



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Community Corrections Board

## Summary Minutes

O R E G O N

Tuesday, January 20, 2026. 4:00 PM  
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem  
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

### ATTENDANCE:

**Commissioners:** Kevin Cameron, Danielle Bethell, and Colm Willis.

**Board's Office:** Trevor Lane, Gary White, and Matt Lawyer.

**Legal Counsel:** Cody Hawkins.

**Sheriff's Office:** Mike Hartford, and Nick Hunter.

Sheriff Nick Hunter called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

-Sheriff Nick Hunter

### **2. Public Comment:**

-All

- None.

### **3. Appointments – Chair and Vice Chair:**

-Sheriff Nick Hunter

- MOTION: A motion was made to appoint Commissioner Colm Willis as Chair of the Community Corrections Board. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- MOTION: A motion was made to appoint Sheriff Nick Hunter as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### **4. State of CC Division:**

-Commander Mike Hartford

- Community Corrections funded primarily by Grant-in-Aid, additional support from:
  - Justice Reinvestment.
  - Measure 57.
  - Family Sentencing Alternative Program (FSAP).
  - Health Department contract:
    - Community Restoration Parole Officer (PO).
- Division staffing:
  - 65.11 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) total.
  - Grant-in-aid funds 6.11 FTE spread across 13 positions.
- To balance budget, 15 FTE deleted:
  - A PO and case aide position held vacant.
- State's current biennium has significant funding reductions tied to population forecasts and failure to adopt actual cost studies:
  - Biennium began July 1, 2025
- Modeling 2.5% and 5% reduction scenarios:
  - 2.5% - focuses on peripheral accounts and does not trigger opt out clause:
    - FSAP, DUI reimbursements, fines, etc.

- 5% - cuts Grant in Aid by about \$4M statewide:
    - About \$400,000 for Marion County in biennium.
    - All effectively hitting the second year.
  - Any reduction in Grant in Aid triggers county's opt out option:
    - Opting out risks losing roughly \$29M in total Grant in Aid.
    - Including about \$4M a year currently supporting the jail.
- Caseload impacts from staffing cuts:
  - Pre-reductions:
    - Field caseloads at 35 to 40:1.
    - Intensive supervision at 20 to 25:1.
    - Consistent with American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) standards:
      - 50:1 field.
      - 25:1 intensive.
  - Current averages:
    - Domestic violence:
      - About 60:1.
    - High risk drug/property:
      - About 70:1
    - Intensive supervision:
      - Gang, prison diversion, FSAP, etc.:
        - About 33:1
- The division:
  - Stopped accepting unfunded misdemeanors from other counties.
  - Working with courts and District Attorney (DA) to stop sentences creating unfunded Driving Under Influence (DUI) misdemeanors:
    - May seek conversion of many to bench probation.
  - Set target of less than 20 unfunded misdemeanors county wide.
  - Reserving supervision for highest risk person to person misdemeanors.
- Specialty courts consume significant PO resources:
  - Drug, mental health, veterans, fostering attachment, etc.
- Division is renegotiating Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs):
  - To change from "guaranteed dedicated PO" to "if resources allow."
- Drug/Veterans Court combined caseload has grown to over 70:
  - Beyond one PO's sustainable capacity.
- Opioid settlement funds considered potential source for supervision positions linked to drug court.
- Materials and Services (M&S) reduced, impacting training, equipment, travel, and meetings:
  - Approximately \$230,000 cut
- Workload pressures causing:
  - PO's giving less Cognitive Behavioral Interventions (CBI) in office visits.
  - Refocusing PO time on conditions enforcement and public safety.
  - Shifting CBI and skill building to treatment partners:
  - Bridgeway, Pathfinder Network, Health Department programs, housing stabilization services.

## **5. Recidivism Rates Discussion:**

-Sheriff Nick Hunter and Commander Mike Hartford

- Recidivism measured over three years (2022 data) reflects past supervision models:
  - Not current practices under budget constraints.
- Metrics include arrest, conviction, and incarceration recidivism and risk levels.
- Long term trend (since early 2000s) shows gradual decline in recidivism:

- Arrest recidivism:
    - 55% in 2001 to about 40% in recent years.
- Participants note sharp drop around 2020–2021 is largely artificial, driven by:
  - Reduced jail capacity and custodial arrests.
  - Increased citations in lieu of custody.
  - Court backlogs and public defender shortages.
- Concerns:
  - Apparent improvement during COVID may mask ongoing crime levels.
  - Less future resources in community corrections may reverse positive trends.
- Use absolute numbers and cost savings in legislative advocacy, not just percentages:
  - Such as prison days avoided via diversion programs.
- Prepare five-year analysis for:
  - Downward departure.
  - Prison diversion.
  - FSAP caseloads.
    - Compare potential prison exposure to actual outcomes.
    - Calculate estimated savings based on Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) daily bed rates.

## **6. Transition Center Update/Funding:**

-All

- The Transition Center remodel is nearly complete:
  - Tower open.
  - Carpets installed in dorms.
  - Key card access readers installed.
  - Remaining tasks primarily involve cleanup.
- Work crew/Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) remains closed:
  - Out of order program is still operating.
- Current fiscal year:
  - Overtime and potential private security budgeted using two funding streams:
    - Overtime plus a contract services line.
- Next fiscal cycle:
  - \$120,000 in M&S for a private security contract.
  - For about 10 hours a day and 7 days a week in lieu of extensive overtime.
- Tour of completed Transition Center will be scheduled.

## **7. Discussion:**

-All

- Liability and standards:
  - Align reduced contact standards with available funding.
  - Manage liability risk if state eases but public and national standards don't.
  - Close coordination with County Counsel regarding rule changes from DOC:
    - Contact frequency, risk assessment timelines, and case planning.
- Rulemaking and state policy:
  - Concern of state rulemaking increasing workload without additional funding:
    - Such as contact standards developed under the "1145 group.
  - Leaders interested in pushing to roll back or right size rules:
    - During pilot period for contact standards through December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Risk assessment and forecast:
  - DOC is revising Public Safety Checklist:
    - More predictive tool may reclassify more people as higher risk.
    - Increasing contact and workload without always increasing funding.
  - Analysis expects flat to modest increase in supervision populations statewide:

- No significant new revenue in the 2027–2029 biennium.
- Program evaluation and prioritization:
  - Several programs flagged for cost effectiveness review:
    - Student Opportunities for Achieving Results (SOAR).
    - FSAP.
    - Other treatment/behavioral programs.
  - Potentially move funds to impactful public safety and recidivism programs.
  - Pursuing support from Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and analytic staff:
    - Particularly for drug court and veterans court outcomes.
- Behavioral health funding and governance:
  - Proposed bill by Senator David Brock Smith.
  - Connect Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) to CJC’s deflection program.
  - Concerns:
    - Potential behavioral health control shift from counties to state.
    - Risk of top slicing funds and reduced local flexibility:
      - Similar to Justice Reinvestment experiences.
  - Some county and sheriff associations are not supportive of the concept:
    - Further analysis and a formal county position are being developed.
  - Bill could, if amended, directly pass funds to counties by formula:
    - Desirable but uncertain outcome.
- Partnerships with Health and Housing:
  - Opportunities identified to deepen alignment with Health & Human Services:
    - Especially housing stabilization and behavioral health teams:
      - Give Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)/skill building services.
      - PO’s no longer have capacity.
    - Address underlying drivers of criminal behavior:
      - Homelessness, addiction, and financial instability.
- Clinical supervision of mental health evaluator in Community Corrections by Health MOU in process:
  - Broader collaborative opportunities will be explored.

**Adjourned** – time: 5:05 p.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White