

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Commissioners Hearing Room
1115 Commercial St NE
Salem, Oregon
October 8, 2013

Attendees: Vice Chair Bob Royer, Walt Beglau, Ray Byrd, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, Courtland Guyer, Tamra Goetsch, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Jason Myers, Tracy Prall, Michael Runyon, Scott Russell, Tom Sermak

Guests: Deputy Chief James Ferraris, Salem Police Department (for Chief Jerry Moore)
J.R. Miller and Jamie Vos, Cold Case Team, Salem Police Department
Detective Mike Myers, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Don McMullen, Rich McDonald, Don Crabtree, Cold Case Team, MCSO
Wendy Bales and Belle Cottrell, Parole and Probation Officers, MCSO
David Wilson and Jodie Bureta, Marion County Deputy District Attorneys
Chief John Teague, Keizer Police Department

Staff: Don Russo

Chair - action, information

At 4:00 pm, Vice Chair Bob Royer called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council. Chief Scott Russell introduced special guest John Teague, who was sworn in the previous evening as the new police chief for the City of Keizer.

Minutes of the September PSCC meeting were approved as presented.

Don Russo informed the council that Tamra Goetsch, who replaced Alison Kelley in working with the Commission on Children and Families, will be appointed by the commissioners to the council, based on the bylaws that call for appointment because of the position she holds.

Cold case squad – Marion County Sheriff's Office

Detective Mike Myers explained how the Sheriff's Office developed a cold case squad. About ten years ago, he heard that some departments operated such a program with volunteers, most often retired law enforcement professionals. The squad has been active for the past nine years, now with a team of four volunteers. A special deputy commission gives squad members the same authority as paid officers. He introduced three members of the squad: Don McMullen, Rich McDonald, and Don Crabtree, and described their long years of experience in law enforcement. The squad has contributed over 16,000 hours of voluntary time valued at over \$519,000. The team works one day per week at the Sheriff's Office. Four homicides have been resolved out of 12 cases the squad has investigated. Don McMullen explained how one homicide case from 1986 was resolved recently by the squad.

Cold case squad – Salem Police Department

Deputy Chief Jim Ferraris explained that he worked 28 years at Portland Police Bureau, where he started a cold case squad. When he arrived in 2011 in Salem, he discovered there were 21 unsolved murder cases that spanned a 50 year period before 1998. All murder cases since 1998 have been solved, he said. He initiated a cold case squad in much the same way as the sheriff's office. He introduced retired sergeant J.R. Miller, who serves as a volunteer on the Cold Case Squad and was named "Volunteer of the Year" in 2012 for all his volunteer hours of service. He said there are currently 18 unsolved cases that the squad is investigating. Mr. Miller told the council about a case he is currently investigating – a double homicide committed in 1978 where a person of interest has recently been identified.

All speakers commented that family members of victims are very grateful for their investigative work.

District Attorney Beglau expressed appreciation for the efforts of volunteers to keep working on behalf of victims and their families. A round of applause was offered enthusiastically by members of the council.

Juvenile justice continuum

Mike Runyon commented on a presentation he heard at a recent seminar. The speaker gave credit to a teacher, a probation officer and law enforcement staff for helping him move away from gang life and pursue an education. It was a gradual process because he could not suddenly change his behavior. Youth cannot just drop their gang activity “cold turkey.”

Faye Fagel described “cross-over kids” who live in homes troubled by abuse and neglect, then cross over to the juvenile justice system because of a delinquency offense. She encourages her staff to better understand the relationship between the two. Recent brain studies show that developmental experiences are necessary for youth to make decisions about their behavior.

Drug Endangered Children Report

Walt Beglau introduced the Drug Endangered Children team and commented on the importance of their work. David Wilson started by discussing recent changes in marijuana laws. SB 40 and HB 3194 reduced penalties for possession and delivery of marijuana. Possession of less than four ounces of marijuana is now a minor misdemeanor and no longer a felony. He cited examples of people selling, transporting or growing marijuana who will now receive community supervision with no presumptive sentencing if arrested and charged. He said that Interstate 5 is a notorious drug corridor and drug transport is often detected through traffic stops. He stated that reducing legal penalties will have a negative effect on children by increasing the quantity and supply of marijuana, which is more likely to be used by children.

He defined the term “drug endangered child” as any child who is exposed to drug use in their home; as a result, the needs of the children are not met. The goal is healthy families and healthy children, and the team will prosecute offenders as a means of moving them toward treatment and protecting their children. For those who enter drug court, offenders are often expected to complete some or all of the following: a parenting class, a drug treatment program, weekly supervision, earn a GED or diploma, complete 180 days clean, achieve employment or enroll in school. The case is dismissed upon completion. Probation is often used for offenders with longer case histories; two probation offices are assigned to work with the caseload. Recently, the team has seen a trend of increasing use of heroin and opiates, especially with younger offenders. It is rare to see cases involving marijuana only, but marijuana is among the many drugs used and sold by offenders, he said.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, November 12.

Minutes by Don Russo