

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Commissioners Hearing Room
1115 Commercial St NE
Salem, Oregon
September 10, 2013

Attendees: Chair Patti Milne, Walt Beglau, Ray Byrd, David Ferre, Don Frederickson, Tamra Goetsch, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Diane Morse, Jason Myers, Anna Peterson, Tracy Prall, Michael Runyon, Scott Russell, Tom Sermak

Guest: Ann Kelly, Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project
Commander Jeffrey Wood, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Craig Prins, Oregon Criminal Justice Commission
Jim Kramer and Christine Tegner, Oregon Youth Authority

Staff: Don Russo

Chair - action, information

At 4:05 pm, Commissioner Milne called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Minutes of the August PSCC meeting were approved as presented.

Commissioner Milne formally welcomed Tamra Goetsch as interim director of the Marion County Commission on Children and Families, replacing Alison Kelley, who is now executive director of Liberty House.

Commissioner Milne introduced Ann Kelly to explain her program, Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting. Mrs. Kelly said she is founder and director of the program she started in Salem in 1997, which now covers much of the US and 15 foreign countries. The program is based on asking people to make a pledge to end abuse and violence: "I will not use my hands or words for hurting myself or others." The program is successful because it is a public health program that fights a public health problem, she said. She showed photos of schools and other organizations using the program. The pledge sets a clear standard, and kids hold each other accountable. Several members of PSCC expressed appreciation for the work of Ms. Kelly and her program.

Changes in criminal law with passage of HB 3194

District Attorney Walt Beglau introduced a new Oregon law as the "jumbo jet" of criminal policy and sentencing changes that legislators passed in the 2013 session. He emphasized the importance of justice reinvestment, with the intent to save expenses on state prison beds and reinvest the savings in local communities. In the first biennium, \$15 million has been dedicated to local communities, another \$5 million to strengthen jails, and an additional \$5 million through February 2014 legislative session if the economic forecast is positive. In Marion County, this means about \$1.5 million in additional funding for community corrections and reentry programs like the 416 project that steers select individuals headed for prison into community supervision. The second part is a silver lining of \$60-70 million, he said, that could be available for reinvestment in community programs if success is reached in the first two-year biennium. He distributed a handout showing specific changes put into effect through HB 3194.

Sheriff Jason Myers said the changes from HB 3194 will show in the presentation later on the Sheriff's Office Biennial State Plan for 2013-15. The goal is to use community programs to strengthen public safety.

Craig Prins, director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, recognized the leadership efforts of Mr. Beglau and Sheriff Myers in helping write the new law. The state's goal is to hold offenders accountable, reduce recidivism and redirect funding away from prisons into local communities. He said Oregon is one of many states around the country moving in the same direction. He said few counties have an effective public safety council like

Marion County's council. He is working with counties around large cities to implement the changes – Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Lane and Marion, and asked if leaders in Marion County will work with him on a regional planning committee to show other counties how Marion County is effectively using the funds. The Criminal Justice Commission will push additional funding into communities as quickly as possible, he said; then the Grant Review Committee will write administrative rules for Oregon based on the results of the community programs. The Legislature agreed to provide an additional \$60 million if goals are reached in the first biennium. Marion and Multnomah counties are far ahead of other counties, he said.

Community Corrections State Plan

Commander Jeff Wood, Community Correction Director, presented the two-year state plan for corrections outlining how the Marion County Sheriff's Office will spend state funding, the programs it will operate, and evaluation methods it will use. Community Corrections is funded entirely by state grants, which is \$10.9 million for the 2013-15 biennium. In addition to this amount, the Justice Reinvestment Act will provide \$518,000 for the SOAR program and other community programs as part of the Reentry Initiative; \$500,000 is also included for the SB 416 pilot project mentioned earlier by Mr. Beglau. Custody beds for use when sanctions need to be imposed are funded as part of the grant program. Baseline state funding has increased slightly for the new biennium. Funding includes \$3.6 million for the jail; operations division receives \$707,000; patrol division \$21,000; and \$6.5 million for parole-probation. Grant funding from the Second Chance Act for reentry programs ends in October 2013.

In speaking about accomplishments in the past year, Wood cited evidence-based practices such as the URICA tool, which ascertains a person's motivation level for change and has proved useful and practical. Once a reliable assessment is completed, wrap-around services help teach lifestyle changes and prevent recidivism. Caseload averages for parole-probation officers have declined to a more manageable level allowing staff to use EPICS (effective practices in community supervision) as their work model. Caseload average is now 55-60 cases per deputy parole officer. By comparison, some counties have caseload averages of over 100, he said.

MOTION by Anna Peterson, second by Ed McKenney: To endorse the Community Corrections State Plan through a formal letter of support from PSCC to the State of Oregon. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Juvenile justice continuum

Mike Runyon described the progression of youth offenders through the Oregon Youth Authority. Youth on probation are placed in residential treatment, in foster care or with a family member; youth on parole are moved from a correctional facility to a residential treatment program or other appropriate living arrangements. In the Salem area, there are two residential programs operated by Catholic Community Services: Cavasos Center, Youth and Family Services. Christian Community Placement Center is also in Salem. Youth on parole and probation are referred to these programs. There are four foster homes in Marion County, 37 foster homes across the state. The ideal model is to return youth to their families, but often the family is not capable of caring for the youth.

He related two case studies of youth who have moved through the juvenile justice system, returning to life in the community. The handoff from supervision to community life is critically important, he said. Some reach success, and are able to remain crime free. A smaller number become reinvolved in the legal system.

Some important needs in successful transition that are lacking include gender-specific foster homes, business/community mentors, paid and unpaid internships, job opportunities, and continued support in the community after OYA supervision is terminated.

Christine Tegner, OYA Parole/Probation Officer, spoke about ways community members can support the reentry of youth to the community, such as serving as a volunteer mentor or offering respite care to foster parents. She told about case studies of females who made progress, relying on community support beyond the formal supervision of OYA. Youth often come from difficult homes, multigenerational poverty and parental drug abuse.

Success is achieved when youth can reach independence with the support of adults. She said OYA needs more volunteers to assist in caring for youth.

Jim Kramer, chief of parole and probation operations for the Oregon Youth Authority, added that most of the staff at OYA live in the local community and work to help connect youth to sources of local support.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, October 8.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Minutes by Don Russo