

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Commissioners Hearing Room
1115 Commercial St NE
Salem, Oregon
August 13, 2013

Attendees: Vice Chair Bob Royer, Mark Caillier, Paige Clarkson, Troy Claussen, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, Don Frederickson, Alison Kelley, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Jerry Moore, Michael Runyon, Scott Russell, Tom Sermak

Guest: Jim Kramer, OYA Chief of Parole and Probation

Staff: Don Russo

Vice Chair - action, information

At 4:05 pm, Vice Chair Bob Royer called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Minutes of the July PSCC meeting were approved as presented.

There was brief discussion to review “Striking Out Meth 2013.” Comments made included fun event, hot day, well organized, a few less youth than prior year but very worthwhile event. Don Russo expressed appreciation from Commissioner Milne for all those who helped.

Bob asked Alison Kelley to tell the group about accepting a new position as executive director of Liberty House. Alison explained that she was sought for the job after working previously with Liberty House as a consultant when she was an attorney in private practice. She said she is honored to now join the nonprofit in their work as a statutorily-required child abuse assessment center.

Mark Caillier said the City of Keizer has selected John Teague as its next police chief. As a participant in the selection process, Mark said there were several capable candidates. Teague had worked as a captain with Keizer Police before moving to the City of Dallas as chief.

Juvenile justice continuum in Marion County

To follow last month’s presentation by Oregon Youth Authority, Faye Fagel gave an overview of the juvenile justice system in Marion County describing the differences between the role of Marion County Juvenile Department and the role of Oregon Youth Authority. She used a chart to show the paths that youth follow when referred from law enforcement. Some youth are physically taken by police to juvenile detention, but most cases are initiated by a police report sent to juvenile while the youth is released to parents. Juvenile department staff then study the case and make decisions on the path most appropriate for the youth. They work with the office of the district attorney on more serious offenses or strictly within the juvenile department for less serious. The objective is to assess the nature of the crime, the youths public safety risk, needs of victims including restitution, strengths of the youth and family, resources available to provide appropriate consequences and to reduce risk factors, and youth and families acceptance of responsibility. A number of cases are managed through diversion to community programs such as peer courts, or through Formal Accountability Agreements supervised by probation officers. Cases that move to a formal court hearing are managed by a probation officer who coordinates with the District Attorneys office and Defense Attorney. The probation officer presents the case in court and makes recommendations for the disposition based on the risks and needs of the youth, and victim and public safety needs. A public defender is assigned to each youth for hearings, and a judge determines the accountability of the youth and court orders the conditions of probation. Youth are then subject to probation under the supervision of a probation officer. If conditions are violated, the probation officer will impose sanctions or return the youth to court.

Faye explained that the detention facility is used to hold youth 12 to 17 who have not yet been adjudicated on the charges against them, pending resolution by the juvenile court; also held are youth who have violated their conditions of supervision and are court ordered to serve detention time as a consequence. Juvenile court holds responsibility in two primary areas: delinquency and dependency. Delinquency cases are youth alleged to have committed crimes or to have violated conditions of supervision and are a small portion of the court workload. Dependency cases are those where an allegation of abuse or neglect has been initiated against adults responsible for a child that necessitates the involvement of the Department of Human Services Child Welfare (DHS). The Juvenile Department is not involved in dependency proceedings except where an older youth in DHS care and custody crosses over into the Juvenile Justice system by committing a crime.

Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) has the legislatively appropriated funding for a system of residential treatment programs across the state and maintains the contracts with those providers. The Juvenile Department staffs youth who need a residential placement with a resource committee that includes our staff, Marion Branch of the Youth Authority, and Mental Health and DHS representatives. The Committee evaluates each case and recommends the most appropriate resources. If the recommendation is an OYA contracted residential placement then the youth will be committed by the court to the Youth Authority for that placement. The case will be transferred from the Juvenile Department to OYA who will assume the probation supervision until termination of the case.. Oregon Youth Authority operates the system of Youth Correctional Facilities. The Juvenile Court can commit youth to OYA for placement in a Youth Correctional Facility. The supervision of the youth is transferred from the Juvenile Department to OYA who supervises the youth through parole until termination of the case. Juvenile trials are heard by a judge and not a jury. Few juvenile cases go to a formal trial .

