

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at the Boys & Girls Club
1395 Summer St NE
Salem, Oregon
February 12, 2013

Attendees: Commissioner Patti Milne, Walt Beglau, Rod Calkins, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, David Ferre, Don Frederickson, Courtland Geyer, Alison Kelley, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Diane Morse, Jason Myers, Anna Peterson, Bob Royer, Scott Russell, Mike Runyon, Tom Sermak

Guests: Tim Sinatra, Sue Bloom and Luke Reese, Boys & Girls Club
Angie Denning, Oregon Youth Authority

Staff: Don Russo

Chair - action items

At 4:00 pm, Commissioner Patti Milne called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Minutes of the January PSCC meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

Presentation on Boys & Girls Club

Boys & Girls Club leaders Tim Sinatra, executive director, Luke Reese, member of the board of directors, and Sue Bloom, operations manager, made an informative presentation. Mr. Sinatra described "Designing for Impact," the new direction and program service model at Boys & Girls Club. Using a 360 degree approach, programs focus 70% of their effort toward positive youth development to build the assets of youth, and 30% of the effort is directed toward prevention and intervention efforts. The organization's purpose is to prepare youth to become participants in a global society that thrives on advanced technology and a culture of connectivity. Programs meet essential needs in nutrition, health and dental care, offer a safe environment, and promote supportive relationships. Three core areas are 1.) academic success, 2.) character and citizenship, and 3.) healthy lifestyles. Last year, Boys & Girls Club served over 10,000 youth in ages 6 and 16. There is an annual \$5 membership fee that all youth pay to join.

Safety of youth and minimizing risk are the top priorities at Boys & Girls Club. In earlier years, safety was centered on the facility and volunteer training, but now safety commands a broad, comprehensive approach. Sue Bloom gave an example of a youth who had given clues to staff that revealed trouble with bullying from other youth at school. She described how staff worked to help reduce the anxiety of the youth and other steps to protect his safety, find resources such as counseling, and reduce the threat. Tim cited an example of a teen girl who became the club's Youth of the Year, but earlier had lived where bullets riddled through her house from gang activity. The club helped find her a new place to live, hired her part-time at the club, and worked to change her life and avoid gang trouble.

When asked how the club keeps gang violence out of the club, Tim said some youth are not permitted in facilities until staff can work with them in an intervention manner and youth learn to abide by the rules of the club before they are allowed to participate in club activities.

Mental health, depression, anger, impulsive behavior and other factors are important safety issues that are assessed by staff in meeting essential needs of youth, he said. Programs help youth feel valued so they can leave behind gang activity. Another safety issue arises when staff detect drug or alcohol use by a parent who is picking up a youth from a club. Luke Reese explained that with his background as a lawyer working with child abuse

issues, he volunteered to assist in staff training. Strict background checks and rules help detect potential problems. There is no leniency with volunteers who may threaten youth safety. Staff are trained to develop relationships with youth that help detect issues and troubles that youth may have in their home or personal life. Staff are trained in how to listen to youth, and how to respond when they learn of problems. Staff also learn to interact with other agencies that assist youth. De-escalating a potentially difficult situation with a parent is a primary strategy when staff detect drug or alcohol use at the time of pick-up.

Tim said in summary that Boys & Girls Club takes a comprehensive approach to safety in order to prevent kids from becoming victims.

Judge Geyer described how Judge James Rhodes manages the Marion County Teen Court program; he said Boys & Girls Club takes care of the logistics, even selecting which teens are selected to serve as jurors. Tim added that many of the juvenile offenders who serve as jurors later become members of Boys & Girls Club. Faye explained how the cases come through the Juvenile Department and how the program makes Teen Court successful in preventing further offenses.

Tim and Sue added that Boys & Girls Club interacts with other public safety agencies, such as probation officers.

Commissioner Milne spoke about the strong relationship between PSCC and Boys & Girls Club on the annual “Striking Out Meth in Marion County,” especially in recent years when the club has brought busloads of youth to the game with the generous sponsorship of Salem-Keizer McDonalds. Sue commented that the event is very important to the club and provides for many the first time ever to attend a professional baseball game.

