



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Community Correction Board

Summary Minutes

O R E G O N

Tuesday, January 20, 2026. 4:00 PM
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Danielle Bethell, and Colm Willis.

Board's Office: Trevor Lane, Gary White, and Matt Lawyer.

Legal Counsel: Cody Hawkins.

Sheriff's Office: Mike Hartford, and Nick Hunter.

Sheriff Nick Hunter called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Public Comment:

-All

- None.

Appointments – Chair and Vice Chair:

-Sheriff Nick Hunter

- MOTION: A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Colm Willis as Chair of the Community Corrections Board. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- MOTION: A motion was made to appoint Sheriff Nick Hunter as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

State of CC Division:

-Commander Mike Hartford

- Community Corrections funded primarily by Grant-in-Aid, additional support from:
 - Justice Reinvestment.
 - Measure 57.
 - Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP).
 - Health Department contract:
 - Community Restoration Parole Officer (PO).
- Division staffing:
 - 65.11 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) total.
 - Grant-in-aid funds 6.11 FTE spread across 13 positions.
- To balance budget, 15 FTE deleted:
 - A PO and case aide position held vacant.
- State's current biennium has significant funding reductions tied to population forecasts and failure to adopt actual cost studies:
 - Biennium began July 1, 2025
- Modeling 2.5% and 5% reduction scenarios:
 - 2.5% - focuses on peripheral accounts and does not trigger opt out clause:
 - FSAP, DUI reimbursements, fines, etc.
 - 5% - cuts Grant in Aid by about \$4M statewide:
 - About \$400,000 for Marion County in biennium.
 - All effectively hitting the second year.

- Any reduction in Grant in Aid triggers county's opt out option:
 - Opting out risks losing roughly \$29M in total Grant in Aid.
 - Including about \$4M a year currently supporting the jail.
- Caseload impacts from staffing cuts:
 - Pre-reductions:
 - Field caseloads at 35 to 40:1.
 - Intensive supervision at 20 to 25:1.
 - Consistent with American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) standards:
 - 50:1 field.
 - 25:1 intensive.
 - Current averages:
 - Domestic violence:
 - About 60:1.
 - High risk drug/property:
 - About 70:1
 - Intensive supervision:
 - Gang, prison diversion, FSAP, etc.:
 - About 33:1
- The division:
 - Stopped accepting unfunded misdemeanors from other counties.
 - Working with courts and District Attorney (DA) to stop sentences creating unfunded Driving Under Influence (DUI) misdemeanors:
 - May seek conversion of many to bench probation.
 - Set target of less than 20 unfunded misdemeanors county wide.
 - Reserving supervision for highest risk person to person misdemeanors.
- Specialty courts consume significant PO resources:
 - Drug, mental health, veterans, fostering attachment, etc.
- Division is renegotiating Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs):
 - To change from "guaranteed dedicated PO" to "if resources allow."
- Drug/Veterans Court combined caseload has grown to over 70:
 - Beyond one PO's sustainable capacity.
- Opioid settlement funds considered potential source for supervision positions linked to drug court.
- Materials and Services (M&S) reduced, impacting training, equipment, travel, and meetings:
 - Approximately \$230,000 cut
- Workload pressures causing:
 - PO's giving less Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI) in office visits.
 - Refocusing PO time on conditions enforcement and public safety.
 - Shifting CBI and skill building to treatment partners:
 - Bridgeway, Pathfinder Network, Health Department programs, housing stabilization services.

Recidivism Rates Discussion:

-Sheriff Nick Hunter and Commander Mike Hartford

- Recidivism measured over three years (2022 data) reflects past supervision models:
 - Not current practices under budget constraints.
- Metrics include arrest, conviction, and incarceration recidivism and risk levels.
- Long term trend (since early 2000s) shows gradual decline in recidivism:
 - Arrest recidivism:
 - 55% in 2001 to about 40% in recent years.
- Participants note sharp drop around 2020–2021 is largely artificial, driven by:

- Reduced jail capacity and custodial arrests.
 - Increased citations in lieu of custody.
 - Court backlogs and public defender shortages.
- Concerns:
 - Apparent improvement during COVID may mask ongoing crime levels.
 - Less future resources in community corrections may reverse positive trends.
- Use absolute numbers and cost savings in legislative advocacy, not just percentages:
 - Such as prison days avoided via diversion programs.
- Prepare five-year analysis for:
 - Downward departure.
 - Prison diversion.
 - FSAP caseloads.
 - Compare potential prison exposure to actual outcomes.
 - Calculate estimated savings based on Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) daily bed rates.

Transition Center Update/Funding:

-All

- The Transition Center remodel is nearly complete:
 - Tower open.
 - Carpets installed in dorms.
 - Key card access readers installed.
 - Remaining tasks primarily involve cleanup.
- Work crew/Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) remains closed:
 - Out of order program is still operating.
- Current fiscal year:
 - Overtime and potential private security budgeted using two funding streams:
 - Overtime plus a contract services line.
- Next fiscal cycle:
 - \$120,000 in M&S for a private security contract.
 - For about 10 hours a day and 7 days a week in lieu of extensive overtime.
- Tour of completed Transition Center will be scheduled.

Discussion:

-All

- Liability and standards:
 - Align reduced contact standards with available funding.
 - Manage liability risk if state eases but public and national standards don't.
 - Close coordination with County Counsel regarding rule changes from DOC:
 - Contact frequency, risk assessment timelines, and case planning.
- Rulemaking and state policy:
 - Concern of state rulemaking increasing workload without additional funding:
 - Such as contact standards developed under the "1145 group.
 - Leaders interested in pushing to roll back or right size rules:
 - During pilot period for contact standards through December 31st.
- Risk assessment and forecast:
 - DOC is revising Public Safety Checklist:
 - More predictive tool may reclassify more people as higher risk.
 - Increasing contact and workload without always increasing funding.
 - Analysis expects flat to modest increase in supervision populations statewide:
 - No significant new revenue in the 2027–2029 biennium.
- Program evaluation and prioritization:
 - Several programs flagged for cost effectiveness review:

- Student Opportunities for Achieving Results (SOAR).
 - FSAP.
 - Other treatment/behavioral programs.
- Potentially move funds to impactful public safety and recidivism programs.
- Pursuing support from Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and analytic staff:
 - Particularly for drug court and veterans court outcomes.
- Behavioral health funding and governance:
 - Proposed bill by Senator David Brock Smith.
 - Connect Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) to CJC's deflection program.
 - Concerns:
 - Potential behavioral health control shift from counties to state.
 - Risk of top slicing funds and reduced local flexibility:
 - Similar to Justice Reinvestment experiences.
 - Some county and sheriff associations are not supportive of the concept:
 - Further analysis and a formal county position are being developed.
 - Bill could, if amended, directly pass funds to counties by formula:
 - Desirable but uncertain outcome.
- Partnerships with Health and Housing:
 - Opportunities identified to deepen alignment with Health & Human Services:
 - Especially housing stabilization and behavioral health teams:
 - Give Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)/skill building services.
 - PO's no longer have capacity.
 - Address underlying drivers of criminal behavior:
 - Homelessness, addiction, and financial instability.
- Clinical supervision of mental health evaluator in Community Corrections by Health MOU in process:
 - Broader collaborative opportunities will be explored.

Adjourned – time: 5:05 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White