

Marion County
Public Safety Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2008

ATTENDEES:

Walt Beglau, Rod Calkins, Seantel Heisel, Alison Kelley, Chief Rick Lewis, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Elaine Martin, Commissioner Patti Milne, Chief Jerry Moore, Bert Ortiz, Bob Royer

STAFF

Dan Estes, Hitesh Parekh

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER; QUORUM ACHIEVED

Commissioner Milne said that Elizabeth Godfrey had an emergency situation and would be unable to attend the meeting as planned. Elizabeth will be rescheduled for the April 14, 2009 MCPSCC meeting.

Approval of Feb 10, MCPSCC Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Chief Moore to approve the February 10, 2009 MCPSCC meeting minutes, seconded by Ed McKenney. Motion Approved unanimously.

Chair Comments

Commissioner Milne said that she had the opportunity to visit Chief Scott Russell- he is keeping very positive and is anxious to return to work.

Pete said that Scott has been cleared to do two hours of work per day and that Scott is planning on attending the July 17 Striking Out Meth Event.

Elaine said that just as an FYI, the District Court will be closed on Fridays.

Walt said that he has been working with the Presiding Judge James Rhodes on the court closure and how it will impact public safety/law enforcement. Walt said that the criminal justice system is inter-connected and the courts are integral to a functioning public safety system. Walt said that he and all the DAs in the State are vehemently opposed to reductions in court availability.

Walt added that they will be advocating restoring funding to the courts at the earliest possible time- especially for the next biennium; otherwise it will get harder and harder for him and the police departments to do any business. Walt said that he was already being impacted as far as trials go. Some of the big cases which need to be tried between now and June 30th have already been pulled off the table.

Walt said that there are two legislative groups looking at streamlining and cost saving criminal justice issues at the state level. There are some issues that need to be examined more closely such as Measure 57 and its fate now that the state budget is in a crisis. Should the implementation of Measure 57 be delayed or should it move forward? Other questions to consider would be: 'Should supervisory probation be reduced' and/or 'Should all those in prison over the age of 65 be released?' So there is a lot to think about.

Walt added that there are legislative bills he could have brought to the MCPSCC to review, but they all pale in comparison to how to manage the next state budget reduction -forecast at a \$3 billion dollar deficit!

Chief Jerry Moore said that there has to be accountability, or else street crimes will get out of control. He added that the day the county jail was opened and filled- there was a notable decrease in the amount of prostitutes and criminal activity in Salem.

Elaine Martin said that years ago before the jail was built they had to release individuals out into the community who had some very serious charges, like rape and sodomy.

Q: Is there any data from when the courts were closed in 1993?

A: Yes there is data on civil cases, small claims, divorces, civil suites, etc. Also data at the Judicial Dept. on the case timelines.

Walt said that in 2003 the Courts had service reductions and were shut down with indigent defense cut back . His office triaged by doing appointments on felony crime first- then the misdemeanors. His office made some charging decisions, but the ones they moved forward on- they just launched beyond June 30 to the fall. They are still litigating some of these from a constitutional standpoint. Walt said that he thought Tom Sermak mentioned that in Lane County they had made the same mistake that Marion County did- thinking that they could manage that snowball in September –so there is some anecdotal evidence and statistical analysis about how courts managed cuts. However, this time the cuts are or will be a lot worse – especially for the next biennium. So all will need to plan this out very carefully.

No Meth: Not in My Neighborhood Letter of Appreciation to Anna Peterson

Commissioner Milne handed Anna a letter of appreciation as well as a proclamation for her efforts as co-founder of No Meth: Not in My Neighborhood. Commissioner Milne also invited Anna, Dick and Page to a future BOC Wednesday Agenda meeting so they could be thanked in public.

Anna said that No Meth had received a lot of support from the county commissioners as well as the MCPSCC, without which, the group would not have gone very far.

DPSST USE OF FORCE TRAINING

Walt said that this public meeting turned out very well. The event was spearheaded by the Sheriff and made into an interactive presentation. Walt said that over 135 people from all sectors of the community attended, including those from law enforcement! Walt said that the Sheriff's Office is developing a video that can be a training tool from this presentation. They will use the video production in their ongoing dialogue with local communities: the DVD could be made available to take to town hall meetings etc; in the future.

