

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Marion County Courthouse
100 High St NE
Salem, Oregon
November 12, 2013

Attendees: Chair Patti Milne, Walt Beglau, Ray Byrd, Rod Calkins, Faye Fagel, David Ferre, Courtland Guyer, Tamra Goetsch, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Diane Morse, Jason Myers, Anna Peterson, Tracy Prall, Michael Runyon, Tom Sermak

Guests: The Honorable Vance Day, Marion County Circuit Court
Elan Lambert, Court Coordinator, Marion County Veterans Docket
Brian Orrio, Assistant Prosecutor, Marion County District Attorney's office
Sam Osborne, Acting District Manager, Oregon Department of Human Services
Dawn Hunter, Oregon Department of Human Services
Eric East, Oregon Department of Human Services

Staff: Don Russo

Chair - action, information

At 4:00 pm, Chair Patti Milne called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council in Courtroom 4D in the Marion County Courthouse.

Minutes of the October PSCC meeting were approved as presented.

Elan Lambert introduced herself as Court Coordinator with the Marion County Veterans Treatment Docket. Commissioner Milne added that Ms. Lambert is also chair of the Marion County Veterans Task Force and a military veteran of the Vietnam era.

Marion County Circuit Court's Veteran Treatment Docket

Judge Day welcomed the council to his courtroom and thanked them for their interest in the Veterans Treatment Docket. He explained that a recent federal grant award of \$348,000 was received to fund the docket over the next three years, matched by state funding. He described members of the team who work together to review the cases scheduled, and said the team works to bring a culture of discipline and a culture of camaraderie as found in the military, to assist veterans who come before the court. The model used is 18 months in length with four phases, similar to the model used in the Drug Treatment Docket. He said about half of the veterans suffer from PTSD, and more than half abuse drugs or alcohol. A volunteer mentor is assigned to each veteran to assist in their progress. Nineteen have been accepted into the program to date, and two have recently been released for not complying with its rules. He explained that those interested must apply for the program and those accepted sign a contract. The two men who were released violated terms of their contracts. Participation goals for the first year are 20, then 40 in the second year, and 60 in the third year. Only nonviolent offenders (without the use of a weapon) are accepted in the program.

Brian Orrio added that two conditions sought in veterans who are considered for acceptance include a mental health diagnosis or a substance abuse diagnosis. These are conditions that the program can best assist a veteran in recovering. Criminal intent, as well as sexual offenses and violent crime offenses, are not conditions that the court program can treat successfully, he said. Incentives offered can include reduced prison sentence or a deferred sentence.

Cross-over youth

Sam Osborn introduced two fellow staff from the Oregon Department of Human Services to discuss the cross-over project. Eric East explained that this is a new program that started in Oregon in 2011 to implement a new practice model. He said a cross-over youth is one who has co-occurring dependency and delinquency issues with both an open child welfare case and also an open criminal case. The goal is to share information and protocols across agencies that can improve communication and teamwork to help achieve the best outcomes for youth and their families. Protocols include co-case management, court hearings, youth in detention, and diverted delinquency charges. Data reports are tracking school performance, mental health and drug abuse, family interactions, and pro-social interactions with adults. He said communication has improved dramatically between agencies through the new practice model.

Faye Fagel added that Judge Tracy Prall has been effective in holding staff accountable for working together. The judge has insisted upon one court, one judge, one defense attorney, all working with staff at court hearings so all would have a better understanding of each case. Ms. Fagel also said the new protocols help answer the question of what is behind the delinquency behavior. Is family neglect and abuse a factor in their delinquency? She also described cases of a youth raised in a family that uses drugs, and then the youth is arrested for drug use. Should authorities look at the case as criminal drug use, or as a drug-endangered youth because of the parents' drug use?

Dawn Hunter commented that DHS focuses on drug-endangered children whose parents use methamphetamine. Foster care for children and treatment for parents are both used to help reunite parents with children; zero tolerance sanctions are also imposed when parents return to drug use. Many parents suffered childhood trauma and it is difficult to help them become better parents when they are involved in criminal issues as well as drug issues. It is also difficult to prevent the children from repeating some of the same behaviors they learned from their parents, she said.

Judge Prall stated that the court's goal is to prevent children from moving deeper into the criminal justice system. She is looking for a different outcome than further incarceration. Mr. East added that there are a small number of cross-over youth in Marion County with 69 youth involved in July.

Update on Marion County Circuit Court

Diane Morse, trial court administrator of the Marion County Circuit Court, described the Oregon E-Court system. The Oregon Judicial Department is converting to an electronic records system that is now being implemented in the Marion County court. The new system, called Odyssey, is expected to be installed completely by December 2014. Staff will receive training to prepare for the transition. She said it is a person-based system, compared to the current number-based system. Paper filings will be scanned into digital format, and new filings can be completed online. The greatest benefit is improved access to case information. Computer terminals will be added in the courthouse for members of the public who ask to review court records.

Walt Beglau said in preparing for the move back to Courthouse Square, the District Attorney office will retain some office space in the courthouse and also retain the Grand Jury space in the courthouse. The Law Library will remain at the corner of High and Trade streets, and not return to Courthouse Square.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, December 10.

Minutes by Don Russo