

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL
MINUTES

March 13, 2018 4:00 PM
Commissioners' Board Room
555 Court St. NE, Salem, OR

MCPSCC: Walt Beglau, Mark Caillier, Kevin Cameron, Janet Carlson, Bob Charpentier, Jayne Downing, Don Frederickson, Courtland Geyer, Tamra Goettsch, Troy Gregg, Greg Leo, Rick Lewis, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Cary Moller, Jerry Moore, Diane Morse, Jason Myers, John Teague, John Van Dreal, and Hitesh Parekh (recorder).

GUESTS: Jan Calvin, Paige Clarkson, Angie Denning, Julie Huckestein, Alison Kelley, Jolene Kelley, Ashley Marshall, David Pitt, Christina Puentes, Rich Sebens, Treven Upkes, and Don Vidrio.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE (INFORMATION/ACTION)

Meeting called to order at 4:05 P.M. by Commissioner Janet Carlson.

Welcome and Introductions

Council members made introductions around the table.

Approve February 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Jason Myers moved approval of the February 13, 2018 MCPSCC meeting minutes. Seconded by Greg Leo. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- April 10 - Oregon Second Chance Tour event at the Salem Convention Center.
- April 13 - Kick-off at the State Capitol for child abuse prevention month in Oregon.
- May 7 - Community Courts and Public Safety Conference: Birmingham, Alabama.

Marion County Suicides (Handout)

- Walt Beglau noted that there has been a significant increase in the number of young people that have committed suicide this first quarter in Marion County.
- MCPSCC Steering Committee will discuss bringing this item back to the full council for a fuller presentation.
- Marion County Health Department also looking into this issue.

Appointment of Cari Sessums to the MCPSCC

Local Alcohol and Drug Prevention Committee (LADPC) member Jeff Puterbaugh resigned from the council in December last year. Cari Sessums has been selected by the LADPC to replace him.

MOTION: Ed McKenney moved to add the appointment of Ms. Sessums to the agenda as an "Action" item. Seconded by Jayne Downing. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Mark Caillier made a motion to recommend that the commissioners appoint Cari Sessums to the MCPSCC. Seconded by Greg Leo. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

Letter of Support Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program

A letter of support has been requested by the Community Action Partnership of Oregon and the Rural Oregon Continuum of Care. They are applying for grant funds from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Agency Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Funds will be used to create a statewide learning consortium for rural communities to address youth homelessness.

MOTION: Pete McCallum made a motion to add this item to the agenda. Ed McKenney seconded the motion. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Greg Leo made a motion to approve a letter of support from the MCPSCC for the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Agency Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. Seconded by Tamra Goettsch. Motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

2018 Short Legislative Session Updates (Handout)

Summary of discussion: Council members discussed the status of legislation upon adjournment of the 2018 legislative session. Comments included:

- Senate Bill 1540A (which passed) is not the original version of the bill that the Marion County District Attorney's Office supported.
- Legislature has provided additional funding for 40 FTE sworn trooper positions held vacant by the Oregon State Police in order to fund non-sworn positions.
- SB 1531, which would have required law enforcement officers to meet regularly with mental health professionals, failed. It had multiple unintended consequences and was not supported by law enforcement agencies.
- House Bill 4143 passed. Bill calls for creation of a pilot program to tackle the state's opioid crisis by, in part, using a network of peer recovery support mentors to help people dealing with addiction. Marion County is listed as one of the three pilot counties.
- SB 1562 now includes strangulation as a felony, which domestic violence victim-advocates fully support.
- Department of Public Safety Standards and Training also received additional funding for first responder training.
- Oregon circuit court budgets that were cut prior to the start of the 2017-19 biennium were made whole.

2. SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE (INFORMATION/DISCUSSION)

John Van Dreal, Director, Safety and Risk Management Services, Salem-Keizer School District presented this item (attached). Summary of presentation:

- In light of the recent school shooting in Florida, public perception may be that the Salem-Keizer School District (SKSD) is not doing anything to reassure the public about school safety.
 - For safety reasons, the SKSD deliberately does not publicize its operations and school safety protocols, even though its threat assessment process is nationally recognized.
- The SKSD has a sophisticated and proactive intervention system in place for timely interventions. These include:
 - The Threat Response System that offers step-by-step protocols on preventing and controlling potentially dangerous situations.
 - The threat assessment system uses early interventions to keep students safe.
 - It is evidence based, multidisciplinary, and used to identify, evaluate, and support students who present a potential threat to themselves or others.

