

SPECIAL MEETING
MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes

April 28, 2021 4:00 PM
Courthouse Square
Salem, OR

MCPSCC: Chris Baldridge, John Bauer, Mark Caillier, Kevin Cameron, Rob Carney, Paige Clarkson, Jayne Downing, Troy Gregg, Roland Herrera, Linda Hukari, Ryan Matthews, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Tim Murphy, Tracy Prall, Tom Sermak, Jeffrey Wood, Hitesh Parekh (recorder).

GUESTS: Chad Ball, Danielle Bethell, Mark Daniel, and Kevin Karvandi

1. ADMINISTRATIVE (INFORMATION/ACTION)

Meeting called to order at 4:05 P.M. by Commissioner Kevin Cameron.

Welcome and introductions

- Commissioner Cameron welcomed council members including newly appointed members Hubbard Police Chief David Rash and Oregon State Police Lieutenant Chris Zohner.
- Commissioner Cameron said the meeting is a special meeting of the MCPSCC to review the recently released 2021-23 Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) Grant Application by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.
- Ms. Jayne Downing announced that six legislators have made the Hope Center Plaza a priority with funding from the American Rescue Act funds. If all goes well will, the Center will be able to start building the Plaza (which includes services and housing) this fall.
- Mr. Roland Herrera announced that the fourth annual Salem Keizer School District Latino scholarship awards will be held on May 4. He is proud of the students who have excelled this year.

2. Overview of Justice Reinvestment in Oregon

Staff to the council presented this item. Summary of presentation:

- The state's Criminal Justice Commission has released the 2021-23 JRI grant application.
- There are eight new members on the MCPSCC who have not gone through a justice reinvestment grant application process before. For their benefit a PowerPoint presentation has been created to explain what justice reinvestment is and how it works in Oregon.
 - Justice reinvestment is about not sending non-violent offenders to state prison and state giving back counties the money saved to reinvest in their community corrections programs.
 - Each biennium all 36 counties have to apply for these grant funds.
 - Programs approved for funding must be evidence based and reduce recidivism and divert non-violent offenders from state prisons.
 - 10% of the funds must be used for victim services and 3% to evaluate JRI programs statewide.
 - First time state issued a request for grant proposals was in 2015. This was the fourth time Marion County will apply for funds. County receives roughly \$4 M per biennium.
- Local Public Safety Councils are mandated to develop and approve the county's justice reinvestment grant program.
- This new 2021-23 JRI grant application has been modified from the prior biennium.

- Now a two-stage application.
 - Preliminary application is due May 14 and final application is due August 25.
 - All applicants will have to respond to cultural responsiveness in their programs.
 - Imbedding equity throughout the county’s criminal justice system.
 - Looking at establishing a process to assess populations served by justice reinvestment grant funding.

3. 2021-23 JUSTICE REINVESTMENT GRANT APPLICATION OVERVIEW (INFORMATION/ACTION)

Marion County Sheriff’s Office Parole and Probation Division Commander Kevin Karvandi provided a historical overview of community corrections in Oregon. Summary of presentation:

- Each county in Oregon is responsible for community corrections. Local counties must house offenders sentenced to one year or less.
- Seventeen counties operate their own community corrections programs under their respective Sheriff’s Offices.
- Linn and Douglas counties opted out of this agreement and are under the purview of the Oregon Department of Corrections.
- Community Corrections uses a multitude of programs.
- There are 37 sworn community corrections deputies in the county’s Parole and Probation Division responsible for more than 3,000 offenders who are on some form of supervision.
- The parole and Probation division pays a lot of attention to best practices.
- In 2011 the division began using Effective Practices in Community Supervision.
- This is a cognitive behavioral therapy approach to working with incarcerated or clients who are on supervision.
- Goals of the Community Corrections Division compliment the goals of JRI which are to reduce recidivism, hold offenders accountable, enhance public safety, and reduce the prison population.
- Marion County received approximately \$24M this biennium in state baseline funding for community corrections programs. The \$3.7 M that the county received in the 2019-21 JRI grant funds supplements this baseline funding.
 - Potential funding decrease for 2021-23 if legislature decreases either the baseline funding or the JRI grant funding amount even though Marion County has implemented evidenced based practices and decreased historical prison use.
 - Graphs show that over the past ten years, statewide recidivism has *increased* but decreased for Marion County.
- Staff asked that the council approve Issue Briefs 1 and 2.
 - Issue Brief 1 is the grant application timeline and program funding parameters.
 - Issue Brief 2 is the preliminary application for submission to the Oregon CJC
 - If the CJC suggests changes to the preliminary application staff is requesting that the Executive Committee of the council be the body that considers these changes and makes any decisions necessary to continue moving the county’s application process forward.

Summary of discussion:

- Commissioner Cameron said that Marion County has consistently demonstrated it can reduce recidivism and contributions to the prison population, and so for the state to reduce baseline funding was not appropriate.
- Marion County District Attorney Paige Clarkson said while she did not have any concerns about the JRI programs, the application requires that the District Attorney make a statement of commitment to the initiative. Most district attorneys don’t feel that committing to reducing the prison population is their first and foremost mandate. Their mandate is public safety, and the work done in Marion County which has reduced the prison population is the

by-product of the excellent programs developed by Marion County. District attorneys have had to wordsmith the letter of commitment over the years because the application appears to be pushing counties solely towards achieving a metric, when in reality, Marion County's prison reductions are a by-product of running effective programs.

- MOTION: Ed McKenney made a motion to approve Issue Brief #1 or the 2021-23 JRI grant application timeline and program funding parameters. Jayne Downing seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
- MOTION: Tim Murphy made a motion to approve Issue Brief #2 or the preliminary 2021-23 JRI grant application submission to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission. Jayne Downing seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

Marion County Specialty Courts

Marion County Circuit Court Presiding Judge Tracy Prall brought up this item. Summary of presentation:

- There are five specialty courts in Marion County and these are an important part of our public safety system. These are the Adult Drug, Fostering Attachment Treatment, Mental Health, Juvenile Drug and Veterans Treatment Courts.
- Courts are administered by the Marion County Health and Human Services Department (HHSD) which also provides treatment services for defendants.
 - Courts were informed by the HHSD that due to a conflict of interest and lack of adequate financial reimbursement, the Health and Human Services Department would need to withdraw from partnering with the court.
 - As per the grant requirements, the local public safety coordinating council must determine which county department can administer the specialty court grant.
 - Judge Prall requested that the council determine who should administer the specialty courts should the HHS opt out.
 - This needed to be resolved expeditiously since the Oregon Judicial Department had to approve the grant application by May 21.
 - Commissioner Cameron mentioned that an internal meeting had been set up to discuss the grant administrator role, after which the Executive Committee would convene for a special meeting to approve the grant application and move it forward.
- Commissioner Cameron thanked Mr. John Bauer and Salem Health for its work in vaccine distribution.

ADJOURNED