MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

MARION COUNTY
OREGON

Sheriff's Office Update
April 22, 2025. 1:30 PM
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:
Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.
Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Toni Whitler, Heather Inyama, Jon Heynen, Chris Eppley, Jan Fritz, and Chad Ball.
Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.
Sheriff's Office: Nick Hunter, Jay Bergmann, Jason Bernards, Jacob Ramsey, Jeremy Landers, and Mike Hartford.
Salem Reporter: Madeline Morris.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

Jail Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Grant (JMOUD)
- $372,000 grant from Criminal Justice Commission.
- Specific goals:
  - Purchase injectable medications.
  - Reduce medication diversion in jail.
  - Provide overdose protection.
- Medication strategy:
  - Weekly injections for inmates with average 20-25 day stay.
  - 28-day injections for longer-term inmates.
- Additional grant-funded items:
  - Storage compartments.
  - Medication tracking software.
  - Potential peer mentor program.
    - Explore options with Health and Human Services

1115 Medicaid Waiver
- Implementation is January 2027.
- Key infrastructure requirements:
  - Electronic health record system.
  - Wi-Fi for telemedicine.
  - Comprehensive case management.
- Mandatory services for:
  - Inmates 18-21 years old case management upon release.
  - Inmates under 26 with foster care history.
- Potential funding is $1.5 million per jail from Oregon Health Authority.

- Some challenges include:
  - Identifying foster care system involvement.
  - Meeting extensive reporting requirements.

Ideal Options Contract
- Four-year contract renewal.
- Critical staffing challenges:
  - Unable to provide nurses for medication administration.
  - Effective July 1st there will be no medication dosing.
- Medication administration strategy:
  - Shift to injectable medications.
  - Reduce nurse-patient interaction time.
  - Minimize medication diversion.

Bullet Trap – Evidence
- The cost is $8,000
- The purpose:
  - Safely discharge firearms inside evidence building.
  - Process 400+ firearms backlog.
  - Enable firearm testing for court cases.
- Supports National Integrated Ballistics Information Network.
- Portable and movable unit.

Tracking K9 (Otis)
- Purchase details:
  - Bloodhound named Otis.
  - Cost is $2,500 (1/3 of new dog price).
- Capabilities:
  - Search and rescue.
  - Missing persons location.
  - Non-aggressive apprehension.
- Handler compensation:
  - 5% incentive.
  - $5,400 additional annual pay.
  - $10,000 annual maintenance costs.

Hiring Update
- Current vacancies:
  - 11 enforcement deputies.
  - 14 institution deputies.
  - 10 community corrections deputies.
- Recruitment challenges:
  - 1,100 applicants to hire 75 deputies.
  - Only 26% of background-checked candidates hired.
  - Average law enforcement career now 4-5 years.
- Recruitment strategies:
  - Targeting Pacific Northwest states.
  - Employee referral programs.
  - Community event participation.
  - Ride-along opportunities.

Other
- Social media communication coordination.
- Out-of-state recruitment possibilities.
- Potential juvenile screening technology collaboration.
- Cultural shift in law enforcement recruitment.
- Recommendations:
  - Lower education requirements for stabilization specialists.
  - Create multi-tier entry positions.
  - Develop mentorship programs.
  - Enhance employee motivation and career development opportunities.

Next Steps
- Health Department collaboration meeting.
- Revise minimum qualification requirements.
- Develop comprehensive recruitment strategy.
- Explore digital recruitment methods.
- Design employee referral incentive program.
- Review retention strategies.
- Investigate technological screening solutions.

Adjourned – time: 3:00 p.m.
Minutes by: Mary Vityukova
Reviewed by: Gary L. White