

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Marion County Commissioners Hearing Room
1115 Commercial St NE
Salem, Oregon
March 11, 2014

Attendees: Bob Royer, Walt Beglau, Mark Caillier, Rod Calkins, Faye Fagel, David Ferre, Don Frederickson, Tamra Goetsch, Courtland Geyer, Ed McKenney, Jason Myers, Anna Peterson, Tracy Prall, Tom Sermak

Guests: John Andrade, Bio-Med Testing; Jan Calvin, Full Circle Consulting; Levi Herrera-Lopez, Mano a Mano Family Center

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. He introduced special guest John Andrade, who spoke February 11 as a member of the panel at the Community Forum on marijuana.

Minutes of the January PSCC meeting were approved as presented.

Review of February 11 Community Forum

Bob Royer and Ed McKenney commented on the value of the information presented about the physical effects of marijuana use by Mr. Andrade. Mark Caillier spoke of the value he saw in the forum, but said he was disappointed that more members of Keizer City Council did not attend. Chief Moore said the information was excellent. He also said Salem City Council will hold a work session on March 29, where Mr. Andrade will speak. Tom Sermak asked Mr. Andrade about the study citing that THC is stored in fat cells and suggested re-intoxication is possible. He asked if there was further study that might confirm the findings; Mr. Andrade did not know of further research beyond the studies he cited.

Resolution opposing legalization of marijuana

Walt Beglau asked for discussion and restated his support for taking a stand as a public safety council in opposing the legalization of marijuana. Don Russo said that he revised the draft resolution based on discussion and comments at the January meeting. Sheriff Myers said that if PSCC is going to conduct a series of Town Hall meetings, it is important to take a stand as a council to drive the format of the Town Hall meetings. Chief Moore stated that he is not able to vote because Salem City Council has not yet taken a position. Mayor Peterson made the same statement. Mr. McKenney asked if the resolution should be tabled until there are enough who could vote. Don said there are 11 voting members present in the room; a quorum of the full council is 12 members. Tom Sermak clarified that a quorum would be a majority of the members present. Faye Fagel said that a motion passed by all members would be more meaningful than a smaller majority, and she asked if there is a time deadline to act. Tami Goetsch voiced support for the value of a consensus.

Motion: Table the vote on the resolution until more members have the opportunity to vote. Motion by Sheriff Myers, second by Ed McKenney. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Town Hall series on marijuana

Sheriff Myers said the PSCC Steering Committee suggests conducting a series of two hall meetings similar to the series several years prior on methamphetamine. Mr. Beglau offered to provide an update at future meetings of legislative referrals and initiative petitions as they develop. Mayor Peterson stated she encourages PSCC to take the opportunity to educate and inform the general public about the issues around marijuana. Tom Sermak questioned if PSCC is capable of presenting an unbiased educational forum because some people favor the

legalization of marijuana. Mayor Peterson said she feels there is no more appropriate body than the PSCC to conduct town hall meetings to discuss the effects of marijuana. Don Russo reported that he had developed an outline for a series of meetings. He contacted six school districts and spoke with superintendents at Silver Falls, Jefferson and North Marion school districts, and all three welcome such a town hall meeting. One said that PSCC would be doing the school board a favor by bringing forward the issue of marijuana in his community.

Motion: Table further planning efforts on the town hall series until the resolution is decided. Motion by Sheriff Myers, second by Don Frederickson. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Report on gang research project

Faye Fagel introduced Jan Calvin and Levi Herrera-Lopez to report on the findings of a research project on gang intervention and prevention strategies. Jan Calvin introduced herself as working 30 years in youth development and now heading her own consulting firm. Levi Herrera-Lopez said Mano a Mano has been in Salem for 25 years. His role was to identify families in the Hispanic community that have experienced problems of gang-related crime. Jan said the problems of gangs have been addressed for over 20 years in Marion County, yet there are still problems. She said preventing gang related criminal activity requires family, school and community involvement. Disproportional minority contact through the juvenile justice system occurs in contrast, she said. As white youth move deeper into the system, they represent a smaller proportion of the population; as Latino youth move deeper, however, they represent a larger portion. For those cases transferred to adult court for sanctions (Measure 11 offenses), a higher proportion of Latino youth and a lower proportion of white youth comprise the case load.

Walt Beglau clarified that Measure 11 requires that youth ages 15-17 who commit serious crimes are treated as adults from the time of their offenses. Judge Prall added that more Latino youth are committing serious crime, and asked why this is happening. She feels it is important to find out why Latino youth commit such serious crimes. Jan Calvin suggested expanding the intervention system to include family, school and community in a comprehensive strategy to reduce gang related criminal activity. Her presentation showed how such a plan could move forward. Salem-Keizer, Gervais, and Woodburn would be the primary target areas for the strategy to drive up the positive factors and drive down the negative risk factors. Risk factors are grouped in four domains – Community, School, Family, and Peer/Individual. Levi Herrera-Lopez added that youth gravitate to negative influences in middle school when groups of friends turn to gangs. Parenting and school supports are weak, he said. Some kids go bad, but his concern in disproportional minority representation is that race should play no role in the way Latino youth are treated. Chief Moore added that motivating youth away from gangs is not a police issue, but a community issue.

Cost of inmate medical care

Sheriff Myers explained HB 4110 (just passed by Oregon legislature) requires that inmates who have private insurance would retain their coverage while held in custody. Inmates who qualify for Oregon Health Plan will also be covered for medical costs incurred while in custody. This is critically important because medical costs to Marion County have increased to \$2.6 million last year (15% of the jail budget), while the jail budget has not increased, he said. Improved medical insurance coverage will help prevent cuts in jail service.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Next meeting

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

Minutes by Don Russo