



MARION COUNTY JUSTICE REINVESTMENT COUNCIL



Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 23, 2023 – 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Via In Person and Microsoft Teams Video Conference

Commissioners Board Room
555 Court Street NE, 5th Floor
Salem, OR 97301

Attendees:

Council members (present)

Chair Jay Bergmann, Undersheriff, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Nicholas Hunter, Sheriff, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Paige Clarkson, District Attorney, Marion County District Attorney's Office
Christopher Eppley, Community Services Director, Marion County Community Services
Ann-Marie Bandfield, Program Manager, Marion County Health and Human Services
Jimmy Jones, Executive Director, Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency
Sherry Bensema, EMS Coordinator, Lyons Rural Fire District
Tim Murphy, Executive Director, Bridgeway Recovery Services
Jim Hope, Client Services Coordinator, Union Gospel Mission
Treven Upkes, Deputy Chief, Salem Police Department

Quorum is present.

Council members (absent)

Jessica Howard, President, Chemeketa Community College
Shannon Wilson, Executive Director, Public Defender of Marion County
Colm Willis, Commissioner, Marion County Board of Commissioners
Kristy McIntosh, Director, Salem Health – Care Management, Regulatory and Patient Safety
Alison Kelley, Chief Executive Officer, Liberty House

Others

Mike Hartford, Commander, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Community Corrections Division
Jason Bernards, Sergeant, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Enforcement Division
Ryan Matthews, Health and Human Services Administrator, Health Department
Sara Coutley, Management Analyst 1, Community Services
Martha Dodsworth, Correctional Services, Inc.
Hank Crapser, Addiction Recovery Mentor, Sheriff's Office
Peggy Lowery as recorder



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Welcome and Introductions

- Undersheriff Bergmann called the meeting to order and introduced the attendees.
 - Undersheriff Bergmann has been appointed to the Chair position by Sheriff Hunter.
 - Commander Hartford is in the appointment process for Council member. Once appointed he will fill the Vice-Chair position.

Minutes Approval

- Christopher Eppley made a motion to approve the minutes from July 24, 2023.
 - Jimmy Jones seconded the motion.
 - Motion passed unanimously.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) Update

Jason Bernards presented this item.

- Current enrollment statistics:
 - Over 319 referrals;
 - 193 enrolled clients;
 - 50% arrest diversion; and,
 - 50% social/community social referrals.
 - Majority drug of choice is opiates.
- Referrals:
 - 55% come from Marion County Sheriff's Office, followed by Salem PD & Keizer PD.
 - Other Community Partners include Salem Health & Psychiatric Crisis Center.
 - Lower rate referrals come from Silverton PD, Woodburn PD, and Aumsville PD.
 - Currently working to give training to the smaller agencies so we can receive higher referrals from them.
 - All referrals since the last update have resided in Marion County for at least 12 months.
- Client Status since last update:
 - 54 active clients.
 - 28 level 1 = clients just getting in and most service oriented.
 - 12 level 2 = clients starting to get their feet underneath them.
 - 14 level 3 = clients are close to becoming self-sufficient.
- Client Progression since last update:
 - 10 clients joined as level 1.
 - 6 promoted to level 2.
 - 8 promoted to level 3, 1 alumnus returned to level 3.
 - 1 became an alumnus.
- Program Timeline Goals:
 - Next 3 months:
 - Hire an additional navigator. Currently in the hiring process.
 - Conduct LEAD retraining for partner agencies.



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- CJC 6- month Date Report coming in December.
- Next 6 months:
 - Continued LEAD retraining for partner agencies.
 - Develop Navigator Ride Along Program.
- Next 12 months:
 - Refine LEAD Street Outreach Program.
 - Begin LEAD group counseling sessions.
 - LEAD navigators housed in new building. We are in talks with Chemeketa for possible office space.
- Questions/Discussions
 - Question: How much contact do you have with the client on each level?
 - Answer: We have more daily contact with level 1 clients. The contact level is really individual. Some people need more help than others. Typically, we see level 2 clients twice a month. We may see them more frequently if they are in detox or in-patient treatment. Typically, we see level 3 clients as needed.
 - Question: Did the alumni who returned to level 3 self initiate to move back?
 - Answer: Yes. The motto is once in LEAD always in LEAD. Sometimes clients who are self-sufficient find that they need additional support like enrolling in school and finding a different place to live.
 - Question: What is the criteria for moving from one level to the next?
 - Answer: Client status is discussed at our workgroup meetings. We discuss how they are doing and if they are ready to move up. Housing and employment play a big part in the decision.
 - Question: What kind of housing resources do you assist with?
 - Answer: Most of the clients come to us homeless with just what they are wearing. The ideal situation is to get them into detox at Bridgeway and then transition them into a sober living facility.
 - Question: Of the 54 clients who have recently enrolled, how many are going through an outpatient program at Bridgeway?
 - Answer: The majority.
 - Question: The enrollment numbers have almost doubled in the past 24 months. Your staff numbers have not doubled. How do you feel about your capacity?
 - Answer: The national average is 20 clients per navigator. We are a little over that. Adding an additional navigator with this current hiring process will help.
 - Question: When you enroll somebody who is not staying motivated, how long before you close them out?
 - Answer: We don't. We continue to reach out while trying not to push them away. We let them know that we are here, and we are not giving up on them. They may become motivated 1 or 2 years later.
 - Question: What drug is causing the worst damage to the client and community?
 - Answer: Fentanyl by far. We have a shorter window to help these folks



