

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council

at the Oregon State Capitol

Room 273

900 Court St NE

Salem, Oregon

March 12, 2013

Attendees: Commissioner Patti Milne, Ray Byrd, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, David Ferre, Courtland Geyer, Alison Kelley, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Jerry Moore, Tracy Prall, Bob Royer, Scott Russell, Mike Runyon, Tom Sermak

Legislators: Senator Fred Girod, Representative Vicki Berger, Rep. Kevin Cameron, Rep. Vic Gilliam, Rep. Betty Komp, Rep. Andy Olson, and Denyc Boles (staff to Rep. Cameron)

Guests: Angie Denning and Rem Nivens, Oregon Youth Authority

Staff: Barb Young, Don Russo

Chair - action items

At 4:00 pm, Commissioner Patti Milne called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council.

Oregon legislators

Commissioner Milne invited legislators to report from their perspective on areas of interest to them. Rep. Cameron started by explaining that both Rep. Andy Olson and he serve on the Judiciary Committee, and he is also working on bills related to reentry and community corrections. He expressed his interest in hearing more about the issues important to PSCC. Rep. Cameron invited all to a meeting he hosts every other Friday morning at 7:00 am for local leaders to discuss bills and issues of interest to all.

Rep. Andy Olson explained his work on the Joint Committee on Public Safety and four bills that have been introduced. For the past fifteen months, he has been a member of the Governor's Commission on Public Safety. He spent time explaining the 19 components and 6 major "bones" of HB 3494 that is driven by a ten year forecast for growth in prison beds and the Governor's call to reduce the growth rate. He explained that the bill projects a savings of new beds by accepting the major changes proposed in the final report of the Governor's commission. The bill would allow more discretion in the courts to set sentencing rather than use the current mandatory sentences imposed by Measure 57. He cautioned that he wants to avoid a cost shift from the Department of Corrections to community corrections at the county level. In addition, there are other parts of the bill that would reduce growth in prison beds.

Rep. Vicki Berger said she is attending today to learn more about public safety because her committee assignments are centered on taxes and revenue. Rep. Vic Gilliam also expressed an interest in listening to concerns of the council members.

Commissioner Milne introduced the mapping document that was developed for today's meeting. Faye Fagel explained the maps grew from a discussion about the role of PSCC after recent mass violence shootings at Clackamas mall and in Newtown, CT. She said the council wanted to make a visual display of the various ways in which people suffering from mental illness interact when contact is made with law enforcement. Gaps and inadequacies, such as drug detoxification services, are shown in red on the maps. One side of the map is for adults, the opposite side for juveniles, to map the complex interaction of services now in the community.

Commissioner Milne explained that the cover letter of the maps listed the top priorities in the current PSCC strategic plan. She said that the top priorities of PSCC include mental illness in public safety, substance abuse, domestic violence, returning veterans and gang activities. Although crimes rates have declined, people still feel at risk.

She also mentioned a new program called Joining Community Forces that Marion County Commissioners will support to assist returning veterans of military service as they reintegrate in our communities.

Alison Kelley reported on DrxugSafe to raise community awareness of the connection between prescription drug abuse and heroin abuse. Three community summits are planned with the largest on April 23 at Keizer Civic Center. Also planned are summits in Woodburn and Stayton. Safe storage and disposal of prescription drugs, as well as supervising the children and teens in your care are the objectives of the summits. All area legislators will be invited to attend. The summits lead to a national drug take-back day set for Saturday, April 27. Commissioner Milne also announced an all-day conference on Friday, April 5 called The Oregon Silver Tsunami about the hidden wave of older adults with addiction disorders.

Mid Valley Women's Crisis Services

Jayne Downing explained the epidemic of domestic violence homicides with 140 women and children murdered in Oregon over the past three years. In 2012, 40% of the homicides in Marion County were related to domestic violence. Clients in her program have nearly doubled since 2010. The need for more space has resulted in her agency seeking a new site. The crisis line, safe shelter, and counseling services play an important role in local public safety services. She said there is a community-coordinated response in Marion County to the domestic abuse epidemic. She has seen a 73% increase in the number of clients who speak Spanish. When asked if stress from the economy is a cause of domestic violence, she responded that job loss gives abusers more time with their victims, but the primary cause of domestic abuse is about power and control rather than economic stress.

Senator Fred Girod

These are tough budget times and the proposed budgets will be tough on public safety, said the senator. He urged council members to make the best case they can for public safety. The proposed budgets have shortages without major reform to the PERS program. The largest expense budgets are for human services and public safety. Anything the council can do to raise awareness for adequate jail capacity and police protection is appreciated. He complimented council members for their work in public safety, especially compared to counties like Josephine and Curry where law enforcement response is minimal due to loss of timber revenue.

Other Representatives expressing their concerns

The economy is getting better but at a very slow pace, said Rep. Vicki Berger. The major issue this session is PERS reform and there are competing proposals. She feels reform efforts are sustainable in the courts and a broader reform effort is needed to keep the PERS program sustainable. Rep. Cameron added that the federal sequester cuts to education are far less than the cuts to education because of the PERS costs. Salem-Keizer schools face a \$32 million cut to their budget. He also said a tax revenue increase of \$1.7 billion (10%) is forecasted in the next biennium. Rep. Vic Gilliam gave credit to the Governor for initiating the conversation on PERS reform.

Commissioner Milne recalled during her time as a legislator in the early 1990s that PERS reform was very controversial, and those who spoke against PERS increases were often threatened. Some needed body guards during those years, she said. Rep. Cameron stated that legislators need to be bold today in advocating for the benefit of Oregon residents over the benefits for state employees. The cost of PERS has become excessive, he said. Rep. Berger urged council members to state their support for sustainable PERS reform through letters and public speaking, which she feels can be especially helpful for legislators like her who advocate broad reform.

Rep. Betty Komp said she co-chairs the Education Subcommittee and suggested that council members examine the policy bills now emerging around early learning and early intervention concepts. She said the proposals are vague at this time. She said a major shift is occurring in education and early learning, and she asked others to help advise her. Funding for the Oregon Youth Authority is also included in her subcommittee responsibilities. She encouraged council members to contact her to offer advice, especially about early learning and Oregon Youth Authority. Pete McCallum expressed his concern that funding for education and other departments will take funding from public safety to boost other budgets. Public safety is our top priority, he stated.

Minutes

Minutes of the February PSCC meeting were approved unanimously as presented.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, April 9 in the Commissioners Hearing Room.

Minutes by Don Russo