Anna said that she had attended the event and even though she had a use of force session in the citizen police academy, she learnt more at this event. She thought that it was particularly effective because of the tone conveyed and was very warm and inviting. People in the audience felt very comfortable. She said that she wanted to commend Chief Rick Lewis for also being there.

Rick said that the event was very well done and the Silverton newspaper would be writing up an article it. He added that they had also discussed putting this production out on cable.

Jerry said that he thought Russ and Walt did an outstanding job: Russ had some good ideas which made it an interesting program.

Walt said that it was much appreciated that the MCPSCC was the sounding board for the planning authority.

Walt added that the DVD was not available yet. Hopefully by the next MCPSCC meeting they should have something. The only minus with the DVD is that it could be up to 2 hours long.

Commissioner Milne said that last year CCTV filmed the entire Striking Out Meth event in Marion County and then put together a 5 minute highlight clip- so, as a suggestion, the Use of Force Planning Authority could also try condensing their video.

Walt mentioned that it may be difficult to pick out highlights for the use of force presentation. Other options could be to cut down the video into Part 1 and 2 or have chapters or scenes.

STATE BUDGET IMPACTS

Brief Summaries of State Budget Impacts on County Agencies:

Marion County CFC

Alison Kelley said that her department was aware of the size of the cuts for the 07-09 Biennial budget reduction. The CFC would be able to make these cuts without too much damage. For the next biennium however it looks like a 20% or even 30% cut- all hinges on the May 2009 revenue forecast. There is a network of local Children and Families Commission members that have not reached consensus over where these deeper cuts should come from.

Marion County Health Department

Rod Calkins said that for the remainder of this biennium, Medicare matching funds saved the DHS budget from cuts- combined with the fact that cuts were taken earlier at the state level. The exception to this was \$100,000 in problem gambling funds that were cut from the Marion County Health Department. As a result Marion County had to reduce this service for the remainder of the year. Rod said that they did not know where the cuts were going to come from next year. The DHS will be starting its budget hearings this week. Rod said that his office would monitor the hearings- but budgeting for next year will be difficult.

OYA

Seantel said that the OYA has been quite fortunate in that the legislature decreased some of the amounts that the OYA was going to have to cut. This gave the OYA a sort of glide path into the next biennium- because to take all the cuts this biennium would have just decimated the OYA. The OYA will now be closing down 50 beds in the correctional system - much lower than the previous amount of 394. Previously, the OYA was going to close down an entire facility in Eastern Oregon but the legislature recognized the impact this would have on the community – and so it allowed the OYA to take just 50 beds from the valley. Also reduced are the gang grant dollars that were issued over 6 months ago. The OYA has made hiring freezes- so it is not losing a lot of positions through layoffs. Some positions will be lost through attrition and some relocated, so the OYA has been very fortunate so far. However, things will get worse after May 2009.

Q: How many beds does the OYA have?

A: 925 beds minus the 50 beds I mentioned. There are also 58 beds from 198 in the community that we will be closing down. These are residential foster care treatment and independent living placement beds throughout the state.

City of Salem Police Department

Jerry Moore said that the City of Salem is still looking at a \$5m GF deficit. There is a great deal of reorganization taking place and at least 17 layoffs so far with another 10 soon – so city will get hit. This year the Salem Police Department lost 3.0 FTE positions- it will also be unable to fill a records tech position and one of the office assistance positions for gangs. The department has one open position today- but it will be unable to fill it as it is trying to save some funds to carryover into the next year. On top of this the department has 4 authorized

positions- but has never hired these four, so in some respects it is reducing about 8 officers. The only semi-positive news is that there is federal stimulus money available but not sure what strings are attached to it.

There are less strings tied than the past but the kicker of it all is that in the 4th year the Salem Police Department will have to retain these positions if it hires them using federal stimulus funds. The Chief said that he was also concerned about the state's raid on the 911 funds. Since call centers cannot be shut down, the money has to come from elsewhere to operate them.

Also on the horizon is the alcohol and tobacco tax funding of about \$2m that comes to the Salem Police department from the City of Salem. This could also be cut. The money comes directly from the state to the cities and will definitely affect everyone. The state will take this money so there will be less to give to the cities.

Q: Will you be making cuts in patrols etc;?

