



MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

ISSUE BRIEF

Date: September 12, 2017

Issue: Should the Marion County Public Safety Coordinating Council (MCPSCC) also act as the local Criminal Justice Advisory Council (CJAC)?

BACKGROUND

ORS 1.851 requires the presiding judge of each judicial district to establish a local criminal justice advisory council in each county in the district, *unless one already exists*. The statute states that the council shall meet regularly to consider and address methods of coordinating court, public defense and related services and resources in the most efficient and cost-effective manner that complies with the constitutional and statutory mandates and responsibilities of all participants.

CJAC membership must consist of the following: the presiding judge; district attorney; local correctional administrator; public defense service providers; county bar association; local law enforcement; and state law enforcement.

The attached roster illustrates the overlap between MCPSCC membership and CJAC membership. At the August 16 Steering Committee meeting, Judge Tracy Prall asked the council to consider whether it made sense for the MCPSCC to act as the local CJAC.

DISCUSSION

Judge Prall noted the overlap for existing CJAC members who are already engaged in MCPSCC and other meetings. The benefits of having the public safety council act as the CJAC are that many of the current CJAC members are also public safety council members. The MCPSCC has two defense counsel representatives, as well as a member of the Oregon State Police, that would also qualify as representatives on CJAC.

Since some CJAC meetings involve technical circuit court issues, such as the court's calendar, civil commitment/mental health, and coordination with law enforcement, Judge Prall recommended that CJAC meet, as needed, as an MCPSCC subcommittee. This will allow designated MCPSCC members to attend the subcommittee meetings and not require CJAC issues to dominate monthly public safety council meeting agendas. When CJAC considers policy-related issues, it could bring these to the full public safety council. CJAC will also provide quarterly updates to the full council.

ACTION

MCPSCC Steering Committee recommends that the MCPSCC act as the local Criminal Justice Advisory Council; that the presiding judge chair the CJAC subcommittee; and that this subcommittee provide quarterly updates to the full MCPSCC.