



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

Sheriff's Office Update

September 02, 2025. 1:15 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, Chris Eppley, Alvin Klausen, Trevor Lane, and Jon Heynen.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Public Works: Brian Nicholas, and Richard Grabotin

Sheriff's Office: Nick Hunter, Andrew Lynch, Mike Hartford, Jacob Ramsey, and Jay Bergmann.

Business Services: Tamra Goettsch.

Salem Reporter: Madeline Moore.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

Transition Center

- D Pod project increased costs due to changes in design and materials:
 - Original scope was altered, leading to a \$200,000 increase.
- Project aims to remodel to allow more Adults in Custody (AIC) to have exercise time:
 - Addresses new jail standards requiring daily exercise.
- Current facility limitations make it difficult to meet standards without additional space:
 - Exceptions can be granted if efforts are made to comply.
- Consider different materials (glass vs. mesh) to reduce costs while maintaining security and visibility.
- The 290 Fund (inmate welfare fund) as a potential funding source:
 - Already allocated to other projects, like upgrading TV systems for the jail.
- Board decided to pull the D pod project from the upcoming session:
 - Seek new bids.
 - Ensure all general fund projects come to the board for approval.
- Need standardized rules regarding board involvement in spending from different funds.
- The Transition Center's reopening debated in light of budget cuts:
 - Recommend not reopening and reallocate funds to community corrections.
- The Transition Center used for boarding high-risk individuals:
 - Level three sex offenders.
 - Arsonists.

- Those with mental health needs.
- Maintain minimum level of boarding service:
 - Using private security for overnight supervision.
 - Logistical challenges involved:
 - Intake procedures, capacity, and staffing.

Community Corrections Budget

- Statewide community corrections fund reduced from \$312 million to \$279 million:
 - A \$3.2 million cut for the county, in addition to previous reductions.
- The governor's recommended budget allows for maintaining current positions:
 - Actual allocations require eliminating vacant positions and reducing services.
- Additional unexpected funding received from House Bill 2555:
 - Partially offsetting cuts.
- Recommend using funds previously allocated for the Transition Center to restore some positions and services in community corrections.
- Allocation of community corrections grant-in-aid funds, with 33% typically transferred to the jail and Transition Center.
- Need detailed spreadsheet outlining core, mandatory, and enhanced services in community corrections:
 - Facilitate informed decision-making and prioritization.
- Concerns about state's failure to fund actual cost of supervision since 2006:
 - Impact of unfunded mandates on local resources.
- Supervision of unfunded misdemeanors:
 - Operational and ethical implications of discontinuing supervision for certain cases.
- State is scrutinizing use of grant-in-aid dollars for unfunded misdemeanors and jail bed costs, with potential consequences for the county's funding and operations.

Other

- Frustration about lack of collective, strategic planning:
 - Tendency to make reactive decisions due to external funding cuts.
- Important to involve all relevant partners and stakeholders in public safety planning:
 - Cities, the sheriff's office, the DA, and the health department.
- Need creative solutions and alternative funding sources, such as opioid settlement dollars.
- Concern of Stabilization Center resource loss for individuals needing a "time out" from the community.

Next Steps:

- D pod project will be pulled from the board session:
 - New bids sought, and alternative materials considered to reduce costs.
- Detailed spreadsheet of community corrections services and priorities developed:
 - Follow-up meetings scheduled to review and discuss.
- State plan for community corrections to be submitted as presented:
 - Understand that amendments may be made following further evaluation and discussion.
- Board will continue to evaluate the supervision of unfunded misdemeanors and may amend the plan as needed based on state guidance and local priorities.

- Options for maintaining boarding services at the Transition Center will be further explored.
- Additional data will be requested from the Department of Corrections regarding jail bed days and costs:
 - Inform future funding decisions and discussions with the state.
- Follow-up meetings will be scheduled to review the spreadsheet, discuss priorities, and include all relevant stakeholders, including those with historical perspective.
- The board will seek to standardize processes for project approval and fund allocation, ensuring transparency and consistency across departments.

Adjourned – time: 2:39 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White