

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

November 14, 2017 4:00 PM
MaLaren Youth Correctional Facility
Woodburn, OR

MCPSCC: Cindy Becker, Walt Beglau, Kim Doster, Jayne Downing, Jim Ferraris, Don Frederickson, Tamra Goettsch, Roland Herrera, Garland King, Pete McCallum, Ed McKenney, Jerry Moore, Diane Morse, Mike Runyon, Kim Wallis, and Hitesh Parekh (recorder).

GUESTS: Dan Berger, MaLaren Youth Correctional Facility Superintendent; Loren Calkins, MaLaren Youth Correctional Facility Treatment Services Supervisor; Michael Conn, MaLaren Youth Correctional Facility Lord High School Principal; Christine Kirk, Oregon Youth Authority Acting Deputy Director; Jeanine Knight, Union Gospel Mission.

Vice-chair Don Frederickson called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM. The council members met as a subcommittee of the Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council until a quorum was achieved.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE (INFORMATION/ACTION)

Welcome and Introductions

Council members made introductions around the table.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

- Cindy Becker announced the Mid-Valley Behavioral Care Network has just launched its new website for behavioral health services for residents of Marion and Polk counties.
- Tami Goettsch announced the Marion County Children and Families Commission is hosting its annual Together Toward Tomorrow event with Dr. Chan Hellman on February 13, 2018.
- Jayne Downing announced the Center for Hope and Safety received \$17,000 from donors to build kennels at the center's women's shelter.

2. MACLAREN AND HILLCREST YOUTH CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES CONSOLIDATION

Oregon Youth Authority Deputy Director Christine Kirk and MaLaren Youth Correctional Facility Superintendent Dan Berger provided an overview of the consolidation of Hillcrest and MaLaren youth correctional facilities. Summary of presentation (see [PowerPoint](#)):

Background

- The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) operates nine youth correctional facilities serving approximately 1,400 youth across the state with a budgeted capacity of 657 beds.
- 825 youth are on probation or parole. The remainder lives in one of the nine close-custody OYA facilities located throughout Oregon.
- Court committed youth, including youth in closed custody placements and community residential programs, may be placed with OYA.
 - Youth may be committed from juvenile or adult court.
 - Youth may be held up to age 25.
 - This combination of OYA and Oregon Department of Corrections populations, length of stay and age, provides unique challenges for OYA as a juvenile justice agency.

10-Year Strategic Plan for Close Custody Facilities

- Four years ago, OYA made a comprehensive assessment of its existing camps and facilities across the state.
- From this assessment, the agency developed a ten-year strategic plan that evaluated the need of OYA facilities, determined long-term use of existing facilities, and considered current and future capacity needs/conditions (see [OYA 10-Year Strategic Plan for Close Custody Facilities](#)).
- The plan concluded that there were programmatic, environmental, and physical issues with some of the OYA facilities, and recommended closure of the Hillcrest Youth Correctional Facility campus.
 - Specific reasons to close the Hillcrest campus were:
 - Lack of space for intake processing;
 - Building had a “correctional feel” when the need to approach youth in a “developmental way” was preferred;
 - Building had dormitory style housing when single room housing preferred;
 - Housing environment limited staff/youth interaction;
 - Campus was underutilized and had a high cost of building maintenance;
 - Closure would save taxpayer funds and increase system efficiency; and
 - Space was available at MacLaren due to reduction in juvenile crime.
- The plan recommended updating and improving MacLaren to accommodate the Hillcrest population and programs.

MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility

- MacLaren opened in 1891 and today is the largest close-custody facility in Oregon, holding 275 male youth in a 200 acre area.
 - Prior to consolidation, MacLaren and Hillcrest had 136 beds each, with Hillcrest housing younger youth, and MacLaren housing older youth.
 - At Hillcrest, the average age was 16-17 years, and average age at MacLaren before consolidation was 21-22.
 - After consolidation, the age group at MYCF ranged from 15 to 24.
- MacLaren spent \$32 million in bond funds to improve the physical plant and structure prior to the consolidation.
 - Designed five new state-of-the-art housing units for high-risk youth with mental health needs and a separate unit for trauma-affected/emotionally-reactive youth.
 - At MacLaren, housing units are now single celled with glass and specialized lighting, holding a maximum of 16 youth per unit.
- Facility has also refurbished the clinic housing psychiatric, psychological, and medical services.
- An original intake center was refurbished.

Move from Hillcrest to MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility

- OYA decided to close Hillcrest and consolidate operations with MacLaren in 2017.
- Merging process took more than eighteen months.
- Three out of seven units were moved from Hillcrest to MacLaren in May 2017 and the remaining four units moved in August.
- More than 20 workgroups met eight months in advance of the move.
- To diminish impact of service delivery to youth during the move, entire living units from Hillcrest, including staff, were moved to MacLaren.

OYA Youth and Oregon Department of Corrections Measure 11 Youth

- Ballot Measure 11, passed by Oregon voters in 1994, requires mandatory minimum sentences for specific serious and violent crimes.

- Young people 15, 16 and 17 years of age who are charged with Ballot Measure 11 offenses are automatically prosecuted in adult court.
- These young offenders are convicted and sentenced by the adult court to the legal and physical custody of the Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC), but are transferred to the physical custody of OYA for placement in a youth correctional facility.
- Offenders at the age of 25 years are transferred back to DOC.
- MacLaren has a group of youth with short, quick, stays (OYA youth) and longer stays, (Measure 11 youth).
 - Both sets of youth are offered same menu of treatment, although at a different level.
 - 15% of the youth from DOC end up transitioning back to DOC when they reach age 25.

Educational and Vocational Programming

- Education services are provided in OYA facilities by a local school district or education service district through contract with the Oregon Department of Education.
- Eligible youth can get several work experience opportunities, such as occupational safety training, vocational training, and hands-on work experience in jobs that will lead to employment in the community upon release.
- In addition to learning specific vocational skills, youth also learn the responsibilities of being prepared, productive and engaged in the job they are assigned. Specific types of skills include:
 - Lattice program
 - Barbering
 - Culinary
 - Electrical and plumbing
 - Welding
 - Automotive
 - Horticulture, and
 - Project POOCH
- In 2016, 29 youth graduated with high school diplomas.
- OYA partners with different agencies throughout the region, including Hope Partnership, and 300 volunteers to connect youth with the community through volunteer-led workshops, and classes focused on arts, life skills, vocational training, and transitional services.
- Workshops and programs include:
 - Toastmasters
 - Radio journalism
 - Native American beading
 - Writing and art workshops
 - Alcohol, drug and treatment programs
 - Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations offers:
 - Culturally inclusive services
 - Tattoo removal, and
 - Native American, African America, Latino, faith-based, and LGBTQ programming.

Intake History

- Rates of youth intake at OYA over the past ten years show a significant decline in the male youth population from approximately 700 youth in 2007 to 300 in 2017.
- Number of Measure 11 youth from Marion County has also decreased dramatically during this period.

3. EMERGING ISSUES/PROBLEM SOLVING

None

ADJOURNED: The business meeting was adjourned and a facility tour began at 5:10 pm