

Marion County Reentry Council

Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2015; Noon - 1:30 pm
Silverton Conference Room
Courthouse Square, 5th Floor, Board of Commissioners Office
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendees: Commissioner Janet Carlson, Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Sheriff Jason Myers, Commander Jeff Wood, Tamra Goettsch, Lieutenant Kevin Karvandi, Cindy Booth, Sergeant Anna Whitlock, Jan Calvin, Nancy Green, Julie Huckestein, Dick Withnell, Bruce Bailey, Nancy Cain, Nancy Green, Michael Laharty, Chad Freeman, Shaney Starr, Ken Hetsel, and Hitesh Parekh as recorder

Welcome, Introductions

- Commander Wood called the meeting to order and requested self-introductions.

Reentry Council Meetings

- Roughly 10 months since the reentry council met;
- Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) merged with Marion County Reentry Council (MCRC):
 - Overlapping issues; and
 - Justice Reinvestment Funding to consider.
- Request for feedback about how the joint meeting is working and future goals, agendas and meetings:
 - Have been working on the Justice Reinvestment plan since last September;
 - Once the plan is approved, there will be less intensive work on HB3194 Justice Reinvestment plan; and
 - Opens up opportunity to deal with other public safety items.
- Governor's Reentry Council:
 - Council currently preparing for making recommendations to the governor and legislative body:
 - Potential resource for state-level policy changes.
- Marion County has a reputation for tackling problems and providing solutions:
 - Need to get the community involved and engaged;
 - Keep track of progress on recidivism; and
 - Find out where we are and tackle those things.
- Feedback regarding meeting structure:
 - Discussion regarding the combined PSCC and MCRC meeting diluting the impact:
 - PSCC is more of a "bureaucratic" group;
 - MCRC has the leadership to solve issues;
 - Need a call to action;
 - Move forward with quarterly meetings September through May and regroup in the summer; and
 - Subcommittees may meet more often.
 - Agreement about a need for call to action:
 - Need to connect people to jobs; and

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- Employment will continue to be a goal for the Reentry Council:
 - Reduce the unemployment rate for the reentry population;
 - Marion County at 60 percent; and
 - Statewide average 50 percent.
 - Continue to work to improve soft skills and work readiness;
 - Partnerships with employers for the population;
 - Support for population to be successful in employment;
 - Begin with those most ready for employment;
 - There is a need for understanding the outcomes of services being provided and providing that information to the community; and
 - Many post-prison clients are not interested in employment:
 - Identify those who are ready and those who are not; and
 - Focus services on those that are ready.
 - Discussion regarding potential incentive or subsidy for employers willing to work with the population:
 - Tax credit and bonding available for employing those coming from incarceration;
 - Oregon Employment Department cleared the back log and implemented a new system which is less complicated than in the past; and
 - Oregon Department of Corrections (DOC) will soon be able to issue letter stating the client is eligible for the tax credit to share with employers.
 - Student Opportunity for Achieving Results (SOAR) students are currently receiving the employment services being discussed:
 - Already tracking those students;
 - Receive employment services;
 - At a higher risk to recidivate;
 - Small target to focus on;
 - Reduced On-the-Job (OJT) training funds as compared to several years ago; and
 - Need to mix up the employment panel.
 - Work Center jail reentry population may also be an appropriate place for the employment services as well.
- Action planning around employment:
 - How to reorganize services and connect SOAR students and jail reentry population to employment;
 - Find a group of people who are ready and employers ready to hire;
 - Tracking what is and isn't working for replication;

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- Comparisons to other counties including Multnomah, Lane, Washington, and Clackamas show not much of a difference in employability;
- Marion County tends to do better with high/medium risk clients with a parole officer as compared to the general population; and
- Discussion about Parole Officer (PO) caseload and role:
 - Act as a “gatekeeper”;
 - Receive information from multiple sources;
 - Make needs-based service referrals;
 - Work with mentors, employers, community;
 - First 90 days critical for success of offender;
 - Infrastructure needs to be in place for community involvement; and
 - Nonprofit partners struggle to get funding for the population.
- Commander Wood and Lieutenant Karvandi will draft an action plan for the “100 List” to determine next steps:
 - Will present to council.
- Discussion regarding industries to target for the population:
 - Hospitality, manufacturing and construction currently identified;
 - Other opportunities depend on the person; and
 - Employment coordinator has a list available.
- Feedback regarding quarterly meetings:
 - Subgroups set up internal to Marion County and external;
 - Relationship between MCRC and PSCC:
 - All welcome to attend PSCC;
 - Will provide updates from MCRC to PSCC; and
 - Need interchange between groups.

