

Marion County  
Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2009

Members: Walt Beglau, Roderick Calkins, Seantel Heisel, Russ Isham, Alison Kelley, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Elaine Martin, Jerry Moore, Bert Ortiz, Joe Parrott, Bob Royer, Tom Sermak, Olcott Thompson.

Guests: Commander Troy Clausen, Terrie Davie OSP, Eric Judah OSP, Michael Runyon OYA.

Staff: Dan Estes, Hitesh Parekh

Quorum Achieved.

Bob Royer chaired the meeting as Commissioner Milne was unable to attend.

Approval of December 9, 2008 MCPSCC Meeting Minutes

Chief Jerry Moore made a motion to approve the December 9, 2008 MCPSCC meeting minutes.

Motion was seconded by Elaine Martin.

Motion approved unanimously.

City of Woodburn December 2008 Incident Update.

City of Woodburn Council member and MCPSCC member Pete McCallum said that about a month ago a tragic event in the City of Woodburn cost the lives of two gallant police officers, and critically injured Chief Scott Russell of the Woodburn Police. He said that Officer Tom Tennet of the Woodburn Police Department would be sorely missed.

Pete thanked everyone for their support to the City of Woodburn after the incident occurred, especially Marion County District Attorney Walt Beglau and Sheriff Russ Isham, saying that their assistance and support over the past month had been invaluable, and very much appreciated.

Pete said that it would be a long road ahead for everyone involved. He added that Woodburn Mayor Kathy Figley had also issued a statement about the incident which had been e-mailed out to all the MCPSCC members.

Pete added that he had spoken to Chief Russell who had just received another surgery and faces several more this week. He said that Scott was in good spirits and sends his thanks to everyone for their support.

Sheriff Isham said that he had had an opportunity to speak with Judge Tom Hart before the MCPSCC meeting. Judge Hart had been asked to oversee this particular case, and as Judge Hart is also a member of the MCPSCC, he has to remain impartial so as not to compromise the integrity of the case. So while the MCPSCC can share information, Judge Hart needs to be careful as to what information he receives from the MCPSCC about the incident.

Bob Royer mentioned that the MCPSCC may want to send a card to Scott .

### 2009-2011 Biennial Budget Impacts

Bob said that as the State Legislature begins to meet to discuss the 2009-11 budget it is important that the MCPCC keep track of any potential budget reductions and the impacts that these may have on the county public safety departments. There were several county agencies that could be impacted if the state does make budget cuts. These include the Marion County Department of Children & Families, Juvenile Department, Sheriff's Office and Health Department.

### Marion County Department of Children & Families

Bob then introduced the Marion County Children & Families Department Director Alison Kelley who gave an overview of the potential impacts of state budget cuts on the County Department of Children & Families. Alison said that about 85% of the Department's revenue comes from the State of Oregon. She has also been notified that there may be a reduction in funds for the last few months of this biennium, and her Department is prepared for this if this happens. However, for the 2009-11 biennial, the March 2009 state revenue forecast would determine the magnitude of the budget cuts. While the state revenue forecast could be released a month earlier- in February, there is a significant statewide deficit projected which is in the millions of dollars. The Marion County Department of CFC has been asked to prepare a 20% budget reduction for the next biennium, and Alison said that at this point, a 20% cut may be good compared to what it could be. She said that her department is preparing for a possible 30% cut.

Alison added that the message from the State Commission of Children & Families is that the worst time to disinvest from human services is now, when the country is going through an economic downturn. The impact of these cuts could result in a spike in child abuse incidents, more kids going into foster care etc.

Alison added that while they are looking at ways to deal with this, the Commission system does not exist for itself, it exists for the community. Alison added that Rod, Walt, Pete, Faye, Debbie and Russ are all on the CFC Committee, and all are excellent partners to work with.

Rod: Could you comment on the mobility and family issues?

Alison: Mobility is a big issue. Every once in a while you will hear someone say that if only you invested all your resources in early childhood- this would solve all your problems. This would not work in Marion County because about 20% of the kids move.

Q: How does this compare statewide?

A: Probably lower than Multnomah county.

#### Oregon Youth Authority

Seantel said that the state runs its budgets on a biennial basis, and right now for the 07-09 biennial- which will end on June 30, 2009 the OYA is looking at a 1.2% reduction and it may also be asked to take additional cuts. While a 1.2% cut may not sound bad, it is compressed into the final six months of the biennium- it is not spread out over the entire two years as the first 18 months have already elapsed. So this is really a 5% budget cut.

Seantel handed out a document which identified the cuts that could be made to meet this reduction. She said that currently the OYA could probably meet the 5% reduction this current biennium without eliminating staff- and that they were doing everything possible to maintain current service levels. The bottom half of the handout showed the impacts of additional cuts which would be more severe.

The other side of the handout showed the incremental reductions for the next biennium. Seantel said that agencies had been asked to present packages of reductions at 5% increments all the way up to 20%. All the agencies were waiting for the revenue forecast to be released in February 2009. She added that at a 20% budget cut this will be very unpleasant- and those that receive pass through dollars such as the Marion County Juvenile dept will also be greatly impacted.

#### Marion County Sheriff 's Office

Commander Troy Clausen said that the Parole and Probation Division receives 100% of its Community Corrections dollars from the State of Oregon, so any reductions made by the state for local community corrections will directly impact the county. The only good news is that for this current biennium, the Governor has not requested that any reductions be made. Troy mentioned that he will be meeting with the State of Oregon Community Corrections executives soon, and will be receiving more information than about the 09-11 biennium's potential budget cuts and their impacts on the Sheriff's Office.

