

MARION COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL (MCPSCC)

Full Council Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Commissioners Boardroom, Courthouse Square, Salem, Oregon

Approved

MCPSCC: Colm Willis, Paige Clarkson, Rick Lewis, Don Frederickson, John Bauer, Josh Lair, Scott Smith, Ryan Matthews, Bruce Anderson, Elizabeth Infante, Chris Eppley, Andrew Copeland, Frank Lonergan, Trevor Womack, Michael Runyon, Shaney Starr, Zoraja Uder, Mike Hartford, Jay Bergmann, Troy Gregg, Pete McCallum, Christina McCollum, Chris Zohner, Mark Daniel, Chris Baldrige, and Nick Hunter

Guests: Trevor Lane, Gary White, Casey Woolley and Danielle Bethell.

Commissioner Willis called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE (INFORMATION/ACTION)

-Colm Willis

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Rob Carney has retired from Woodburn's City Council:
 - Mayor Frank Lonergan will serve the remainder of Mr. Carney's term
- Keizer Police Chief Andrew Copeland will be filling the position previously held by David Rash;
- Chief Trevor Womack and Chris Zohner agreed to continue their services on the council;
- Marion County is conducting a companion gun violence and crime study:
 - The study is to be completed in July 2024.
- Bridgeway is working to develop a detox facility to be built in Salem will have 34 medically managed detox beds.

Approve January 9, 2024, MCPSCC Meeting Minutes

MOTION: A motion was made to approve the January 9, 2024, MCPSCC meeting minutes. Seconded by Ryan Matthews. Motion passed unanimously.

2. WOODBURN COMMUNITY OUTREACH PRESENTATION

-Zoraja Uder

Summary of presentation:

- Chief of police presented a report to Woodburn city council regarding middle schools:
 - There were 700 suspensions; and
 - Approximately 30 to 40 arrests.
- This is a community gang problem that is only becoming worse;
- Covid-19 worsened the problem as many kids were at home with little or no supervision:
 - Some joined gangs and returning to school they clashed with school authorities.
- In May 2023 the Youth Intervention Committee formed consisting of a variety of groups:
 - Discussed what the city can do to change the culture.

- Ensured that this is a non-political focus group and for the improvement of Woodburn;
- Committee hired an Education Coordinator to work for the city and community:
 - Zoraja Uder was hired for the position in November;
 - Ms. Uder previously worked with the Boys and Girls Club;
 - The position will be paid for the next three years with the hope of extending it;
- There are a few Resource Officers in schools which has had positive outcomes:
 - A third Resource Officer will be hired.
- Post Covid, suspensions and arrests rose in middle schools as well as problems such as:
 - Vandalism;
 - Drug activity; and
 - Overall, more law enforcement involvement with this age group.
- Some of the entities involved with the committee included:
 - The Boys and Girls Club;
 - City of Woodburn;
 - Ray of Hope;
 - Liberty House;
 - Safety Compass;
 - Marion County Juvenile Department;
 - Oregon Family Support Network;
 - Chemeketa Woodburn;
 - YMCA;
 - Woodburn School District; and
 - Woodburn Police Department.
- The committee created four goals to focus on:
 - Data collection on activities youth enjoys.
 - Expansion and/or development of programs;
 - Parent education:
 - Youth face many problems leading them to find outlets elsewhere; and
 - Trains parents on a wide variety of topics,
 - Mentorship;
- Satellite Gaming is a non-profit whose focus is E-gaming:
 - There are clubs at two middle schools with a max of 20 kids in each club;
 - Every Tuesday at French Prairie Middle School;
 - Every Wednesday at Valor Middle School; and
 - Would like to start a club in the high school in the future.
- It Takes a Village Connecting Generations – Parent Series:
 - Parental education courses offered since the end of February;
 - Various organizations cover various topics in multiple languages including:
 - Safety Compass - Youth Human Trafficking;
 - Liberty House – Digital Dangers and Youth Internet Safety;
 - Salem Health - QPR Suicide Prevention Training;
 - Salem Health – Secure Gun Storage;
 - Marion County Juvenile Department - Gang Prevention and Education.;
 - Marion County Juvenile Department – Drug and Alcohol; and

- Other classes.
 - The classes have various incentives to motivate individuals to sign-up;
 - Trainings are done at various locations;
 - Individuals are informed of other training happening in the community;
 - Scheduling classes every two to three weeks;
 - The following has taken place so far:
 - 24 hours of training completed by 18 adults and six youth;
 - AWARE Food Bank provided food boxes for 20 households;
 - Grocery gift cards given to four households; and
 - Woodburn Aquatic Center three-month passes given to two households.
- Mentorship Program:
 - A two-credit elective course that began April 2024;
 - 10 students from Chemeketa Community College and Woodburn High School;
 - Learn employable skills and how to be middle school youth mentors; and
 - Visit middle schools two days a week to work one-on-one with kids.
- Teen Court Program:
 - Met with the Salem Teen Court Program team;
 - This is for first time non-violent youth offenders, ages 12 to 17;
 - Utilize this program instead of going to the Juvenile Detention Center:
 - Referrals come from the Juvenile Department.
 - This program will be budgeted for; and
 - The program will run out of the Woodburn Boys and Girls Club:
 - Court will run in other various locations.