A: Yes we've made significant cuts in training- we do a lot of it in-house now. But even then a lot of it is expensive- when you pull people off the road to train them you have to backfill the position. We are always short of officers at any given time- right now we are about 18 officers down. We have 8 or 9 in training, 6 on duty and 4 will be deployed for the war, so all of this has an impact.

Budget Cuts to Other Entities

Elaine said that the courts are also looking at potential layoffs and cutting services down to core functions only.

Tom Sermak said that for this biennium there will not be any drastic cuts to indigent defense- but everything will change in July when the next biennium starts.

Chief Rick Lewis said that the City of Silverton budget has been status quo – but the economic news continues to be negative such as the closing of Champion Homes and the subsequent job losses.

Pete McCallum said that he had spent the day at the State Legislature and there was a lot of doom and gloom and everyone was waiting for the May revenue projection. He said that the City of Woodburn may also not have to make reductions this fiscal year, but the following year it will be very tough.

Seantel said that this economic landscape was uncharted territory since the state had not experienced deficits of this magnitude in the past, and it was also difficult to predict when it will all end.

Town Hall Meetings

Commissioner Milne said that the Town hall meetings had been very productive and thanked all those members of the MCPSCC who attended. Commissioner Milne reminded the group that the Hubbard Town Hall meeting was coming up on March 31. The Stayton and Sublimity town hall meetings were scheduled for April 6.

Commissioner Milne said that she is also working on setting up the Gervais Town Hall meeting.

Tom Sermak said that the Silverton Town Hall meeting went very well. There were an excellent group of people there of about 12 citizens and they all had an interesting discussion. Walt noted that there was no mention of the shooting incident point until the discussion got to what the problem areas were in Silverton. It was only when one of the citizens pointed out that they do not have mental health support facilities in Silverton did the shooting incident come up. Then the group described the shooting incident very objectively, in the context that people knew that the individual had mental health issues but that there was no mental health services that the city could offer. So there was no finger pointing- just a factual statement that the city needed a mental health facility. The group also talked about how to evacuate the schools from either side of the freeway if something happened.

Commissioner Milne said that the Aumsville Town Hall meeting was also very engaging, and the group had discussed the local economic situation, and industry stimulation. The community was very caring.

Anna Peterson said that one of the comments she had heard was that there was no mental health available in the city of Silverton even though the city offers housing assistance for people with mental health issues and developmental disabilities. Also there is no transportation for them besides CART to go from Silverton to the City of Salem for services. The problem with CARTs is that it does not run in frequent intervals. Also this population is having a difficult time managing their lives. The City of Silverton offers temporary housing to those with low incomes.

Anna said that she did not want to give the impression that people with disabilities should not be living out in other communities.

Alison said that she had found that most of the communities were very receptive towards looking at the needs of the mentally ill and those with disabilities.

Q: Silverton Hospital is an anchor of the community- have they been involved in the discussion about mental health services?

A: Yes we've been talking to them about what they have to face in their emergency rooms on the weekends. They are seeing a lot of people from Woodburn and the surrounding communities come in for treatment- some of whom have mental health issues.

Dan Estes said that transportation is a huge issue for veterans and especially disabled veterans living where they don't have treatment facilities- so volunteers are running vans to get them to treatment. Silverton has a very strong volunteer base, however, some of the volunteers can't drive veterans in wheel chairs because of the liability issues involved, which is ironic, these folks need transportation the most.

Another topic that came up in the town hall meetings was that every community that has had a peer court said that it was excellent. While on paper it looks like an easy budget cut, it delivers excellent value.

Seantel said that she would be happy to lead up a team to testify about peer courts. There is a lot of existing information on the benefits of the peer court system.

Marion County Annual Child Abuse Prevention Rally

This year the rally will be held at the steps of the State Capital on Thursday April 2.

Educators

Commissioner Milne said that this year the educator's summit is looking at field trips so instead of a panel format like last year, it may be a noon time presentation by 3 or 4 individuals with a questions answer format. So the format will be slightly different, and they will come up with the topic.

Striking Out Meth in Marion County

Commissioner Milne said that the Striking Out Meth will be held on July 17th this year. She said that there was strong community support for it, and while they had picked up some new sponsors, they were always looking for more. Commissioner Milne said that they would welcome participation from the city of Silverton including the Silverton Police or Silverton Together.

ADJOURNED