

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL (MCPSCC)

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2026, 12:00 p.m.

Commissioners Boardroom, Courthouse Square, Salem, Oregon

MCPSCC: Colm Willis, Olcott Thompson, James Edmunds, Jennifer Gardiner, Paige Clarkson, Julie Hoy, Jace Hall, Chad Drew, Frank Longeran, Pete McCallum, and Trevor Womack.

Guests: Trevor Lane, and Gary White.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

1. WELCOME

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

-All

Announcements

- None.

Updates

- None.

3. PRETRIAL RELEASE ORDER DISCUSSION

-Sheriff Nick Hunter and District Attorney Paige Clarkson

- Reviewed state statute passed several sessions ago:
 - Favors pretrial release over detention prior to conviction/sentencing.
 - Requires Chief Justice and presiding judges to adopt Presiding Judge Order (PJO):
 - Setting rules for who is held vs. released prior to arraignment.
 - Allows local tailoring but with parameters that must be approved by Chief Justice.
- Identified current Marion County PJO is several years old and needs revision reflecting:
 - Changes in local crime patterns and jail capacity pressures.
 - New tools and practices:
 - Risk assessments and rapid behavioral health dockets.
- Key gaps and problem areas under current PJO:
 - Firearm use and discharge:
 - Cases involving purposeful discharge of firearm are not currently a mandatory “hold-to-arraignment” circumstance:
 - Despite local concerns about gun violence.
 - Multiple law enforcement contacts in short time frames:
 - Multiple contacts, within 48 hours, may cycle without judicial review:
 - Interest in allowing holds to interrupt the cycle.
 - Violations of restraining/protective orders:

- Currently a gap in PJO.
 - Other counties treat as overriding circumstances due to victim safety.
 - Material witnesses:
 - Rare but important tool.
 - No clear guidance on holding reluctant or at-risk witnesses in high-risk:
 - Gang or serious DV cases.
 - Failure to Appear (FTA):
 - Five prior FTA's threshold to hold to arraignment.
 - Viewed too high and not effective in addressing chronic offenders.
 - Behavioral health cases:
 - Clear authority on holding for evaluation and rapid behavioral health work.
 - For accountability and humane treatment.
 - Unlawful delivery of fentanyl:
 - Statutory changes now contemplate holding for this offense.
 - Marion County's PJO has not yet been updated to reflect that requirement.
- Jail capacity and dynamics:
 - Jail population has risen from about 400 to about 440.
 - About 450 inmates may trigger force outs:
 - Releasing someone to make room for a new booking.
 - Expanding hold categories in the front must balance:
 - So more dangerous offenders are not displaced in the back.
- Risk assessment tools:
 - Current Public Safety Checklist and new Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) pretrial risk assessment tool coming online.
 - Local system must decide:
 - Who administers tools and when.
 - What information judges will see at arraignment.
 - How prosecutors and defense will use risk scores in arguing for release/conditions vs. detention.
 - General consensus that risk tools are helpful inputs, not perfect predictors:
 - Both charges and scores have limits in capturing true risk.
- Process and stakeholder engagement:
 - Judges and District Attorney's (DA) office have already:
 - Met with staff to understand how PJO is applied and where it doesn't work.
 - Met with OJD pretrial release staff to understand checklists and risk scores.
 - Collected PJOs from other counties that are approved by Chief Justice:
 - To inform what is likely permissible.
 - Next steps include:
 - Convene broader stakeholder group to draft concrete revisions:
 - Jail, DA, public defense, parole/probation, PJO officers, annex staff, law enforcement agencies
 - Clarify and simplify overriding circumstance documentation on Probable Cause (PC) statements:
 - Including checkbox and narrative standards.
 - Train law enforcement so intake decisions rely on accurate legal criteria.
- Conceptual framing:

- Interrupting cycle of repeated low-level offending and FTA's.
- Holding individuals to arraignment not for life of a case but:
 - Get counsel appointed.
 - Begin case management earlier.
 - Reduce the accumulation of multiple open cases.
- Reforms aren't perfect but aim for better public safety within statutory limits.
- Community accountability and perception:
 - Community frustration with perceived lack of accountability.
 - Ensure Marion County is using all local discretion available under Senate Bill 48:
 - Not underutilizing options other counties are exercising.
- Action/Follow up:
 - Continue stakeholder meetings and drafting sessions for revised PJO language.
 - Place OJD risk assessment tool on upcoming judges' meeting agenda in April):
 - Brief partners on implications.
 - Return to MCPSCC once revised PJO approved to report outcomes and changes.