Client Support Fund

- Annually, reentry breakfast held with opportunity to receive donations:
 - In prior years managed through Community Action Agency.
- Changes last year:
 - Asked for a monthly contribution; and
 - Management of funds transferred to Marion County Community Services Department.
- Memorandum of Agreement with partners and policy outlining appropriate expenditures and who can request funds for client funds to be accessed;
- Typically requests to release funds came to the Reentry Council in the past; and
- Change in how funds are released since Marion County holds all the funds:
 - Managed and reviewed monthly;
 - Come into a separate fund;
 - As requests that come in meeting the criteria, they are approved;

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- Five groups can request funds:
 - Community Action Agency, DeMuniz Resource Center;
 - SOAR;
 - Chemeketa Community College
 - Family Building Blocks; and
 - Bridgeway Recovery Services “Link-Up” program.
- Mirrored policy from the past; and
- Ensure everything is signed and authorized.
- Community Services will prepare a report quarterly:
 - Broken down by type of expenditure and percentage.
 - Close to \$17,000 in pledges at last breakfast;
 - Would like to see how much has been raised since last breakfast;
 - Accepting credit cards has been working well;
 - Will end all deposits for monthly contributions into the account in October as promised at the last breakfast; and
 - Community Services will prepare a revenue sheet, expense sheet, and balance sheet going forward.

MCRI Breakfast

- 7th annual Giving People a Second Chance Breakfast scheduled for October 20th;
- Transitioned the organization of the breakfast from the Board of Commissioners’ Office to Community Services;
- A little bit of a late start and had limited availability from Broadway Commons:
 - Only two dates open in October;
 - Looked at alternate facilities;
 - Broadway Commons donates their facility;
 - Able to choose caterer; and
 - Will work on finding a venue to expand the number of attendees.
- Working with Gregg Peterson on catering again this year:
 - Has been a member of this council and has a heart for reentry.
- Unfortunately circuit court judges will be away at judicial conference that week;
- Blended focus on victim’s and reentry:
 - Have been working on Justice Reinvestment Plan;
 - 10 percent of funds set aside for victims;
 - Working with key staff people working on victims’ services in Marion County:
 - Flow chart of domestic violence system drafted; and
 - Presented a proposal to public safety council for allocated 10 percent.
 - Discussion regarding client fund for victims:
 - Idea to have 10 percent of donations also to go to victims.
 - Tour of Family Justice Center in Clackamas County with presentation from Casey Gwinn;

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- Currently working on contract with Casey Gwinn to do assessment of victim's services in Marion County; and
- Mr. Gwinn and team will be in attendance at the breakfast.
- Jayne Downing agreed to be closing presenter and District Attorney Walt Beglau has agreed to be keynote speaker.
- Will have interviews with victim's services providers for the video as well as clients.
- Victim and client intertwined in system:
 - Ability to pay restitution through employment;
 - Tie to Justice Reinvestment;
 - Careful to tell the story correctly;
 - Need to lay out the reentry program in the video as well;
 - Discussion regarding restorative justice;
 - Part of successful reentry is acknowledging the harm to the victim; and
 - Will "up" the ask to \$20,000 to cover the additional victims' services portion of client fund.
- Request for sponsorships, form provided:
 - Submit to Community Services.
- Sheriff Jason Myers made a motion to allocate 10 percent to victims:
 - The motion was seconded by Michael Laharty; and
 - A voice vote was unanimous.

Closing

- Commander Wood adjourned the meeting.

Completed by: Allycia R. Weathers
Completed date: 8/10/2015