

Marion County Sheriff's Office
Community Advisory Committee
February 28, 2012

Sheriff's Office:

Sheriff Jason Myers
Cmdr. Kevin Schultz
Sara Zavala
Sgt. Dale Bradley

CAC Members:

~~Ken Hector~~
~~Shelley Joyce~~
Gary Rychard
~~Sylvia Valentine Garcia~~
~~Jose Gonzalez~~
~~John Alamarez~~
Hugo Nicolas
~~Blake Dye~~
~~Vanessa Nordyke~~
Levi Herrera
~~Marya Kalugin~~
~~Cindy Schaeffer~~
Cari Fiske
Glen Rader

- 1) Welcome – Chair Rader welcomed the group at 6:41. Glen reconfirmed the next three meeting dates.
- 2) Work Crew Presentation – Sheriff Myers welcomed Sergeant Dale Bradley to the group. He said that our work crews are a way for work center inmates to give back to the community and gain some work skills. We are very proud of the work they do. Sgt. Bradley gave a brief history of the work center. In 1990, the original work release center building was opened. It was originally an extension of Parole & Probation. It housed offenders who were looking for jobs and were performing community service. In late 1990's, the focus of the work center changed and work crews were formed. Through the former Jail Commander, two work crew leaders secured contracts. In 2000's, the work center continued to change. Forest Service and State Parks were the biggest contracts. In 2002, the work center closed down. In 2005, they began the process of reopening the work center. At that time it became a focus of the Jail and work crews were reassembled. As relationships were rebuilt, more contracts became available. Contracts include building bridges, clearing and maintaining trails, road kill cleanup. Most recently, the work crews assisted with the Turner flood, moving sandbags, etc. Another recent project was building a park up in the canyon. In Yamhill, the work crews recently collaborated with several counties to build a fence and repair a barn for a facility that receives and treats horses that are seized as part of animal abuse investigations.

When the Jail population was reduced, the work center population was increased to 144. That is the current capacity. Sheriff Myers added that a jail study was

recently completed and general labor was the number one job skill that inmates reported, followed by construction. He continued, adding that another way the Sheriff's Office tries to connect inmates with job skills is through a kitchen certification. Gary asked if there is opportunity for other jurisdictions to secure contracts with work crews. Sgt. Bradley says that the contracts are open for discussion. Through interagency contract, projects of various sizes can be accommodated. Gary commented that in Georgia, inmate work crews provide all labor for the refuse centers. Sgt. Bradley added that there are some similar projects that the Marion County work crews do with recycling projects like mixing paint. Sheriff Myers commented that the funds raised by these types of contracts go right back to providing this opportunity. He also added that our work crew leaders (deputies) work side by side with the crew. Gary asked if there have been any complaints with the work crews being in the parks. Glen asked if inmates get paid. Sgt. Bradley said they don't get paid, but they do get time off of their sentence. Glen also asked if there is any issue with private sector employers and competing for their business. Sgt. Bradley said that because the crews work for governmental agencies, there haven't been any issues. Cari added that the public likes to see inmates out working too. Levi added that people may perceive county inmates as lesser offenders than DOC inmates. Levi also added that he is on the City of Salem Parks board, and there has been a positive response to inmate crews from the city because of lowering cost. Glen would like to see inmate crews recognized for the good work too.

Sgt. Bradley welcomed two current work center inmates. One has been here at the work center for five weeks on Dep. Ramsey's crew. He says they get up at 5:00 and get to the work site via van by 8:00. Equipment and vehicles are operated by Deputies. They work at Silver Falls, splitting wood and such. Second inmate has been here for three months and is on Dep. Guest's crew. They recently filled sand bags during the Turner flood. Cmdr. Schultz asked if either inmate felt a benefit from being on the crew. Second inmate said he definitely prefers being on a crew, helping the community and doing something. First inmate said the crews provide a feeling of self worth. He said they are doing time for something "stupid," but they do have things they used to do. One is retired military and the other had a full time job. Crews provide a way for an inmate to learn things, to get ready to work. Glen asked if the work crews have changed what the inmates want to do when they leave. Cari encouraged the two inmates that they can have another life when they leave here. Glen explained what the Community Advisory Committee is all about. Levi asked what project the inmates are most proud of. Second inmate said that just being part of a work crew is what he's most proud of. He is on Dep. Guest's team and wishes he could work every day of the week. First inmate told the group that they should go up to Silver Falls to see some of the things that are up. He said little things – things that they have improved the safety of – are important. Glen added that over 1 million visitors go to Silver Falls Park each year. Gary thanked the two inmates for their work and giving back. Cmdr. Schultz added that it takes courage for the inmates to speak in front of this group.

- 3) Review Minutes from October 18, 2011 – Postponed due to no quorum.
- 4) Flood Declaration for Counties – Glen said that the Governor has asked FEMA for assistance with recovery efforts. Glen said that FEMA will pick up 75% and local needs to pick up 25%. Individual and business owners may be eligible for assistance. With the recent flooding, Glen explained that when a city's resources are completely tapped, they go to the county for help, who in turn can make request for declaration of Governor. It is the Governor who then makes the request of FEMA, who does a preliminary damage assessment. There are 11 counties for public assistance and five counties for individual assistance. Marion County is eligible for both. Once they have official approval, FEMA would come in to assist. Gary asked if it is typical for this much time to pass before FEMA steps in. Glen said yes, but he does expect the approval in the next week. Glen works with Community Relations within FEMA.
- 5) Issues Discussion: Priority #1 Cultural Sensitivity – Postponed due to low turnout. We want a larger group for this discussion.
- 6) Budget Update – Sheriff Myers shared a quick overview. We have been watching the legislature, which controls some funding streams for the Sheriff's Office. The State's budget is set biennially, but during the last session, they really only set one year. They wanted to see how revenues looked before setting the second year of the biennium. We recently found out that there will not be additional reductions to community corrections (parole & probation). There is still a concern about a bill that passed last legislative session which changes traffic fine assessments. This could impact the Traffic Safety Team. Southern Oregon counties are really suffering with the loss of federal timber funds. MCSO's proposed budget must be submitted to the budget officer in April.
- 7) Committee Member Reports –

Gary: Sublimity is ending their first year of police services with MCSO. So far, they have experienced an excellent relationship. Dep. Bangs has done a great job. There has also been an enhancement with the relationship with Public Works as a result of this contract. Gary gave kudos to Dep. Bangs, Sgt. Cornforth, Lt. Kast.

Cari: Said things are good. Served 1,050 meals during the Thanksgiving program. Team 18 was there with Search and Rescue to help. Drug free Stayton is working on a middle school program.

Hugo: Hugo asked about the protocol for school shootings. Sheriff Myers said that we have a tactical team that prepares for these types of tragic events. Recently we have had a bomb threat and shooting scare on Chemeketa campus. Gary added that NSSD does annual lock down drills. Hugo also asked about clothing issues when inmates are released. Sheriff and Commander said that

deputies do their best to try to ensure the inmate has appropriate clothing when released. Hugo asked about a Spanish Citizens Academy.

Levi: Comments still being fielded about issues with law enforcement, but they often don't get enough detail to even identify the agency. He will be meeting with Congressman Schrader next week and offered to take any information with him.

8) Closing – Gary made motion to adjourn at 8:21. Next meeting is April 17th.