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because they are dying. Carfentanil is worse and it is starting to show up in Oregon. The fentanyl crisis has moved from East Coast to West Coast so it will most likely get worse here in Oregon. There are some medication trials that seem to be a little more effective to help during the detox phase.

- Question: Are you seeing that some folks do not realize the fentanyl is missed in the drugs they are using?
 - Answer: Yes, that has been the case for quite some time.
- Question: How are you going to set up your counseling sessions?
 - Answer: We need to be housed somewhere first. It would be good to set up clients up in a group counseling format.

Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) and Community Crisis Outreach Services (CCOS) Update

Ryan Matthews presented this item.

- Previously to the upcoming biennium the funding for mobile crises teams has come from the state general fund.
 - There were not a lot of restrictions tied to the state general funding. We submitted our plans to Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and they were approved.
 - We built four teams with our law enforcement partners, including two teams with the Sheriff's Office, Salem PD, and Woodburn PD.
 - Most hours were covered, but we did not have 24/7 coverage.
- With the influx of new funding, there are new requirements. Senator Wyden's Office pushed for Medicaid funding at the federal level that will enhance mobile crisis units throughout the state
 - 24/7 coverage will be required.
 - The interpretation that came out of that was that it cannot be a co-responder model with law enforcement.
 - We are starting to see drafts of our next two-year contract with OHA beginning in January where it explicitly states that law enforcement cannot be a part of the co-response model.
 - Marion County opposes this. The Public Safety Coordinating Council crafted a letter to Senator Wyden's Office voicing concerns that the new funding potential would tear down a model that has historically worked for Marion County.
 - Congresswoman Salinas' Office has received word of this potential model change and is helping to champion the cause. A lot of people are trying to determine where the fix can potentially be. There are three potential fixes:
 - Is the fix with the state and a Medicaid waiver?
 - Is it at the federal level?
 - Is it OHA's interpretation of the law, and they need some help interpreting it a different way?
 - We need to start thinking about the possibility of how the new model will affect our law enforcement partners and how we will need to collaborate with them in



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a different way, and still meet the needs of our community.

- We are concerned about the safety of our staff. There is comfort in knowing you are responding with a law enforcement partner who can help assess the issue and understand what we are going into.
- Questions/Discussions
 - Discussion: There has been a push to limit law enforcement contact and to limit incarceration. Our mobile crisis teams do not promote incarceration. Less than 4% of the people they have contact with will go to jail, and most of them are on warrants that already existed. Our mobile crisis teams help divert people away from incarceration and that fact is getting missed in a lot of the conversations.
 - Discussion: Mobile Crisis Teams are less of a drain on our law enforcement teams than Crisis Response Teams (CRTs). CRTs would require law enforcement to stay on a call, whereas Mobile Crisis Teams can take over a call and allow law enforcement to get back on the street and work and focus on public safety.
 - Question: Is the proposed language based on the CAHOOTS model in Eugene?
 - Answer: That was initially the inspiration of what was being pushed for funding. Unfortunately, the funding does not support that program either.
 - Question: What is the timeline of the new contract rules going into effect if we are not successful in pushing through a fix?
 - Answer: The new contract would go into effect on January 1, 2024. We do have reserves to help fund the current model for a period of time. If it doesn't look like there will be a path forward to keep our current model, then we will have discussions with our law enforcement partners on when our reserves will run out and a sunset date.
 - Question: Is there anything this Council can do to help you?
 - Answer: I don't think so. We are working with Congresswoman Salinas' Office. Possibly there can be a legislative fix to force OHA to interpret the rules differently or require that they alter the Medicaid waiver. At the moment we will continue to voice our opposition.
 - Answer: Senator Patterson may be a good partner. She is always very supportive of what we are doing locally.
 - Answer: Once we have the formal contract language we will be able to discuss the impact it causes with people like Senator Patterson who have the ability to push the agenda forward.
 - Question: Is this proposed legislation for Oregon only or does it affect nationally?
 - Answer: The problem may be OHA's interpretation of the law or the Oregon Medicaid waiver and the language within it.



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Announcements

- No announcements were made.

The next scheduled meeting will be held Monday, January 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. by Undersheriff Bergmann.

Completed by: Peggy L. Lowery

Completed date: October 30, 2023

Attachments: LEAD Program Updates