The management of Measure 11 cases was explained by Paige Clarkson, Marion County deputy district attorney. Juveniles age 15 and older who are charged under a Measure 11 offense are held in the juvenile detention facility but prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys managing adult offenders.. A Juvenile Probation Officer is assigned to coordinate issues related to the detention custody such as visitation. Measure 11 offenses are very serious crimes against persons like homicide, sex offenses, violent crimes, robbery and kidnappings, she said. The decision to charge a juvenile as an adult is taken seriously. The District Attorney's office determines the charge, even if youth are arrested on different charges. At times, the DA office may refer a case to juvenile and reduce the charge. Three attorneys work on juvenile cases, she said. If adjudicated as a 16 or 17 year old and sentenced on a Ballot Measure 11 offense, these youth start serving time at an OYA correctional facility rather than an adult prison. The bulk of M11 cases are sex offenses, usually where the offender and the victim live in the same family. This raises complex issues that are difficult to manage. Faye added that concern for victims is taken very seriously in her department. Even though rehabilitation of the offender is an important focus, her department never loses sight of protecting victims as a primary responsibility of the public safety system.

Jim Kramer, OYA Chief of Parole and Probation, commented that since Measure 11 passed in 1996, the number of M11 juvenile offenders confined has been fairly stable around 300-350. OYA has 750 beds across ten facilities, with about half filled with Measure 11 offenders. The majority of offenders complete their sentences before turning age 26 so they are not sent to adult prisons.

Don asked if detention and correctional facilities can be beneficial to youth when their home lives are so troubled. Faye responded by saying it is a challenge to determine the best placement for each youth, knowing that some will respond well in detention while for others, detention can be more harmful. Jim Kramer added that some youth realize their greatest success in a correctional facility. Data is used more now to help predict the best placement and is half of the answer; that is why OYA is seeing better results with fewer beds, he said.

9-1-1 consolidation update

Chief Scott Russell said that a consolidation process has just been completed, effective July 1, to combine two call centers into one. METCOM is a new combination of NORCOM in Woodburn and Santiam Communication Center in Stayton. The two entities began discussion in 2011; the new agency now has 23 employees, a budget of

\$2.4 million, and serves a population of 120,000 with annual call volume of about 194,000. The new agency serves 35 principal member jurisdictions and five subscriber entities. The new agency came about because both previous agencies had needs they could not meet individually, from budget shortfalls to technology needs. Issues of trust, control, governance, staffing, budget and location were among the important factors that were negotiated and resolved.

Chief Russell said all forty jurisdictions and governing bodies involved in the two entities had to approve and sign a new agreement; if any had not signed, the consolidation would have failed. Now the concerns turn to daily operations, he said. The consolidation resulted in about \$200,000 of savings in annual operating expense, and a plan to payoff the debt held by the Santiam center. The goal is to work together to serve the public. Chief Russell said he had served as board chair of NORCOM through the consolidation process, and was elected board chair of the new METCOM.

Bob asked if the general public would notice any changes through the consolidation. Chief Russell said the objective is to respond smoothly and quickly to any call for help, and the public should see no change. He said 9-1-1 consolidations can be expected to continue in the future.

Undersheriff Troy Clausen explained that in 2011, Marion County secured a state homeland security grant to study consolidation on a broader level. There were 51 dispatch centers in the state of Oregon when the state tried to legislate consolidation into nine centers. When this proved too difficult to achieve politically, other methods were developed. A “request for proposal” was developed in May to study emergency services across three counties, which involve police, fire, cost, technology, contracts, governance, business practices, sites and other issues. Public Safety Consultants, Inc was awarded the contract to conduct a four-stage process to help leaders make informed decisions about consolidation and how to get there. He expects the process to take 4-6 months for phase 1. Marion County is managing the contract with the consultant.

Chief Jerry Moore said he would hope the public in need would see no difference when calling for emergency aid. There is a learning curve, however, with important differences to know when responders work with calls from distant places. There are challenges in large-scale consolidations, he said. When asked if the new study could also effect the newly formed METCOM, Clausen said METCOM could change again. Chief Russell added that the desire of all entities is to work closer together and achieve economies of scale. Large-scale consolidation could cost more money, said Undersheriff Clausen and Chief Russell. The global ideal would be to use the same systems for dispatch, records management, CAD and other tools. Undersheriff Clausen said Sheriff Myers intends to share information about the project with PSCC as it progresses.

Other

Don complemented the city police departments that sponsor National Night Out, which occurred last week. Chief Moore said there were 163 neighborhood parties in Salem, and emphasized how important it is for people to watch out for each other. It will make your neighborhood safer, he said.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, September 10.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes by Don Russo