

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council

November 9, 2010

Attendees: Commissioner Milne, Walt Beglau, Jayne Downing, Alison Kelley, Faye Fagel, Ed McKenney, Pete McCallum, Jerry Moore, Ray Byrd, Bob Royer, Mike Runyon, Tom Sermak, Mark Caillier, Don Frederickson.

Guests: Undersheriff Troy Clausen, Commander Jeff Wood

Staff: Hitesh Parekh, Don Russo

Commissioner Milne called the meeting to order at 4.05 P.M. Quorum Achieved.

Comments from members

Walt Beglau and Faye Fagel described the Chemawa MOU that has been signed recently. This begins a historic new era of collaborative relationships between tribal, federal, state and local jurisdictions. Faye said data will be tracked and reported to the PSCC.

Chief Jerry Moore announced a new federal grant to pay salaries for additional police officers for the next three years. Five officers have just been hired, many officers have made plans to retire soon and there are currently 10-12 job openings.

Jayne Downing reported success in raising funds to qualify for a matching \$20,000 grant with a deadline of December 31. Just today, a gift of \$5,000 was received.

Commissioner Milne recognized the long service of Hitesh Parekh in staffing the PSCC since its inception. Hitesh was presented a framed certificate of appreciation on behalf of the council. Hitesh stated he was surprised and humbled. Commissioner Milne explained that Hitesh is being used in other important projects and Don Russo will replace him as staff to the council.

Review of November 2 election results

District Attorney Walt Beglau reported that his office is developing a template and training for charging and sentencing guidelines in response to voter approval of Measure 73. Tom Sermak commented that this measure creates no new crimes and no new cases, but will have a devastating effect that makes prosecution more difficult and conviction more costly. Bob Royer asked if the measure will have the desired effect? Mark Caillier said the focus on repeat DUII offenders will save lives. Jane Downing expressed concerns about losing funds for victims, but wants offenders held accountable. Tom and Jane offered to work on a follow-up report to the council to assess the effects of the measure after its first year.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved

Re-entry Initiative

Commander Jeff Wood gave an extensive report on the Marion County Reentry Initiative. Marion County has the highest incarceration rate in the state. Over 600 offenders are released annually to Marion County. Over 4,000 offenders are on supervision here with a recidivism rate of about 30%. Willingness to change is a major issue of assessment and the vast majority of offenders are not ready to change. Five critical factors in lowering recidivism are: housing, employment, education, substance abuse treatment and alcohol abuse treatment. The Marion County

Reentry Initiative is a collaborative effort to rebuild lives, promote public safety save money and break the cycle of crime.

Jeff explained the paradigm shift that now brings together a team of people who all get involved when an offender is released. New programs for parenting, education, mentoring and others have the effect of bringing more resources to aid offenders than ever before.

Commissioner Milne asked what role the PSCC can play. Jeff responded with four specifics: review, comment and approve the annual Community Corrections Plan which includes transition and reentry issues; generate legislative support for political and funding issues; approve supplemental grant funding proposals; and continue the community town hall forums where the reentry initiative can be shared with the public.

Jeff was asked if his efforts are working. He responded that early indicators show an increase in employment, dramatic improvement in the numbers of offenders who report for their initial meeting with parole/probation staff, and the key benchmark of recidivism is also declining.

When asked where do offenders find work, Jeff stated that employers such as Truitt Brothers cannery are now willing to hire some felons when they previously had not. These new employers are also willing to accommodate an offender's appointment schedule to meet with his PO. Asked about length of employment, Jeff commented that job retention is a key benchmark and is closely monitored. Asked if government agencies hire offenders, he stated that the Marion County health Department has hired some, and efforts continue to find suitable roles for offenders that do not jeopardize security or safety.

Mark Caillier asked how many Marion County offenders are sent to prison each year compared to the number released each year.

Mt. Angel town hall regathering

Commissioner Milne announced that the next forum has been scheduled for Wednesday, December 8 at 6:30 at the Mt. Angel Public Library. Flyers and a news release will be sent to all council members to help publicize the event. Final details will be planned at the Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday, November 23.

Striking out Meth in Marion County

Commissioner Milne announced that Friday, July 29 has been set for next year's event. The committee is starting now to plan and hopes to increase attendance for the 6th annual event.

Changes in the Cite/Release practices at the Marion County Jail

Undersheriff Troy Clausen reported in place of Sheriff Jason Myers on the work underway to change long-held practices as the Sheriff's Office plans to hold all arrested individuals in the jail unless released on bond, released by the court or released because of the jail's population control measures. While all arrested individuals brought to jail will be lodged, those individuals brought to the jail only to be cited and released for minor municipal offenses will no longer be accepted. Instead, officers will be expected to cite and release those individuals in the field. This will have a major impact on the Salem Police Department, but far less effect on other police departments across the county. The new plan is set to start in January.

The most troublesome issues are with mental health problems and alcohol/drug problems. The jail is neither a detox unit nor a treatment unit, and there are efforts in the works to improve response methods when drugs, alcohol and mental health are major factors in a disturbance.

Marion County has one of the only jails in the state that still allows lodging of individuals who are not arrested for crimes. The Board of Commissioners will soon be asked to look at a revision of the Sheriff's Office Capacity Management Plan.

Courthouse video project

Don Russo reported he has initiated a project with CCTV to make an informative video about the Marion County Courthouse and the services provided there. He has contacted Walt Beglau, Diane Morse and Jason Myers about making a video that centers on their departments, which CCTV is willing to air on a periodic basis.

ADJOURNED

**Next Steering Committee Meeting Date:
Tuesday, November 23 at noon**

**Next MCPSCC Meeting Date:
Tuesday, December 14 at 4:00pm**