

Marion County
Public Safety Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2009 Meeting

Members: Walt Beglau, Faye Fagel, Judge Tom Hart, Alison Kelley, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Chief Rick Lewis, Elaine Martin, Chief Jerry Moore, Bert Ortiz, Anna Peterson, Bob Royer, Tom Sermak, Olcott Thompson.

Guests: Terrie Davie OSP, Lt. Eric Judah OSP, Michael Runyon OYA.

Staff: Dan Estes, Hitesh Parekh

Quorum Achieved.

Vice- Chair Bob Royer, chaired the meeting as Commissioner Milne was unable to attend.

Approval of January 13 MCPSCC Meeting Minutes

After a minor correction, a motion was made to approve the January 13, 2009 MCPSCC meeting minutes by Tom Sermak.

Motion seconded by Chief Rick Lewis.

Motion approved.

Member Comments

Use of Force Planning Authority

Walt Beglau said that the *Marion County Use of Force Planning Authority* is putting together a training on the use of force on February 23 at the DPSST building. This will be a very public-community based- educational training and he encouraged all members of the MCPSCC to attend. He added that they would be videotaping the whole event on the 23rd, and will then be able to use this video in different forums.

Walt also said that his office will be issuing a drug endangered children quarterly and annual report soon.

Finally, Walt said that if there were any public safety items that arose at the state capital from the 2009-11 legislative meeting, he would notify the MCPSCC.

State Budget Reductions

Police Chief Jerry Moore said that the Legislative Ways and Means Committee would be convening on February 12th and there will be a hearing about funding the DPSST and State Police. He said that the DPSST trains city police officers and if the Legislature

reduces the number of basic academy classes this will delay the training of new police officers by six months– so funding for DPSST is critical. Jerry added that the OSP is also facing some tough times.

Lt. Eric Judah of the OSP said that the February 12th meeting encompasses all public safety issues throughout the state- not just DPSST. It includes the Oregon Youth Authority, community corrections –everything that has to do with public safety. So, the Committee would like to hear from the public and get public input. He said that if the OSP were to hire 100 officers, they would need to be trained. The DPSST was built specifically for this purpose, so cutting the DPSST's resources would be counter productive. Eric added that as far as the state police go- the Superintendent may have to cut programs- such as SWAT teams, mobile response teams, etc. The OSP would also withdraw from drug enforcement units around the state, so these reductions would affect all communities statewide.

Juvenile Department Director Faye Fagel said that there is a state budget deficit for the 2007-09 and 2009-11 biennium. However since the 07-09 biennium ends on June 30, 2009, state agencies are having to implement this cut in the last 6 months of the biennium. If this should happen, and the Oregon Youth Authority has to take a cut during the current biennium -there will be impacts to the Marion County Juvenile Department. Anyone that has state pass through money will be affected.

Faye added that the legislature is trying to decide how to make the 2007-09 biennium cut after which, the discussion will start about how to balance the 2009-11 biennial budget. So the challenge that the Legislature has is how to make cuts now and transition these into the next biennium in a thoughtful manner, since cutting something this biennium will be too difficult to replace next biennium.

Chief Jerry Moore said that while the city does not have a biennial budget, it is starting to make reductions this year- since these will help them next year.

Q: Has there been any discussions about what the federal stimulus bill would do for us?

Jerry said that there are some federal funds for local and state law enforcement but not sure how this will all work out.

Update on Police Chief Scott Russell

Pete McCallum said that Woodburn Police Chief Scott Russell has been released from OHS University and is in a managed care facility. The moment he regained consciousness he was already back giving orders- so he is making progress.

Mt. Angel Police Chief Recognition

Ed McKenney said that Mt. Angel police Chief Brent Earhart had been selected as Mt. Angel's first citizen for 2008. Ed went over details of Brent's career for the members of the MCPSCC.

Woodburn council member Pete McCallum added that from the very first day of the Woodburn bank bombing, the Mt. Angel police force was there offering help and support. It was a most welcome gesture on their part.

Ed added that if the situation was reversed, Mt Angel would have gotten the same support from other police departments that Woodburn received. Ed added that Chief Earhart epitomizes Marion county law enforcement personnel who are capable and dedicated team workers.

No Meth Not in My Neighborhood

Anna said that No Meth Not in My Neighborhood, (No Meth) will be closing its doors on February 23rd. Anna said that they had concluded that with the current economic situation, finding funding would be very difficult, and they would have to compete with other agencies. No Meth had experienced tremendous partnerships and support in Marion County and the “No Meth” message had permeated very well. So it was now the right time for No Meth to disband. Anna said that they had met with their drug prevention and treatment partners and the “No Meth” message will be continued to be carried by them. Anna said that there will be a farewell ceremony at 7.30 am on Tuesday, February 24 at the Pringle Park Community Center. Their program starts at 8.00 a.m. and ends at 9.00 a.m. Anna said that she appreciated the support from the MCPSCC over these past few years.