Public safety preparedness for mass violence events

Commissioner Milne asked if there is anything more that PSCC should do to assist the community in preventing or managing crisis events.

Sheriff Myers explained that a PSCC subcommittee had mapped the many interactions between mental health and public safety. A draft version of the map was distributed. Identifying gaps will be helpful in improving the interaction process, he stated. Walt Beglau explained the map tries to identify the continuum from before law enforcement gets involved to after offenders are released from jail or prisons. Rod Calkins added the challenge is to move upstream trying to prevent serious episodes and improve positive outcomes. Commissioner Milne asked what are the next steps? Sheriff Myers said the map helps identify gaps and can help leverage resources to fill the gaps in the system. Faye stated that there are gaps in service as well as gaps where capacity is not adequate. She pressed for more conversation on improving. Rod said in some areas are known threats to programs that could easily go away if funding were cut, and some programs always seem like they are close to the edge. CORT is another example, said Sheriff Myers, because the training has been funded solely by grants which are difficult to sustain.

Bob Royer asked if anyone has seen the details Sen. Courtney’s proposal to increase mental health services in Oregon. Not yet, replied Sheriff Myers; but he has authored a letter of support from the Oregon Sheriffs Association expressing support for increasing mental health services that interact with law enforcement.

Walt suggested using the map when the council meets at the state capitol in March to discuss strengths and weaknesses. Milne said that all area legislators have been invited, many have responded and efforts will continue to encourage their attendance. She said there will be much to discuss with the legislators.

Don Russo said the mapping exercise showed there is a high degree of coordination among Marion County agencies in public safety and mental health. Chief Scott Russell suggested alcohol-drug detoxification services should be added to the map.

Prescription drug abuse and heroin abuse issues

Alison Kelley mentioned the “Oregon Silver Tsunami” event set for Friday, April 5 that Mark Caillier has planned. She also announced that DrxugSafe community summits are now planned in Keizer for Tuesday, April 23, in Woodburn on Thursday, April 25 and in Silverton on Monday, April 22. A date is not yet certain for Stayton. She said Saturday, April 27 is the federal DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day for unused pharmaceutical drugs. Sheriff Myers said he heard an idea that is being examined at the legislative level to allow pharmacies to accept unused prescription drugs; pharmacies dispense drugs but are not permitted to take back unused drugs. Walt Beglau said there are armed robberies at pharmacies, which could become greater targets if people could return unused drugs.

Governor’s Commission on Public Safety

Commissioner Milne called attention to the *Alternative Report and Recommendations* by John Foote, which is included in the meeting materials packet. Sheriff Myers reported that a group of legislators will draft legislation based on both the Governor’s Commission report as well as the alternative report. He is following the group on the legislation they draft. Commissioner Milne recommended reading the *Alternative Report and Recommendations* prior to the next PSCC meeting at the state capitol.

Child Abuse investigation protocol

Walt Beglau announced that a team has revised the protocol used when a case of child abuse is investigated. The protocol is a helpful tool to investigators and others, he said, when they become involved in the process. Changes have been made in the use of technology, to protocol on drug-endangered children, and to review procedures for cases on an imminent basis as well as for child fatality cases. The revision process has been accomplished, he reported. Faye Fagel added that the new protocol has been helpful to her and her staff.

Mid Valley Women’s Crisis Services

Jayne Downing expressed appreciation to Walt Beglau and others for their support of the campaign to build a new center. Over 1,000 donors have already made donation commitments, with more than \$35,000 received in the past two weeks. An open house will be scheduled in March at the new facility (which had previously been used by the State of Oregon) to show how the space is being renovated at 680 Cottage St NE.

Because her 40-year old agency has seen a huge increase in need for services over the past three years, they do not have adequate space to see the growing numbers of women who seek help in a crisis. The agency applied and won funding from a \$300,000 federal community development block grant through the City of Salem, and now her agency is launching a fund drive to raise the remaining needed funds. Over \$400,000 has been received to date, but the goal is \$800,000. The current facility will be sold. She asked members of the council to contribute.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm. Then a tour of the facility was led by Tim Sinatra and Sue Bloom.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, March 12 at the Oregon State Legislature.

Minutes by Don Russo