

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

February 9, 2016, 4:00 PM  
Commissioners' Board Room  
555 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

**MCPSCC:** District Attorney Walt Beglau, Mark Caillier, Rod Calkins, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, Lt. Tim Fox, Chief Jim Ferraris, Don Frederickson, Jessica Kampf, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Sheriff Jason Myers, Mayor Anna Peterson, Judge Tracy Prall, Jeff Puterbaugh, Bob Royer, Mike Runyon, Chief John Teague, John Van Dreal; Hitesh Parekh (recorder).

**GUESTS:** Katie Kuenzi, Marion County Juvenile Department; Todd Londin, ABC Window Cleaners.

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

*Commissioner Carlson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.*

Recap and approval of January 12, 2016 meeting minutes

**MOTION:** Ed McKenney moved approval of the January 12, 2016 MCPSCC meeting minutes. Seconded by Mark Caillier; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

### Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Marion County Circuit Court Judge Sean Armstrong will be sworn in on March 3, 2016.
- Mid-Willamette Homeless Initiative Task Force will hold its first meeting on February 17, 2016.
- Marion County's prison intakes are meeting the threshold targets set by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
- Public safety community forums, Spring 2016:
  - MCPSCC members are encouraged to sign up for at least one meeting.
  - Telephone town hall meeting is scheduled for April 28.

### Salem-Keizer School District Threat Assessment (Information)

John Van Dreal, Director, Safety and Risk Management Services, Salem-Keizer School District presented this item (**attachment A**).

- Mr. Van Dreal has 28 years experience working with youth in the clinical world as a school psychologist and studying aggressive and violent youth.
- He oversees anything that has to do with safety of individuals in the Salem-Keizer School District.
- The Marion County Threat Assessment Team was formed in 1998 through the collaboration of the Sheriff's Office, the Oregon State Courts and Salem-Keizer School District.
  - The team addressed threats against public figures, threats in the workplace and schools, domestic violence and stalking.
  - Within the United States, it was the first collaboration of its kind and the following year, both Salem and Keizer police departments joined the team.
- In 2000, using this model as an example, the Salem-Keizer School District, in collaboration with multiple law enforcement agencies and community service providers, developed a threat assessment system to address potential threats of youth violence within the school setting and community.
  - Process involved a thorough survey of research and best practices. Consulted local practitioners who assess or encounter potentially violent situations involving youth on a regular basis.

- System refined through committee work with school administrators, counselors, police officers, social workers, community mental health specialists, probation officers, school psychologists and risk management personnel.
  - In 2001, the Willamette Education Service District implemented the system throughout school districts in Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties.
  - The threat assessment system in place today includes a site-based screening completed by a trained multi-disciplinary team (called Level 1) and, if needed, a more comprehensive and in-depth assessment and consultation completed by a multi-agency team (called Level 2).
  - The primary goal of the system is to provide an immediate and systematic response to youth who pose a serious threat to commit violence to others.
- Advantages of a threat assessment system:
    - Community owned.
    - Immediate turn around and referral of youth.
    - Identifies risk in clear terms.
    - Goal is to keep youth in school, since youth are safer there.
    - Increased psychological sense of safety.
- Basic threat assessment concepts:
    - “School climate” is about:
      - Maintaining a sense of psychological safety among students, teachers, and parents.
      - Fostering a learning environment free from fear for both adults and children.
      - Involving all members of the school community in creating a safe and respectful school culture and climate.
      - Adopting a strong position *against* the “code of silence” when:
        - Youth do not disclose knowledge about other students who have suicidal thoughts, are aggressively acting out, threatening violence to others, or using alcohol and/or drugs.
    - Context and situation:
      - This is the relationship between perpetrator and target.
      - Important to distinguish if the youth posed a threat in the circumstances not “Did he/she make a threat?”
    - Distinction between “reactive aggression” and “targeted aggression”:
      - Everyone is capable of being violent if they see themselves or their immediate family members in danger.
      - Reactive aggression very typical and common in youth.
      - Situation driven, not target driven and directed to person in front of them.
        - Usually associated with elevated emotional threat with individual feeling as though he or she is under attack.
        - Many people are like this, only as aggressive as they need to be.
        - Targeted and premeditated types of aggression are much rarer.
        - These involve planning and motives.
        - Could become much more serious on the aggression scale.
        - When a threat assessment is being made and the behavioral indicators match the communication, this becomes an elevated threat.
        - A high-risk situation occurs if a person has a justification, is out of alternatives, accepts the consequences of the act and has the ability to act out.
  - Threat System Process.
    - A referral is initiated when someone has an inclination that something is out of order.
    - An individual is assessed using a two-tier approach.
      - Level 1
        - A trained team of individuals initiate an investigation interviewing those individuals who know the student such as teachers, coaches, campus monitors. Try to understand the threat, risk, and resources the school has to address it.

- Level 2
  - If school determines the situation is high risk and it needs help, it calls in a community-based multi-disciplinary team of education, mental health and law enforcement professionals.
- The Oregon Task Force on School Safety is proposing a statewide threat assessment system based upon the Salem-Keizer School District system.

Summary of Discussion:

- Bullying and the threat assessment system:
  - If a child is a bully he or she will (sooner or later) be referred into the threat assessment system.
  - Bullying is targeted aggression and a moderate concern as long as it does not elevate to premeditating and rehearsing an attack.
  - In more than 50 percent of shooting cases, perpetrator stated he was bullied.
    - Wasn't that he was physically being bullied, just saw himself as being bullied.
    - Perception that he was being rejected as a person.
    - Most of the school shooters complained that they were bullied, but were in fact bullies themselves.
- A very small percentage of youth who have done school shootings have severe mental health problems.
  - There are side effects of psychotropic medications in the early stages of treatment, but if these are bothersome, medication will be changed.
  - No connection between these medications and aggression.
- Best prosocial intervention is to provide a high-risk youth with adult intervention.

**Emerging Issues/Problem Solving (Information/Discussion)**

None

**ADJOURNED 5:53 pm**