

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Marion County Commissioners Conference Room
5th Floor, Courthouse Square
555 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon
May 13, 2014

Attendees: Bob Royer, Walt Beglau, Ray Byrd, Rod Calkins, Mark Caillier, Faye Fagel, David Ferre, Tamra Goettsch, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Gerry Moore, Diane Morse, Jason Myers, Anna Peterson, Scott Russell, Tracy Prall, Tom Sermak

Guests: Tim Murphy, Executive Director, Bridgeway Recovery Services;
Nathan Wuerch, Chair, Law Enforcement for Youth; Patti Milne, Chair, “Striking Out Meth”

Staff: Don Russo

Chair - action, information

At 4:00 pm, Interim Chair Bob Royer called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Minutes of the April PSCC meeting were approved as corrected.

Marion County Reentry Initiative letter of support

Tim Murphy asked PSCC to approve a letter of support for a federal grant application to extend services of the Marion County Reentry Initiative for an additional three years. Only seven grants will be awarded nationally. MCRI is a collaboration with Marion County Sheriff’s Office, Marion County Health Department, and Bridgeway. He said the grant would fund Bridgeway services that help prevent recidivism through mental health services for those released from incarceration.

Motion to approve the letter of support.

Motion passed unanimously.

Town Hall series on marijuana

Jason Myers described discussion from the PSCC Steering Committee about the transition at the level of the Board of Commissioners and temporary loss of the PSCC chair. He said the Steering Committee does not want to get ahead of the Board of Commissioners during the transition to replace Commissioner Milne and the appointment of a new commissioner to chair PSCC. The group wants to insure the full support of the commissioners before planning the Town Hall series. Don Russo stated that he called Anthony Johnson, the chief petitioner of Initiative Petition 53, to ask for a status report. Mr. Johnson reported his group is on track in gathering signatures and expects his petition to legalize recreational use of marijuana will be on the ballot for the general election in November 2014.

Walt Beglau said that a new commissioner will be appointed May 20 and sworn in June 2. The appointment of a new chair for PSCC will follow. He said the adoption of the resolution opposing marijuana gives PSCC a platform for organizing the Town Hall series. Don Russo said it may be difficult to attract people to attend the Town Hall series, and he asked for other ideas to convey information. Jason Myers suggested watching as the initiative progresses, then later in the summer make a plan to host town hall meetings in various parts of the county. Pete McCallum commented on a conference hosted by League of Oregon Cities, and suggested members seek the presentation notes posted on the LOC website.

<http://www.orcities.org/MemberServices/AZIndex/tabid/810/itemid/4444/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

“Striking Out Meth in Marion-Polk Counties”

Patti Milne spoke about the transition of “Striking Out Meth” that now becomes a partnership between PSCC and Law Enforcement for Youth. She invited PSCC to continue in this partnership. Nathan Wuerch said that Law Enforcement for Youth offers the tax advantages of a nonprofit for sponsor contributions. LEY has donated for the past eight years to the event. He said LEY does not want to change the event, but suggests expanding its purpose to a year-round drug prevention program. Patti Milne said she is joining the board of directors of LEY and will continue as chair of the Planning Committee. Nathan Wuerch added that LEY is an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff. He said without the continued support of PSCC and the county, his organization would not be able to manage the event. He said staff support from Marion County is critical for this year’s event.

As soon as a new commissioner is appointed to chair PSCC, Patti Milne hopes conversation will begin about the role and involvement of PSCC.

Motion by Anna Peterson, second by Ed McKenney to express continued support of “Striking Out Meth” through a partnership between PSCC and LEY for the July 25 event. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Anna Peterson suggested that representatives of PSCC and LEY should convey this information directly to the commissioners. Nathan Wuerch and Bob Royer offered to meet with the commissioners at a Management Update meeting in May.

Update on HB 3194 and inmate population trends

Walt Beglau reported that Marion County is meeting expectations in managing the prison census as defined in HB 3194. Reducing transitional leave requirements from 90 days to 30 days is the major factor in reducing the prison census.

Drug Endangered Children report

Anna Peterson commented that the most recent report from the District Attorney’s office documents the success of community efforts to reduce the damaging effects of drug abuse on children. Meth abuse is still prevalent as seen in deaths and caseload, said Walt Beglau, but the number of babies born drug positive and taken into protective custody has declined remarkably.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Next meeting

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

Minutes by Don Russo