



Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Marion County Sheriff's Office

December 3, 2024. 1:30 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: Matt Lawyer, Jan Fritz, Chad Ball, Chris Eppley, Alvin Klausen, Toni Whitler, and Trevor Lane.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Sheriff's Office: Jason Bernards, Jay Bergmann, and Nick Hunter.

District Attorney's Office: Brendan Murphy.

Juvenile Department: Troy Gregg

Zoom: Kathy Rogers.

Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

Summary

Discussed the gun violence problem analysis, which expanded from a five-year to a ten-year study and included community violence. The analysis revealed a 203% increase in gun violence incidents in Marion County from 2014 to 2023. Key issues included the need for accurate data differentiation between unincorporated and incorporated areas, and the impact of legislative changes on juvenile supervision. The discussion highlighted the importance of community engagement, mentorship, and the potential benefits of increased supervision for reducing recidivism. The group emphasized the need for collaborative solutions and legislative advocacy to address these challenges. The conversation revolved around the Gun Violence Initiative, with a focus on recidivism data, economic forecasts, and crime prevention strategies. Speakers discuss the challenges of defining recidivism and the incentives to manipulate data for funding purposes. They emphasize the importance of understanding crime hotspots and prevention strategies rather than just supervision and punishment. The conversation also touches on the effectiveness of long-term supervision and the impact of age on crime rates, with a particular focus on young men aged 20-30. The need for comprehensive data from ArcGIS and legislative considerations is highlighted, with a call for actionable steps to address crime proactively.

Gun Violence Prevention Initiative

- The initial draft of the study listed incidents by city, failing to capture data specific to unincorporated Marion County:
 - An ArcGIS overlay is being developed to correct this issue.
- Challenge in differentiating between incorporated and unincorporated areas in the data reporting.

- The city of Salem's presentation "Community Violence Reduction Initiative" was reviewed:
 - Implement community education:
 - Mentorship concept but lacked specifics on if focused on school-based education or other community engagement.
 - Call-in tactic:
 - Invite the highest risk to a community conversation with law enforcement, service providers, and other stakeholders to discuss potential solutions and interventions.
 - Custom call tactic:
 - Law enforcement engaging with individuals similar to probation and parole checks.
 - Night walks:
 - Largely driven by the faith-based community, with some involvement from the Salem Police Department. The objective was to bring the community together and make the streets safer during the walks.
 - FTE position to manage the CVRI response:
 - The city of Salem has tried to hire someone to manage the CVRI response but is unable to fill the limited-duration position due to lack of sustained funding.
- Concerns were raised about the language used in the city's presentation, particularly around the definition of "positive contacts."
- Successful patrols during the summer with the city of Salem:
 - Lead to the recovery of guns from the streets.
- Higher percentages of offenders with previous criminal justice system involvement.
- Increase in juvenile violence and the need for a juvenile strategy.
- Legislative changes that have limited the tools for dealing with juvenile violence.
- Data shows a significant number of juvenile offenders are on release from Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) at the time of their crimes.
- High rate of property crime in Marion County:
 - Often related to drug use and boosting.
- Suggest involving schools, health departments, and community-based organizations in addressing crime hot spots.
- Need community groups to take responsibility for solving local problems.
- Potential for legislative changes to improve supervision and reduce recidivism.
- Challenges in funding community corrections and the impact of legislative decisions on budget allocations.

Next Steps

- Finalize data collection and analysis, including incorporating the ArcGIS overlay, is a key priority.
- The need for a comprehensive juvenile violence strategy was emphasized, including addressing legislative constraints and exploring mentorship programs.
- Concerns were raised about the impact of legislative changes, such as the repeal of Measure 11, on the ability to hold juvenile offenders accountable.
- The importance of supervision, both for juveniles and adults, in reducing recidivism was highlighted, though funding challenges were acknowledged.
- Engaging community-based organizations, schools, and other partners in prevention efforts was suggested as a key focus area.

- Mapping crime hot spots and understanding the resources and services available in those areas was identified as a crucial step.
- The group acknowledged the need for a multi-faceted approach, including legislative advocacy, to address the complex issues of gun violence and community safety.

Adjourned – time: 11:57 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Minutes by: Gary White

Reviewed by:

Reviewed by:

Reviewed by:

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