Summary of discussion:

- Some programs are geared towards youth that are not fully committed to a gang:
 - Allows for other options that steer individuals away from gang initiation.
- Programs with Marion County Juvenile, psychologists, parole officers etc. are for those initiated in a gang;
- Mentors with previous gang affiliation can help youth to make the right choice:
 - There is immense red tape to get such mentors into school districts; and
 - Turing it into a city project requires different logistics and processes.
- Most of the community is most comfortable meeting in a school setting:
 - The city is working through the barriers to allow this to happen.
- Training for staff and parents are being scheduled with the city:
 - Ms. Uder's position creates access school districts can't achieve.
- Some youth only know and have one lifestyle option:
 - The gang has been there for them; and
 - Having no money they resort to selling drugs.
- Discussed at the crime study townhall that issues are not solved by law enforcement and juvenile department alone:
 - This is a community effort.
- This is the first step of solving the issue;
- The state needs to help communities create opportunities for youth and families;
- Some youth make choices for their own protection, including carrying weapons;

- The expelling process has become more difficult;
- Kids expelled from the Woodburn School District get other options including:
 - Tutoring;
 - Modified schooling;
 - Online schooling; and
 - Alternative programing for high school students.
- Dangerous students that come back to school have safety plans and wrap-around services:
 - Often there is one-on-one tutoring.
- Teachers have stated there is physical abuse endured every day from students:
 - Salem Keizer School district has a different response to these actions; and
 - Woodburn has School Resource Officers (SRO) to help with violent incidents:
 - SROs are involved when there is a legal obligation to do so.
- The previous Salem Keizer School District Superintendent removed SROs from the budget;
- Returning students, that are dangerous on paper, do well in school because of the support received;
- Marion County Public Health Education team offers a variety of trainings;
- PacificSource is the Medicaid provider in the region and can educate individuals of their benefits;
- Working on a vendor fair for families to be aware of local opportunities/programs youth can participate in during the summer and winter;
- Discussing with families and staff the trends among youth:
 - Working on being pro-active and not reactive.
- Having an Education Coordinator has brought a higher level of success than when the city and school district tried to work together and bring in services;
- This is a great model/program for the county and nation to follow;
- Marion County Sheriff's Office is willing to coordinate to have officers visit during the Satellite Gaming club:
 - Such interactions will allow for youth to be less afraid of law enforcement.
- Marion County 4H Extension program approved funding for the Woodburn YMCA to have access to several scholarships for youth sports;
- Marion County 4H Extension has funding for creating spaces in the community;
- There has been a decreased in expulsions and arrests from last year within the middle school population:
 - Student data from this year and last year are being analyzed.
- Graduation rates fell after the start of Covid;
- Youth leaving the Juvenile Detention Center have a safety plan or a conditional release:
 - The schools and POs are in contact with each other regularly.
- The numbers from 2023 are leveling back to 2019 numbers:
 - During Covid there were not any reliable numbers.
- There is more work, connections, and contact per caseload;
- Activity happening in the community happen with MacLaren Correctional Facility:
 - Numbers have gone down but the number of gang-involved youth has grown;

- There are staffing issues;
- There are concerns of bringing youth back into the community as they may become involved with gang-related activity again; and
- There is correlation between juvenile involved shootings and OYA supervision.
- It is harder to deal with violent youth as ballot measure 11 is often not an option;
- Much of the problems need to be addressed by the Governor and legislature:
 - MCPSCC is a voice for changes needed in the community; and
 - Having a conversation with the Governor is important.

3. HB 4002 RECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUGS

Summary of presentation:

-Paige Clarkson

- Ballot Measure 110 decriminalized drugs;
- HB 4002 was a bipartisan effort at its final stages;
- The house and senate committee co-chaired by Representative Jason Kropf of Deschutes County and Senator Kate Lieber of the Portland area;
- The end product of HB 4002 was responsible policy:
 - It does not solve all the problems but it's a start in the right direction.
- The bill changed the following:
 - Fixed an adverse case law that limited ability to prosecute drug delivery cases;
 - Recriminalized possession of street drugs;
 - Models the county's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD); and
 - Deflection and diversion programs in communities.
 - Criminalization allows law enforcement to engage individuals on the street:
 - This leads to the discovery of other crimes.
- Ran a symposium with various associations and group geared towards diversion and deflection:
 - Marion County took a leadership role in this.
- Working with Judge Tracy Prall as these cases have not been doing;
- Working through the problem of lack of defense attorneys:
 - A few judges have been assigned to work the cases; and
 - Looking to assign a lawyer to manage.

