



Work Session Summary Minutes

OREGON

Sheriff's Office – Stabilization Center

February 20, 2025. 3:45 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

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

Board's Office: Jan Fritz, Gary White, Matt Lawyer, Trevor Lane, and Toni Whitler.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga, and Cody Hawkins.

Sheriff's Department: Mike Hartford, Jay Bergmann, and Nick Hunter.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 3:45 p.m.

Summary

The proposed budget includes a transfer of 180 funds to the jail and 100 funds out of jail to the stabilization center, with a focus on a new staffing model costing \$1.6 million, a reduction from the current \$1.8 million. The new model includes 17 specialists to cover 24/7 operations, replacing 10 deputies. The specialists will handle case management and counseling, aiming to reduce overtime and improve the work-life balance.

Stabilization Center Budget

- Current Transition Center budget is around \$3.9 million, including:
 - \$2.2 million from the county general fund for personnel costs.
 - \$1 million from community corrections grant/aid.
 - \$472,000 from work crew fees.
 - Smaller funding sources like justice reinvestment.
- Proposed staffing model for the stabilization center includes 17 specialist positions at a cost of around \$1.2 million:
 - This is \$400,000 less than the previous 10 deputy positions at the Transition Center.

Stabilization Center Specialist Positions

- Specialist positions will be represented by the Marion County Employees Association (MCEA) union rather than Marion County Law Enforcement Association (MCLEA):
 - Decision was made to create separation between these positions and the traditional corrections deputy roles.
 - The goal is to attract a different type of employee focused on case management, counseling, and preparing individuals for reentry.
- Specialists will go through corrections academy training but will not be sworn officers:

- Allows a different skill set and approach compared to sworn deputies.

Stabilization Center Population Served

- Will continue serving sentenced and sanctioned individuals, as well as provide temporary emergency housing for:
 - High-risk individuals on supervision, such as level 3 sex offenders.
 - Potentially pre-trial and municipal court populations as an alternative to jail.
- This expanded population is intended to increase utilization and provide more options for the courts and law enforcement.

Other

- Concerns raised about the perceived lack of security and accountability compared to a traditional jail setting:
 - The board wants to ensure the center is not viewed as "baby jail" or is too lenient.
 - Need to emphasize that it is a carceral environment with restrictions on movement and access.
- Clear communication and documentation will be crucial to manage expectations and avoid future issues.

Next Steps

- Provide a detailed budget breakdown showing all funding sources, personnel costs, and other operational expenses to ensure full transparency.
- Clarify the decision-making process and rationale for the MCEA union representation of the specialist positions.
- Prepare a staffing schedule and relief factor to demonstrate the 24/7 coverage model.
- Update on the spending and plans for the HB4002 funding, including any carryover funds and the budget for the next fiscal year.

Adjourned – time: 4:53 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White