility. A firm had been hired to review their needs for the next 30 years. He said that the cost of the new police facility came in close to \$70m. There will now be a subcommittee looking at what the City Council wants to do with this recommendation. He added that there will not be a Bond Measure forthcoming.

Walt Beglau said that on September 19, the DPSST is holding an all day training on SB 111, the use of force law enforcement bill that was passed at the last legislative session. Marion County will be going forward with their planning meeting in the next few weeks.

Walt Beglau added that on Sept 22, the Domestic Violence Council is sponsoring its first annual domestic violence run in anticipation of the forthcoming Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October.

Commissioner Janet Carlson asked the MCPSCC members if they could pencil in October 18 on their calendars as this was the day when she would be holding a volunteer mentor breakfast from 7.30 to 8.30 a.m. at the Salem Convention Center. She said they would be asking people for their time not money at this breakfast meeting. Commissioner Carlson said that she will make a presentation to the MCPSCC at the next MCPSCC meeting on October 9.

#### National and International Drug Activity Landscape

Walt Beglau introduced Department of Justice attorney, John Deits from Portland.

John said that he was the Chief Supervisor of the Drug Unit in the DOJ. He supervised 8 federal drug case attorneys who deal with the highest level of drug cases in the state. John said that he also attends meetings of a national organization called the *National Meth and Chemical Initiative* - a law enforcement group which meets annually to discuss what is going on nationally and internationally with regards to meth.

John gave a presentation on national/international drug and meth trafficking issues.

He presented slides from the *National Meth and Chemical Initiative* group's meeting in August 2007. He said that they had been tracking the meth pre-cursor chemicals pseudo-ephedrine and ephedrin for a few years. Since Oregon has the strictest pre-cursor laws in the country- including a doctor's prescription for psuedoephedrin products, meth labs have virtually disappeared from the state. This is very dramatic since other states are still fighting meth labs. Still there is no shortage of meth.

John said that on a national level, meth labs began to decrease in 2006. Meth super labs (defined as 10 or more pbs of meth per cooking cycle) are also decreasing. On an international level, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are still being manufactured in China, India and Germany. The United Nations estimates that globally there are 24 million meth users in the world, 16 million opiate users and 13 million cocaine users.

John mentioned that regionally, to the north, Canada was seeing a growth in meth labs. In 2006 while only 45 labs were found in Canada, 15 were super labs, and of these, 70% were in British Columbia. He added that motorcycle gangs have dominated control over meth, illicit pill, and PCP manufacturing in BC and Alberta. Gangs also control the export of precursor chemicals and marijuana across the Canadian border into the state of Washington.

John said that to the south, the Mexican government had now developed a strategy to fight meth by reducing the legal importation to only 30-40 metric tons in 2007; limiting entries to only 3 ports; and requiring that all consumers have a prescription for products with psuedoephedrine. But as the government cracks down, the drug cartels are getting more sophisticated. They are ordering equipment directly from China and building their own productions plants.

John said that because of this type of crack down on meth precursor chemicals, manufacturers were now resorting to manufacturing or processing precursor substitutes such as the ephedra plant.

As far as mega labs went in the rest of the world, there have been mega lab seizures in Cambodia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines over the past 6 years. Some of these labs are very sophisticated with state of the art manufacturing equipment. Australia is also seeing a huge increase in meth manufacturing.

Q: What are meth consumption trends in other countries?

A: Meth consumption is increasing in the Far East and other parts of the world. For example Australia. Heroin & cocaine is still the drug of choice on east coast of the U.S.- not meth. But eventually meth will take over.

Q: How is meth coming into the US from Mexico?

A: Private or commercial vehicles. Being trucked in. Not sea traffic; no maritime smuggling in CA.

Q: So what are the steps the federal government is taking to stop this?

A: If you see the volume of traffic at the border, it is not possible to police. Drug smuggler vehicles have very professionally designed hidden compartments, very difficult to search thousands of cars every day that are crossing. Our border is a sieve.

Q: Purity. In 2005 the purity of meth was going way up because meth was coming in from Mexico. Your info shows the purity levels going down but the price going up?

A: Because Mexican producers are having problems with getting pseudo ephedrine- primarily because the pharmaceutical lobby is very strong in the USA. Congress also went half way with the Combat Meth Act and put pseudoephedrine products behind the counter.

Q: Are the Chinese cooperating?

A: Not much. They won't report how much pseudoephedrine they are producing and won't report to the UN.

Q: What is causing the decline of meth purity?

A: Demand is still the same, but because the purity is declining, dealers are adding other chemicals into the meth.

Q: Can you comment on current organized crime trends in Oregon?

A: Most of the crimes we deal with in Oregon are with Mexican cartels. These cartels are poly-drug in nature. They deal in heroin and meth while cocaine is still their biggest commodity. Other trends show a substantial new wave of Asian indoor marijuana producers in the state. Many have connections to Canada.