-Nick Hunter

- Contacted by the National Sheriff's Association to discuss LEAD:
 - Marion County will be featured on a national platform to discuss the program.
- Though the bill has restored accountability back:
 - Arrests are small and only for those who prey on vulnerable populations.
- Those in need of treatment because of addiction issues will receive treatment;
- Bound by search and seizure laws and case laws in regard to use of force;
- With Measure 110 there was no justified use of force over a violation:
 - HB 4002 brings this back.

Summary of discussion:

- Drug delivery portion of bill took effect when the governor signed the bill;
- Recriminalization of drug possession takes effect September 1, 2024:

- Gives some time to build system of support.
- Felony level drug possession is not in HB 4002 that would have been beneficial;
- LEAD began because individuals believed in giving people help from a health standpoint;
- Marion County will focus on engaging LEAD first as court is costly
- Components in HB 4002 that makes things harder include:
 - Multiple chances;
 - Automatic expunction:
 - Requires creation of a new system.
 - Longest time able to serve in jail for drug possession is 180 days:
 - Allowed to be released is there is a treatment bed/program.
 - Adequate funding not included; and
 - Juveniles are not part of it.
- The 2025 session will have voices vocal about funding and juveniles;
- HB 4036:
 - Enhanced penalties for drug delivery that resulted in an individual's death;
 - Assist counties to build treatment facilities;
 - Moved funds of the Alcohol and Drug Oversight Committee and place it under the Alcohol and Drug Policy Committee;
 - Criminalizing possession; and
 - Included 11 points requested from DA's, Chief's, and Sheriff's.
- HB 4002 was passed with the understanding that the work is not done;
- LEAD has been successful because individuals advocate for the right things;
- Not all counties understand LEAD and how it works, and a symposium is a great way to share this information:
 - This will allow others to be successful.
- The intent of the bill is not to place individuals in jail:
 - Some state using is a personal choice and there are not victims; but
 - Looking at the consequences in families and communities shows it is not a victimless crime.
- Individuals will need to be educated that these activities are now criminal offenses:
 - This will be a challenge as previously it was not.
- The LEAD program model in Marion County is something other counties want to copy as it works:
 - It is one of the most successful models in the US; and
 - This is because of individuals who knew what they wanted to see and put the work in.
- Mr. Lair to host a meet and greet to allow law enforcement officers to share knowledge on the program;
- Many around the US are watching to see how this program will work;
- The bill allows flexibility for local control:
 - There have been meetings with county departments on how to continually make the program better.

- The biggest issue in the county is Salem with 54 percent of the District Attorney's case load coming from there:
 - Last year there were 30,000 cases in total; and
 - Many are mental health related.
- HB 4002 can help enhance systems of care;
- Within a few months Marion County will be the best program because of the way it is designed;
- Transition Centers will help individuals be accountable;
- The bill is about distribution, use and possession:
 - Livability and how it is designed successfully in the county; and
 - Other counties will be and already are interested.
- Individuals that are chronically failing because of drug use and mental health issues will be brought into a type of care:
 - Law enforcement care or healthcare; and
 - This process will take time to be established.
- The goal is to help individuals take the next step;
- About six counties will be effective with this bill as they will receive funding:
 - The other counties did not receive much funding.
- There is work to be done during the 2025 legislative session.

4. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Summary of presentation:

- N/A

Summary of discussion:

- N/A

5. CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL (CJAC)

-Judge Tracy Prall

Summary of presentation:

- The same things effecting the MCPSCC effect CJAC;
- Managing what the courts response will be in regard to HB 4002 and deflection is not successful;
- The goal is treatment and keep individuals in treatment;
- Looking at the model at the Juvenile Department for pregnant women as a diversion program;
- Looking to get defense attorney assigned as it will be for conditional discharges:
 - Many rights are waived so an attorney is needed to start the process; and
 - The model will be once a month and resources will be given.
- Felonies will impact the courts:
 - Cases have gone down over the years;
 - There is concern that they will shoot back up; and
 - Policy decisions will be made on who to place in jail and who gets a lawyer:
 - Those without attorneys do not go through the system.
- Will need to discuss who to keep and jail and who to release; and

- There are 23 counties interested in deflection and will reach out to Marion County.

Summary of discussion:

- After a year of compiling data, a lot more will be known and understood;
- If money needs to be spent to rent jail beds short term to help long term it will be done;
- The goal is to ensure individuals do not commit crime in Marion County;
- Cleaning the streets will also entice more businesses to come into the communities; and
- Starting small to make change is good as doing too much too fast does not lead to success.

6. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

- N/A

Commissioner Willis adjourned the meeting.