- At each level, teams work with students, families and the community to provide wraparound supports designed to break negative patterns and steer youth in a positive direction.
- The SKSD has also officially joined SafeOregon, a confidential tip line that gives kids, parents, schools, and communities a confidential way to report safety threats or potential acts of violence.
 - Program is managed by the Oregon State Police and has proven to prevent acts of violence.
 - The SafeOregon tip line went statewide on March 1.
- The SKSD is also a member of the gang prevention team which meets monthly to identify gang activity, prevent recruitment, and problem solve potential conflicts and intervene.
 - District addresses bullying through a curriculum called “Second Step” and “Bully Busters.”

Summary of discussion:

Q: During the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida, one of the teachers locked his classroom door, protecting some students in the classroom, but leaving others out in the corridor. After the shooting, the teacher insisted he had followed the correct protocol. Was he right?

A: Yes, he did follow protocol. But Salem-Keizer’s protocols use “situational awareness” which allow staff to think about using different options instead of just going by the book.

Q: Can teachers initiate a lock down?

A: Yes.

Q: Can you preempt a school shooting by having law enforcement take away guns from a threatening child?

A: In Oregon, you cannot take guns away from families. In a recent case, Marion County Sheriff’s Office went through the threat assessment process and an individual was arrested. If a crime is committed the weapon will be seized. But each situation is unique. Sometimes you just have to monitor the individual; other times have to follow up on the school counselor’s concerns.

3. GANGS (INFORMATION/DISCUSSION)

Overview

Salem Police Department Chief Jerry Moore, Lt. Treven Upkes, and Sergeant Don Vidrio presented this item. Summary of presentation:

- Gangs are defined as:
 - A group of three or more people with a common name, symbol or colors, who engage in criminal activity.
- Criminal activity includes:
 - Assault, riots, criminal mischief, underage alcohol and drug use, curfew violation, and truancy.
 - Rough rule shows that 1-2% of the local population is gang involved.
 - In Salem, this comes out to approximately 10-15 gangs with 700-1,000 members.
- Gangs started in Salem in the 1980s and represent every racial, cultural and socio-economic group including:
 - Outlaw motorcycle gangs, skinheads, Asians, Native Americans, African Americans, and Hispanics.
 - Today the most visible and active gangs are two Hispanic gangs, the Surenos and Nortenos.
 - These gangs are involved in narcotics, extortion, identity theft, and home invasion.
 - Not very many African American street gangs in Marion County. Most are in the Portland area.

Solutions:

- Law enforcement agencies:
 - Work with school districts, the judicial system, and juvenile probation officers to monitor potential and former gang members.
 - Work with parents to educate them to prevent their children from joining gangs.

Marion County Juvenile Department

Marion County Juvenile Department Director Troy Gregg and Group Worker David Pitt presented this item. Summary of presentation:

- Housing juvenile gang members in the Marion County juvenile justice detention facility can be challenging.
 - They intimidate other youth: most youth in detention have never been there before, and have never encountered a gang member in such close proximity.
 - They will tag desks, books, and computer keyboards.
 - By the time most of these youth come to juvenile detention they have been involved with gangs for many years.
 - With only two units in the Marion County Juvenile Detention facility, staff is unable to separate these gang tainted youth from others.
 - Marion County Juvenile Department does not have a gang program, but wants to create one with help from the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA).
 - The OYA is helping the county by bringing in their incarcerated youth to talk to Marion County youth about prison life.

Oregon Youth Authority

Oregon Youth Authority Youth Conflict Resolution Coordinator Christina Puentes presented this item.

Summary of presentation:

- The OYA currently has 541 youth in custody of which:
 - Approximately 20 % or 90 are gang “designated”.
 - Sixteen of the 90 are from Marion County.
 - 65% of the 90 are from Hispanic gangs; 23% African American; and 12% a mix.
- OYA has a policy that if someone is gang designated, they must go through a separate incarceration process.
 - By the time a youth is in OYA custody, he or she has been gang-involved for a long time.
 - Most have been expelled from school.
 - Today, a record number of gang-affiliated youth are choosing to walk away from gangs, but to do this, staff must first be able to have a rapport with them.
 - OYA has a gang intervention program called Street SMARTS. It is a voluntary program, where community and family members get involved with the youth.
 - Families often don’t know how occupied their children are with gangs.
 - Over the past two years, OYA has seen a large number of success stories with ex-gang members.
- The OYA is developing a gang prevention program with the Marion County Juvenile Department.
- From a program perspective, one frustration is having an effective program but inadequate resources to sustain the program.