Mexican cartels also have huge out door marijuana groves in the state. Last year, over 100,000 plants were seized in 12 counties. Way ahead of that number this year. This has become a public safety issue since these cartels are on BLM owned land, and the cartels are heavily armed, making it dangerous for hikers & hunters. So ultimately they are trashing the forests, cutting down trees, brush, and leaving toxic garbage behind to create an environmental problem. This has become a west coast phenomenon.

Chief Moore said that his department sometimes reviewed these federal cases and found that because of the high level of sophistication the drug dealers now have, it is hard to get to the top. The leaders insulate themselves well and it is frustrating to not be able to get at them.

John Deits said that the DOJ uses court-approved wiretaps to catch the bigger fish. The smaller ones are easy to apprehend, but the leaders are never caught red handed. It is definitely a challenge.

Dan Estes any suggestions for us at the local level?

John said that he believed in the 3-legged stool approach. Have to reduce demand and provide treatment to get people off meth. If there was less demand the Mexican cartels wouldn't have a cartel base.

Judge Tripp mentioned that there is a new vaccine being tried which makes meth ineffective.

Walt thanked John for his presentation.

Marion County Jail Survey 2007

Dr. Bud Brown said that the problem with presenting the survey results was that there were over 300 items on the original questionnaire for the inmates. He is still in the process of making certain that each item is entered correctly, however, he is very comfortable with the 565 completed responses. Overall they had a 87% response rate in the jail and work center. All of the Sheriff's Office management team was satisfied with the results.

Dr. Brown said that he will have a final formal report by August 1. He then went on to give a power point overview by comparing the 2005 jail survey with the 2007 preliminary survey results.

He said that in general there were more females this time round, and the predominant jail population age group was 23 - 38. In terms of race, Native Americans increased over the previous survey as well as Latina and African Americans.

After the presentation was made the following questions were asked:

Q: The 12 to 15 age group seems a critical time when these folks either started dropping out of high school, experimented with substance abuse or had their first brush with the juvenile system. Faye said that category is definitely over represented in the county juvenile justice system.

Dr. Brown said that from his research, kids were generally terrified of detention/jail until they were admitted. Then they find out that they can survive and it no longer is traumatic for them.

Q: How was homelessness defined in the survey?

A: As no place to live. However, Dr. Brown said that he had forgotten to ask if the inmate had ever been denied a place to live because of his/her criminal history. His suspicion was that many probably also could not get jobs because of their criminal record.

Also, on the Spanish questionnaire, farm workers don't get criminal background checks done, so more they were likely to be hired. There were 30 or so surveyed who reported being non- citizens.

Q: Were those that reported as being gang members predominantly Latino?

A: No. Whites have their own gangs too.

Q: Interesting that information shows Hispanic respondents have highest number of biological parents remaining in home and lowest divorce rate, yet when asked why they joined a gang, family relations were cited as the highest motivator? Why is that?

This is a different kind of gang. In the old days, 'gangs' were a group of kids with a common interest and not indulging in criminal activities.

Also while the respondent may indicate that the parents are not divorced, this may not be true. The parents may be married but the spouse may still be in Mexico.

The responses from the Spanish questionnaires were of no gang memberships- there was some affiliation-but no gang membership.

Q: Did adult offenders develop gang affiliations while incarcerated?

A: Not many. Only 3 from the recent survey developed gang affiliations while in jail.

Q: Do you have any way of checking the responses to see if they are based on facts?

Dr. Brown said that he had no reason to believe any of the respondents would lie when they filled out the survey. Dr. Brown said that he had done a study of the Nevada prison

system and after the inmates filled out the questionnaires, he cross checked them with prison records, and found that in over 90% of the cases, the inmate responses were truthful.

Only time someone may be dishonest is if for example, he or she has been charged with a sex offense, but other than this, the responses are honest.

Q: Did you ask if they have ever used meth? At least 95% of the parents in the CHIP program have used meth.

A: Yes. 73% -74% replied positive both in the prior survey and this survey.

In 2005, whites were predominant meth users, now it is Native Americans. In the last survey, usage was in the low 70s now it is in the 80's. So 80% of Native Americans in the survey said that they used it.

Dr Brown said that what was disheartening in the survey was that 6 female homeless Iraqi war veterans were in the county jail. Close to 50% of the veterans in the jail have been in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan. This will become a real problem before long.

Randal Fritzler, Dr. Brown's research partner, said that he was a former judge and the advice he had for the council was to review the survey results in the context of risk management.

Dr. Brown said that they were seeing a replication of the 2005 survey with concerns falling on inmate mental health issues.

Commissioner Milne thanked Dr. Brown for the presentation, and said that once the formal report was available, a policy should be developed to address some of the findings.

Adjourned.