

MEETING MINUTES
Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council
at Marion County Health Department
2421 Lancaster Drive NE
Salem, Oregon
December 10, 2013

Attendees: Vice Chair Bob Royer, Walt Beglau, Ray Byrd, Mark Caillier, Rod Calkins, Jayne Downing, Faye Fagel, Don Frederickson, Tamra Goettsch, Pete McCallum, Todd McCann, Ed McKenney, Jerry Moore, Jason Myers, Tracy Prall, Michael Runyon, Tom Sermak

Guests: Chief John Teague, Keizer Police Department
Lt. Tad Larson, Marion County Sheriff's Office
Scott Richards, Director, Behavioral Health Services, Marion County Health Department
Ann-Marie Bandfield, Program Supervisor, Acute & Forensic Behavioral Health, Marion County Health Department

Staff: Don Russo

Chair - action, information

At 4:00 pm, Vice Chair Bob Royer called to order a meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council at the Marion County Health Department's clinic located in northeast Salem. Minutes of the November PSCC meeting were approved as presented.

Marion County Health Department, Interface of Forensics and Health

Rod Calkins welcomed the council to the Lancaster site of the Health Department. He initiated a conversation about how health department staff interacts with law enforcement. Most of the funding for health department services is tied to services for those enrolled in Medicaid. Marion County is one of about half the counties in Oregon, however, that invests general fund monies to support services at the interface of public safety and health.

Scott Richards explained the first interface started in the 1980s when county health departments were asked to take on clients held under the jurisdiction of the Psychiatric Services Review Board. This results in an average of 30-35 clients at any one time now. In the late 1990s, certain specialty courts were started with county health department participation. Now there are specialty courts that divert offenders away from prison and toward treatment – mental health court, drug court, fostering attachment court, star court for juveniles, and veterans court. In 2005, mental health specialists began working in the county jail.

Ann-Marie Bandfield explained the collaboration that occurs when law enforcement becomes involved with offenders suffering from mental illness. In 1995, the health department developed a 24/7 crisis service for mental health issues. About 40% of staff time is spent at Salem Hospital conducting evaluations. Staff also conduct civil commitment evaluations, as well as crisis outreach services for student threat assessment team and suicide evaluation for local schools. Collaboration is strong with the jail interaction team conducting evaluations, case management and transitional services after release.

Crisis intervention training started in 2006 for law enforcement officers with 359 personnel completing the training to date. A mental health task force was formed in 2010 to coordinate resources for law enforcement, which is centered on using the 24/7 crisis intervention center. Community Outreach Team includes a police officer and mental health professional who respond when needed, with over 900 calls made this year. The team work well with patrol officers who work in the field, responding to different episodes of mental illness to reduce admissions to jail and hospitals. One example involved a woman sent to the state hospital nine times in 18

months; since intervention by the team, she remained out of the state hospital and jail for more than one year. Goal is to improve a patient's quality of life so their mental illness is expressed less.

Ray Bird commented that health department services have been very helpful to the Salem-Keizer School District. Tad Larson described more about the value of mental health services in law enforcement. Dependent often on grant funding, the pendulum can swing back and forth. A history of almost 20,000 annual jail bookings for mental health offenders has been reduced to less than 14,000 annual jail bookings now. Sheriff Myers added that services for juveniles still represent a gap in the system due to inadequate funding.

Rod Calkins expressed concern in how the state has changed the funding path away from counties and into the new CCOs. The health department has had to file seven grant applications in one month for state funding that had previously been channeled directly to the county.

Implementation challenges of SB 416 and HB 3194

Walt Beglau explained that the purpose HB 3194 is to curb and control the growth of the state prison population, and use the savings to reinvest locally in reentry services. In the second biennium, funding as much as \$60-70 million is expected to be available for community services. Marion County has invested in its 416 model, offering services at the local level to assist offenders in staying out of incarceration. A state-wide work group includes several local members with the role to define policy; a grant committee has been formed to develop rules for earning future grant funds; the Criminal Justice Commission will manage the new statutes; and a fourth group is the local Public Safety Coordinating Council, which he feels can play a prominent role in the future of these community efforts to reduce recidivism. Maximum prison capacity is 14,200 beds by 2015.

Sheriff Myers added that the length of short-term transitional leave is expected to increase from 30 days currently to 90 days, which will prompt the early release of some offenders from prison; this is expected to cause the greatest reduction in prison population, with as many as 10 offenders released per month to Marion County.

Mr. Beglau said this prison population reduction issue will be the centerpiece of public safety for the next four years, and will be a critical element in writing the next PSCC strategic plan.

Issues in Legalization of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries

Walt Beglau stated that the Marion County Commissioners are exploring options to limit or exclude medical marijuana dispensaries in the county. Because marijuana is still prohibited by federal law, this may offer a means for the county to trump state law. Mr. Beglau thinks it will be helpful if PSCC takes a position in support of family health, and against legalization of marijuana.

Sheriff Myers added that he would like to see a forum hosted for mayors and other community leaders to hear their feedback. He wants to see Marion County leaders agree on the best approach. Chief Jerry Moore said the Salem Mayor and City Manager are concerned but he does not know how members of city council feel about legalization. He said while few may care now about the issue, many more will be concerned later when serious problems occur. He agrees that convening the mayors is important in forming a position. Sheriff Myers added that substance abuse and mental illness are the major factors that drive law enforcement today. Marijuana is a gateway drug to substance abuse and leads to more serious problems. Having the mayors and other leaders come together to raise a solid voice to the legislature is needed, said Chief Teague.

Motion: Made by Ed McKenney, second by Pete McCallum, directing the PSCC to plan an upcoming meeting for the purpose of discussing possible legal options open to Marion County to oppose legalization of medical marijuana dispensaries and recent changes in law, and to invite the mayors and other city officials of the 20 incorporated cities within the county to attend.

Motion passed unanimously.

Walt Beglau added that six months ago, he thought there was no way to stop the tide toward legalization. Now he feels differently. Oregon has voted to stop legalization, and there is good reason to take a strong approach against the tide.

Tom Sermak commented that regulated marijuana could be less problematic than the current illegal use of the substance. Faye Fagel added that if marijuana is legalized for adults, it gives youth the message that its use is acceptable. Mark Caillier said that serious drug addicts started with marijuana, and thinks legalization of marijuana will lead to greater need for services.

Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 pm.

Next meeting

The Public Safety Coordinating Council will meet Tuesday, January 14.

Minutes by Don Russo