Summary of discussion:

Q: What can citizens do about the gang problem?

A: If citizens see something, they should report it to law enforcement. In Salem, the Salem Police Department will dispatch someone to assist with tagging, and the Marion County Public Works Department has a Paint Back program that uses leftover paint and processes it into a primer to cover graffiti.

Q: When youth are released, is there a mentoring program available for them?

A: Mentors are excellent with this population. OYA has hired a transition specialist to work with youth for community job placement. Youth also have parole officers monitoring them. Goal is for youth to never have to go back into the correctional facility, since every time their probation is revoked, their risk to recidivate increases. There was a mentoring program in Marion County called Mid-Valley Mentors. It was dissolved in 2011 due to a lack of sustainable funding. Trying to do community work is difficult with limited funding. Mano a Mano is also doing some work to divert gang affiliated youth. Mentoring is a big piece of this.

(Mano a Mano was unable to attend meeting. Mano a Mano's material on gangs is attached.)

4. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING

Diane Morse, Marion County Trial Court Administrator, presented this item. Summary of presentation:

- The Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC) is mandated by state law to meet at least quarterly to discuss the criminal justice system and circuit court related issues in Marion County.
- The council has been working on pre-trial release issues. The circuit court judges are concerned about having a 75 % pre-trial and 25% sentenced population in jail.
 - This type of a ratio does not allow for truth in sentencing.
 - When judges arraign an individual, and the issue of release is discussed, judges can set bail or release the individual.
 - Incarcerating people is disruptive for those with jobs and housing, but at the same time judges have to be concerned about victims and the community at large.
 - Pre-trial population has ballooned as judges want to err on the side of public safety.
 - Pre-trial release is refreshing, especially in the development of new options, such as day reporting.
 - This allows the judge to impose a conditional release and make an individual meet a probation officer on a daily basis.
 - Then, if an individual is delinquent, the judge will be informed and can take progressive action immediately.
 - Implementing a pre-trial release system in Marion County could be a long process, but the judges are looking forward to making some positive changes.

Summary of discussion:

- The pre-trial work group will meet every 4-6 weeks and will provide regular updates to the council.
- The U.S. Supreme Court will hear the *United States v. Sanchez-Gomez* pre-trial shackling issue.

5. EAST SALEM PUBLIC SAFETY DISTRICT

- The Marion County Sheriff's Office is developing a \$10 assessment fee for law enforcement services in the Hayesville and Four Corners areas of the county.
 - Both areas constitute a combined population the size of Keizer and are policed by the Marion County Sheriff's Office.
 - The Hayesville and Four Corners areas represent 5.6 square miles or merely half a percent of the 1,200 square miles the Marion County Sheriff's Office is responsible to patrol, even though 54% of service calls come from this area.
 - When a call is received, multiple deputies respond, taxing already scarce resources.

- Sheriff's Office is seeing population and service call growth from these two areas that are east of Lancaster Drive in Salem.
- A full time deputy in the northern and eastern part of the county has been added, but the county General Fund is not able to fund more deputies.
- A service district is a better option.
- The \$10 assessment fee will fund ten deputy positions. It takes five deputies to post one position 24/7, 365 days a year.
- Marion County already has a sewer service district in this area, but to meet legal requirements, it will technically be forming a new district.
 - Voters do not have to approve this district by ballot measure.
 - District can be formed by board order.
 - Order should be adopted by the end of June, so the \$10 assessment fee can be included in the fall property tax bills.
 - Assessment can be repealed by voters, if 10% or 100 electors from the district sign a petition.

Summary of discussion:

- People in outlying areas of the county often don't bother calling law enforcement since they don't expect a response. This depresses the service call count.
- This is an urbanized area which should have city type policing, but since this population is not agreeable to annexation by the city, creating a service district may be a more equitable solution.
- The \$10 assessment fee is a lot less than the city taxes these residents would be paying if the territory was annexed.
- Sheriff's Office will hold focus groups and town hall meetings to provide information about the fee.

ADJOURNED 6:00 PM