

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL (MCPSCC)

Full Council Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Commissioners Boardroom, Courthouse Square, Salem, Oregon

MCPSCC: Colm Willis, David Gerboth, Don Fredrickson, Mike Runyon, Alicia Cozad, Julie Hoy, Brandon Ditto, Andrew Copeland, Mike Hartford, Allison Kelley, Pete McCallum, and Ashley Carson.

Guests: Troy Britting, Brendan Murphy, Lina Prine, Tom Rohlfing, Scott Smith and Trevor Lane.

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

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

-Commissioner Colm Willis

2. APPROVE APRIL 14, 2026, MCPSCC MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)

-All

MOTION: A motion was made to approve April 14, 2026, MCPSCC meeting minutes. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. UPDATES

-All

- None.

4. FEDERAL AID & ASSIST ORDER

- District Attorney (DA) Paige Clarkson

Summary of presentation:

- Overview of the federal aid-and-assist framework:
 - Federal court order governs how Oregon State Hospital (OSH) admits and discharges defendants needing aid-and-assist restoration.
 - Linked to requirement that OSH admit such defendants within 7 days of court order.
- Key changes in the most recent federal order:
 - Class C non-person felony defendants and certain other charges no longer eligible for admission to OSH.
 - 30-day discharge extension used to secure community placements at end of hospital jurisdiction has been eliminated.
 - The 180-day extension for serious violent offenses has been sharply restricted.

- Local system and public safety impacts:
 - More individuals with serious mental illness remain in community or jail without hospital-level care or full restoration to fitness.
 - Responsibility for restoration shifts to local/community providers:
 - Lack authority and resources for hospital-level interventions.
 - Jail increasingly used to for individuals who can't go to OSH but are unsafe to release:
 - Funded capacity is 470 is now regularly reached or exceeded.
 - Significant growth in subpopulations:
 - Female inmates.
 - Gang-involved individuals.
 - Medically fragile adults using limited single-cell and high-security space.
- Governance and advocacy concerns:
 - Ongoing federal court involvement despite times where OSH has met 7-day admission metric.
 - State Department of Justice (DOJ) recently taken “no position” on key federal orders:
 - Leaves minimal adversarial challenge and continued federal control over state mental health policy.
- Next steps and council role:
 - Agree the Governor and Legislature must address OSH capacity and community behavioral health infrastructure.
 - MCPSCC will support a letter to Governor and Legislature:
 - Detail local impacts of current orders.
 - Request increased resources and clearer state legal posture toward federal oversight.
 - District Attorney's Office will draft language and work with council leadership to circulate the letter for review and signatures prior to the next legislative session.

5. MACLAREN DISCUSSION

-Brendan Murphy and Troy Britting

Summary of presentation:

- Grand jury inquiry background:
 - Special grand jury convened under statute to examine conditions and management at youth correctional facility.
 - Involved many sessions:
 - Extensive testimony from staff and stakeholders.
 - Review of policies and incident data.
 - Grand jury issued a detailed report with 17 recommendations.
- Main findings and issues identified:
 - Safety and contraband concerns, including weapons and drugs within facility.
 - Significant gang activity and associated violence and intimidation among youth.
 - Gaps in mental health services and treatment for high-needs youth.

- Allegations and risks of sexual misconduct.
- Inadequate staff training, high vacancy rates, and confusion about mission and role.
- Criminal referrals and complaint backlog:
 - Approximately 140 criminal referrals from facility were reviewed:
 - About 15–20 indictments were issued.
 - Substantial backlog of internal professional standards complaints and investigations has been resolved.
- Operational and cultural changes underway:
 - Strengthened partnership with host city:
 - More timely communication about incidents.
 - Exploration of community work opportunities for youth.
 - Increased campus security staffing on key shifts to improve response capacity across 11 housing units.
 - Re-established more robust security threat management function to:
 - Track gang affiliations and conflicts linked to community dynamics.
 - Inform housing, movement, and intervention strategies.
 - Structured in-service training resumed by rotating living units offline:
 - Following several years where training was limited by staffing shortages and COVID-related pressures.
 - Youth safety and reporting reinforced through:
 - Governor’s advocate regularly present on campus and independent from agency.
 - Improved hotline/complaint processes to ensure youth concerns are heard and addressed.
 - Technology improvements being pursued:
 - Body scanners to reduce invasive searches.
 - Enhanced phone monitoring/recording to limit misuse.
- Reentry and community safety considerations:
 - Parole decisions for higher-risk youth involve multi-level review and competency-based criteria:
 - Serious person-crime and gang-involved youth
 - Step-down programs and alternative placements used where appropriate:
 - Rather than immediate return home.
 - Statewide juvenile justice task force is reviewing reentry policy and practice:
 - Partly informed by grand jury’s findings.

6. OTHER

- All

Summary of presentation:

- Liberty House luncheon:
 - September 17th.
 - Focused on early intervention, accurate diagnosis, child advocacy, and trauma-informed care.
 - Encouraged to register via Liberty House website’s events page:
 - Additional materials will be shared.

- Behavioral health and sobering update (Bridgeway):
 - Primary care and medically managed withdrawal relocated to a Front Street facility.
 - Sobering services at site are in development:
 - Different operational models are under review.
 - Law-enforcement only, medical referral, open access.
 - Current funding structures do not reimburse short sobering stays:
 - Creates significant sustainability challenge.
 - Sponsorship models and policy solutions are being explored.
- District Attorney's Office quarterly report:
 - Most recent quarterly report issued:
 - Summarizes major case outcomes.
 - Sentencing.
 - Public safety trends.
 - Members to share report in their organizations and request additions to distribution list.

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Reviewed- MV GW