

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL (MCPSCC)

Full Council Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Commissioners Boardroom, Courthouse Square, Salem, Oregon

MCPSCC: Colm Willis, Nick Hunter, Jonathan Bauer, Mike Hartford, Elizabeth Infante, Ryan Matthews, Chris Baldridge, Paige Clarkson, Jay Bergmann, Olcott Thompson, Pete McCallum, Alison Kelley, Tracy Prall, and Julie Hoy, Ashley Carson.

Guests: Trevor Lane.

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE

-Commissioner Colm Willis

Announcements

- None.

2. APPROVE JULY 8, 2025, MCPSCC MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the July 8, 2025, MCPSCC meeting minutes.

Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. OREGON PUBLIC DEFENSE COMMISSION

-District Attorney (DA) Paige Clarkson

- Public defense attorney shortage due to contract dispute between local nonprofit Public Defender's Office and Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC).
- All defense providers in the state except Marion County have signed new OPDC contracts:
 - The local office is engaged in litigation with OPDC.
- OPDC can't address issue directly in meetings and creates uncertainty in service coverage.
- Marion County Association of Defense Attorneys (MCAD) and courts are managing gap:
 - Has reduced number of unrepresented defendants.
- Without resolution or contracts, concern of rising number of unrepresented individuals:
 - Potentially returning to crisis levels.
- "MAC utilization" expectations and legal/contractual barriers to adding new attorneys:
 - Max number of cases attorneys expected to handle under contract is set at 90%.
- Some are unwilling to sign contracts at this requirement:
 - Citing concerns about ethical obligations and capacity.
- Legal and contractual barriers, ongoing litigation, prevent adding new attorneys:
 - Complicates efforts to meet representation needs.
- Risk of increased unrepresented defendants unless flexible solutions/contracts are secured.

4. DEFENSE UPDATE

-Olcott Thompson

Summary of presentation:

- Marion County previously faced a crisis with nearly 1,000 unrepresented individuals:
 - As of late September 2025, the number is down to about 150.
- Collaborative efforts of MCAD, courts, and OPDC's trial team and leadership.
- Special weekly dockets focus on resolving and assigning counsel to unrepresented cases:
 - Led to steady improvement.
- Ongoing uncertainty through:
 - Staffing capacity.
 - Contract restrictions.
 - Potential new lawsuits.
- Without additional contracts or capacity, current solution is viable until mid-November.

5. VICTIMS OF CRIME ACT (VOCA) FUNDING UPDATE

-DA Paige Clarkson/Alison Kelley

Summary of presentation:

- Funding was restored for the current year.
- Relief for local victim service programs.
- Overall funding (both federal and state) is declining:
 - No guarantee for future years.
- Uncertainty led to hiring freezes and program instability:
 - Potentially reducing available services.
- Advocacy continues for stable, long-term funding solutions.
- Importance of victim assistance to the justice system.

6. CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION (CJC)

-Ryan Keck

Summary of presentation:

- Changes under House Bill 3069:
 - Restructuring of Commission to better represent justice system stakeholders.
- Streamlined grant application and distribution processes for deflection and justice reinvestment grants.
- Requirements for biennial public safety plans and applications for many grant programs:
 - Submit a biennial public safety plan to the Criminal Justice Commission.
 - Include all CJC-funded programs (justice reinvestment, deflection, treatment courts).
 - State goals, strategies, budgets, and measurable outcomes.
 - Coordinate efforts among local agencies.
 - Report progress mid-biennium and provide final evaluation.
 - Use a unified application to apply for multiple program grants at once.
- Goal is improved efficiency, transparency, and on measurable public safety outcomes.
- New definitions and standards for successful outcomes are being developed:
 - Ongoing stakeholder input.

7. 2025-2027 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS STATE PLAN (ACTION)

-Commander Mike Hartford

Summary of presentation:

- \$29.2 million budget for state grant-in-aid funding:
 - Supplemented by justice reinvestment and other dollars.
 - Totaling approximately \$38 million.
- Supports parole, probation, post-prison supervision, jail sanctions, treatment and employment programs.
- Marion County's programs reported strong outcomes:
 - High employment rates and low recidivism among supervised individuals.

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the 2025-2027 Community Corrections State Plan and submit supporting letter to the Oregon Department of Corrections. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

8. OPEN DISCUSSION

-Commissioner Colm Wills

Summary of presentation:

- Significant concern about ongoing and future funding challenges for core services:
 - Especially for victims and children.
- Interconnectedness of all criminal justice and victim support services.
- Frustrated with procedural and bureaucratic delays:
 - Impacts timely delivery of public safety solutions.
- Be transparent about fund reductions may affect service levels and community safety.
- Continue monitoring and advocacy on behalf of all justice system stakeholders.

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting.