MARION COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BOC/CAO Issues Coordination

September 16, 2026
1:30PM to 3:00PM
Courthouse Square
Commissioner's Boardroom
Salem, Oregon

Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

1. Welcome Chair Willis

Chair Willis called the meeting to order at 1:50PM

Chair Willis, Commissioner Bethell, Commissioner Cameron, CAO Fritz, DCAO Eppley, County Ops Manager Lawyer, Sheriff Hunter, Undersheriff Landers, Commander Bernards, Commander Hartford, Commander Wilkenson, Policy Analyst Jonathon Sanford were present.

2. JULOTA Software Sheriff Hunter

a. Sheriff Hunter provided information about the JULOTA data tracking software package the Sheriff's Office is interested in purchasing. The program would allow LEAD to track contacts and blend Health and Human Services data together so that we can better track and report on the activity of clients in Marion County. He explained that the SO would like to start small and then build out the platform for other users like Salem PD, Keizer PD, etc. to use and enter data as well. This will eventually provide a robust region-wide data set. The cost for implementing JULOTA is $50K one-time and then an annual maintenance fee of up to $50K depending on number of users. Commissioner Bethell stated she is very supportive of implementing this software and the Board of Commissioners provided direction to move forward.

3. Transition Center Commander Hartford

a. Commander Hartford explained that the Transition Center building currently has 15-20 beds available for use. 5 to 7 are being used per night to house sex offenders. In identifying ways to better utilize the facility, Commander Hartford reported that there is an opportunity to house 3-5 persons being let out of Prison early during their transition period back into society. Doing so would provide additional revenue to

Marion County because the Transition Center could charge a daily rate for reimbursement by the State. This could generate approximately $50K per year. The remaining beds could provide space for LEAD clients to stabilize as needed. Adding these uses would require us to expand our security contract to 24-hour/365-days per year service and provide food service. The additional services would cost approximately $200K per year but there are revenue streams that could be sought to cover the costs, including HB4002 funding. Commissioner Bethell wants to see a more fleshed out plan with costs and revenues projected through the next Biennium. The Board of Commissioners provided direction to move forward with implementing these new uses while working to develop a great use of the space over time.

4. County Health Authority Commissioner Bethell

a. Commissioner Bethell explained that she was contacted by a member of the NE Salem Neighborhood Association regarding the Village of Hope shelter being run near the Safeway at 12th and Center Street. She stated the community member provided pictures of drug use, mental health crisis, and unsanitary conditions at the site. Commissioner Bethell wants the Board of Commissioners to use their power as the County's Public Health Authority to cause those with direct jurisdiction (City of Salem) and/or the property owner where the shelter is being run, to clean up the public health issues. She provided a letter she would like to send to the City of Salem and the Board of Commissioners were supportive of sending the letter as presented.

5. EEOP/Opioid Settlement Grant Program Commissioner Willis

a. Commissioner Willis discussed wanting to fill one of the vacant positions in the BOC Office to run the EEOP/Opioid Grant program that the Board wants to bring into the BOC Office from HHS and Economic and Community Development. He stated that this person would be focused on running these grant programs so that other staff currently in the Board's Office would not need to divide their focus from their existing jobs to run this program in addition. Commissioner Bethell and Commissioner Cameron were not in favor of adding additional staffing to the BOC Office at this time. DCAO Eppley provided an update on the status of the grant program design and all Commissioners were in favor of continuing on without hiring additional staff at this time.

6. Other Commissioner Bethell

a. Commissioner Bethell stated that Oregon Recovers is performing a fundraising event that includes an awareness run. She would like the Board's Office to sponsor the event for $1,000. Commissioners Willis and Cameron stated they are uncomfortable with the Board's Office sponsoring the event but would be willing to have HHS provide $1,000 of Opioid Settlement funds to sponsor the event instead. The Board of Commissioners provided direction to move forward with HHS using Opioid Settlement funds to sponsor the Recover Oregon event for $1,000.

b. Commissioner Bethell explained that she has been appointed to a national task force on homelessness issues for NACo and that it will require travel to a conference in December that may overlap with the scheduled Board of Commissioners Retreat.

7. Adjourn

a. Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 3:20PM.