Troy added that budget cuts for the FY2009-11 biennium were inevitable.

He said that the last time the county dealt with state budget reductions, these impacted the community work center to the point where it had to be shut down since the county did not have adequate funds to run it. Both the Sheriff and he did not want this to happen, since shutting down the work center impacts the DA's Office, other cities etc.

There is a silver lining to this cloud as the State Legislature, (during the 2007-09 session) adopted baseline funding for counties- if the funding goes below this line, counties have

the opportunity to opt out and return community corrections back to the state. The state has said that they do not want this to happen- but it could.

If we do go below the baseline funding, the Marion County Community Corrections Board (which consists of the Marion County Sheriff and County Commissioners) would need to sit down and have a serious conversation about holding onto community corrections and the services that the Sheriff's Office provides. These services cost anywhere from \$750 to \$1m worth of community treatment: ie; drug, alcohol, etc and could be the first to be cut followed by personnel reductions.

The problem with personnel reductions is that it also removes the ability to supervise offenders. We also know that alcohol and drug treatment works, it leads to reductions in criminal behavior and there is a less likely hood that the offender will recidivate. So this is a delicate balance, and knowing where and when to cut is critical in how the external community is affected.

Troy said that the county budget must be submitted by April 2009; by the time the county budget is finalized in June, he will most likely get a better picture from the state and will have to revise the April numbers.

Q: Are you thinking of triaging the cases that you see, maybe eliminating property crime offenders vs. the domestic violence cases?

A: Great question, we have not as yet had a chance to discuss this with Walt etc, because we're still not certain about the cut that we would need to make. Because we receive no GF support for supervision, right now the over 500 misdemeanor cases that we supervise are paid for by supervision fees that come in off of felony cases, and this is an area that will be needed to be looked at.

#### Marion County Health Department

Rod distributed a handout prepared by the *Oregon Association of Counties* that described the Governor's Recommended Budget, GRB cuts for health and human services. Rod said that the consensus from the legislative leadership was that the GRB is different from what the Oregon State Legislature will recommend. Rod said that the Marion County Health Department was asked to make a 5% A&D and mental health cut out of this biennium by the State Department of Human Services. Rod said that so far these cuts have not been enacted- but they still may be depending on the revenue forecast.

Rod said that one reason why the legislature would not like to cut human services was that this type of a budget reduction wouldn't work: In 2002, there were significant cuts to alcohol and drug treatment programs and the rate of hospitalizations skyrocketed- so that the cost of hospitalizations was greater than just continuing the treatment programs - not to mention the effect this has on law enforcement folks and community corrections. So this is not a good approach to saving money, because what looks like a cut upfront just means that someone down the road is going to be spending a lot of money.

The Governor's budget basically enhances services to kids and cuts most services to adults in A&D programs- these are state funded services and do not affect Medicaid and Medicare funded services. In fact there is a proposal to increase the eligibility for both adults and kids for Medicaid services. So to some extent the services that are funded by state GF can be picked up by enhanced eligibility for Medicaid- but many of those will not be the same people, and the states' reliance on more and more Medicaid funding for public health care services is a slippery slope – because we operate those health care services under a medical model- and everything we do under public health is more of a social services model, rather than a rehabilitative medical model, and yet we only can file for reimbursement for the rehab services.

For example, one of the things we do to keep people out of the hospital when they are in crisis is that we use respite – we make sure that people are safe, that they have community supports, we hook them up the next day with family members and other services and we avoid a very costly hospitalization- Medicaid does not pay for respite- the state GF pays for this. So with this GF gone there will be more hospitalizations. There are other cuts on the list, but the largest by far are the cuts to alcohol, drug, and mental health services on the adult side as well as the residential and detox services. All of these are unfunded in the GRB.

Bert Ortiz said that as a private citizen there is this perception that those in the public sector have it a lot easier than those in the private sector, so a message has to go out to citizens, but it has to be more than just percentages- “How will these cuts impact me as a private citizen ?”

Seantel said that this was a good point, “I don't think that we communicate the budget development process and its impacts very well. The strategies we have don't get communicated- just the final product of what we're going to cut. There is no discussion on the personal impacts of the budget cuts on citizens and employees.”

Tom Sermak said that the cuts mentioned were life and death for his clients. A huge percentage of the people he represents have no, (or inadequate), mental health, substance abuse intervention services. As a business person and member of the community, he wanted to add that this is how his clients could adversely impact the quality of community life: He or she will no longer have a shelter to get to, medications to take and will end up being disruptive and/or sleeping out on the street. This is what needs to be communicated by the legislature. A lot of his clients don't vote and have not put anyone in the legislature- they are no one's constituents.

Rod said that another way of looking at this is that for those people whose jobs will be lost in this economic crisis, they too may need services- so there is a direct and indirect impact.

Pete said that one other thing to remember was that people take services for granted. People that have paid for these services and now need them find that they are not available. They need to understand what is happening. Pete said that he was 37 years in

education, and trying to communicate a budget is very difficult as the budgets themselves are complex.

Seantel added that also when a budget is put together, it is based on projections and forecasting- not hard facts, - the outcome of which is a very difficult and complicated process.

MCPSCC 2009 Strategic Plan

Dan Estes said that staff is developing a 2009 strategic plan for the MCPSCC, so all members are asked to submit their ideas and/or attend the next MCPSCC Steering Committee meeting on Jan 27.

MCPSCC 2009 Town Hall Meeting Updates

Dan distributed a flyer with the confirmed Town Hall Meetings to date. Alison said that several more dates would be confirmed very soon.

ADJOURNED.