Judge Hart commended Anna and asked if the “No Meth” logo was copyrighted or trademarked, and that the No Meth partners Anna had worked with in the past could be asked to continue using the No Meth materials and slogan. In the past 5 years the slogan had become quite identifiable in the community, so people should continue using it.

Anna said that the Community Action Agency Network would be a repository for a lot of No Meth’s materials since they do some much drug prevention/education.

Faye and Walt both said that the No Meth program had been an excellent grass roots program.

State Budget Impacts

Faye said that the issues the Juvenile Department is dealing with come down to the four types of funding that is received from the OYA:

- **Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic and Diversion Funding**
In its formative years, the OYA recognized that the juvenile justice system encompasses counties and states- and pouring a lot of resources into the state side would imbalance the county side- more kids would cluster around the state since the state has a much larger funding source. Since approximately 90% of the kids in the juvenile justice system are at the county level there needed to be some sort of provision made by the state so that these kids were not pushed into the more expensive state system. So there is a commitment by the OYA and the Governor to preserve resources and infrastructures at the local level. Also every county has a given number of beds reserved at the OYA and the OYA sends the counties this diversion money. The counties put programs in place that are alternatives to the states

youth correctional facilities- to keep kids out of the system and reduce costs. So if there are reductions in these funds, then juvenile departments statewide will have to try and figure out what to cut, what to keep and how this will all fit into place.

- Funding for psychological evaluation/treatment for kids
This is a smaller pot of funds but one that the Juvenile Department uses up all the time.
- The other fund is a gang grant from the OYA - this is a critical fund which is used for prevention, accountability, and the suppression of gang activity before these youth get more involved with gangs. Most county juvenile department directors have agreed that there should be no reductions in these funding streams.
- Another funding source that the Juvenile Departments receive are the prevention dollars that come through the State Commission on Children & Families. These funds are for an early crime prevention effort for those at risk kids as identified by police, schools and our own juvenile probation officers. So kids received are between 8 to 13 who are at a medium and high risk for imminent involvement in the criminal justice system.

Faye said that at this point, it may appear that the county budget may be kinder to them than the 2009-11 state budget cut impacts.

Town Hall Meetings

Anna said that she had been speaking with the Keizer Chamber of Commerce to use their facilities as a venue for the MCPSCC Town Hall Meeting. The City of Keizer thought that this would be a good venue to hold the meeting.

Anna also said that there is a business association for 5 of the cities in the canyon, so it is possible that something could be organized with this group while working with the cities.

Walt Beglau said that the MCPSCC should know that in the past, when the state faced deficits, indigent defense funds were cut. When this happens, court appointed attorneys were no longer delegated to cases- resulting in hundreds of cases being put into limbo. Walt said that he could manage through this fiscal year, but come May 20th, if indigent defense funding is cut there will be hundreds of cases in limbo. Also if there is a budget cut in the next biennium, they should start planning from now to mitigate the impacts on courts, law enforcement services, etc.

Mr. Thompson said that whatever happens in one area of the criminal justice system will affect another part of the system.

Elaine Martin said that while indigent defense is not appealing to the general public - to not provide these services will create a ripple effect in our communities.

Tom Sermak said that when the state had to make budget reductions in 2003, indigent defense was handled poorly, using a glide pattern which meant that many District

Attorneys prosecuted fewer and fewer cases resulting in a huge backlog of un-prosecuted cases.

This was a disaster, and even today there are cases coming through the appellate system where defendants were granted a retrial (or not) because of delays that happened in 2003. “They are saying that they will not do this again- just continue to prosecute or defend cases until the money runs out. The Supreme Court has said this and it means that at some point or another you cannot prosecute defendants in the USA if they cannot afford counsel.”

Q: So what does this mean for the community at large?

A: There is not a lot of motivation for law enforcement officers to make arrests or investigate cases they’re sure Walt isn’t going to prosecute. So the livability of our community will suffer as a result.

Court appointed attorneys are given some juvenile dependency cases as well- so you have a child who is removed from a meth household – but now they can’t afford counsel- and thus the ability to move forward and put these children into protective custody is compromised. The safety of these children is also compromised- it doesn’t just affect the criminal defendants, but also those children we work hard to protect- not to exclude delinquency cases.

A perfect example of not holding people accountable is 1990 out on Portland Rd. NE Salem where drug dealers and prostitutes were out on the roads – you could also drive through Lana Avenue and watch people exchange drugs.

Bob reminded all the members of the MCPSCC to sign up if they could for the town hall meetings.

Chief Rick Lewis expressed some concern about the Silverton Town Hall meeting due to the shooting incident that took place there last year. Walt said that he would attend and be happy to respond to any shooting related questions if needs be.

Judge Hart made a motion that the MCPSCC write a public letter of thanks to No Meth and send it to all the newspapers.

Faye Fagel seconded the motion.

Motion passes.

Adjourned.