4. MACLAREN REPORT

-DA Paige Clarkson

Summary of presentation:

- Statutory context:
 - The DA must annually review conditions and management of correctional/state facilities located in county:
 - Including jail and state institutions.
- 2025 focus was MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility:
 - Conducted an in-depth review via a special grand jury over about six months.
 - Visited all relevant facilities:
 - MacLaren received significantly deeper dive than typical annual reviews.
 - Heard testimony from:
 - State Police.
 - MacLaren staff and management:
 - Including new leadership installed by the Governor.
 - Current and former youth residents.
 - Community stakeholders, including City of Woodburn.
- Major findings and themes:
 - Identity crisis and mission clarity:
 - Operates physically like a prison:
 - Fencing, secure perimeter.
 - Tasked with education and rehabilitation as well:
 - Particularly for youth and young adults.
 - No coherent vision:
 - Is it a secure correctional facility, treatment/education institution, or in between.
 - Population shift:

- Historically a youth facility.
 - Majority of residents are now 18–25-year-old males.
 - A small and declining number under 18.
 - Many residents have committed serious violent offenses.
 - Effectively a high-risk population institution.
- Effect of Measure 11 / SB 1008 changes:
 - Waiver to adult court for youth is now rare and legally demanding:
 - Requires proof of adult-like understanding, expert testimony, etc.
 - Many serious offenses carried long sentences now significantly shorter Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) commitments:
 - 18 months instead of multiple years.
 - Shorter stays reduce incentives to buy into program, maintain order, or mentor peers:
 - Serving longer terms previously provided stabilizing influence.
 - Many individuals who have committed serious violence—including homicide level conduct—may serve relatively short terms at MacLaren and never enter the adult prison system unless there is significant recidivism and successful waiver later.
- Gang activity:
 - High level of gang presence and recruitment.
 - Common that non-gang involved youth become involved at MacLaren.
- Staffing, training, and retention challenges:
 - Persistent difficulties filling and retaining staff positions.
 - Gaps in training:
 - Especially managing adult, violent, and gang involved population.
- Mental health and treatment gaps:
 - Increase acuity and complexity of resident behavioral health needs.
 - Not enough resources and structure to treat substance use and mental illness.
- Case planning and parole/reentry:
 - Inconsistent or inadequate case planning:
 - Given most residents will be released back into communities.
 - Weak community coordination about impacts and public safety:
 - Including escapes.
- Contraband and safety:
 - Ongoing issues with weapons and drugs entering the facility.
- Community impact and communication:
 - Facility backs directly onto residential areas:
 - Including an apartment complex in Woodburn.
 - Local officials reported limited ongoing communication from MacLaren:
 - About escapes, incidents, or broader safety implications.
- Criminal referrals:
 - Grand jury review had multiple criminal referrals and indictments from conduct:

- About 11 cases.
- Intended use of the report:
 - Delivered to Legislature, Governor, and relevant state agencies to inform:
 - Funding decisions.
 - System reforms for youth corrections.
 - Oversight and policy changes needed at MacLaren and within the OYA.
 - Stakeholders encouraged to use findings to advocate with state decision makers.
- 2026 focus is Oregon State Hospital (OSH):
 - New grand jury has convened to review conditions and management at OSH.
 - Anticipated to be more complex and lengthier than MacLaren review due to:
 - Ongoing federal litigation involving hospital.
 - Legal constraints and additional layers of review by the ODJ.
 - Early public engagement has been intense:
 - Many emails and calls from families and community members:
 - Sharing predominantly concerning or negative experiences.
 - Criminal referrals from OSH historically:
 - Criminal behavior at OSH has been prosecuted in the past:
 - Cases are complicated by built in mental health defenses.
 - Many assaults on staff are misdemeanors under Oregon law:
 - Impractical to move highly ill individuals from OSH to jail.
 - Oregon does not treat care staff as protected class for enhanced penalties:
 - Unlike many other states.
 - Structural challenges at OSH:
 - Functions largely as forensic facility.
 - Many residents present because of criminal proceedings:
 - Aid and assist, guilty except for insanity, etc.
 - Tension between criminalizing mental illness and protecting staff and maintaining safety.
 - Timeline:
 - Expected to take longer than MacLaren.
 - Likely will not be completed until fall.
 - Oversight and next steps:
 - Report will be directed to state policymakers.
 - Local bodies will receive updates.
 - May consider advocacy or coordination responses once findings available.

5. REVIEW & APPROVE APRIL 14, 2026, AGENDA DRAFT

-All

Summary of presentation:

- N/A.

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting.