



PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

A meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council was held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025 in the MAC room at the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office and via Zoom virtual meeting platform

	Presiding Judge Wells Ashby (<i>Chair</i>)	x	Nick Lelack, <i>County Administrator (Vice Chair)</i>
x	Stephen Gunnels, <i>District Attorney</i>	x	Kent van der Kamp, <i>Deschutes County Sheriff</i>
	Mike Krantz, <i>Bend Police Chief</i>	x	Donna Mills, <i>Citizen Member</i>
x	Devin Lewis, <i>Redmond Police Chief</i>	x	Keith Witcosky, <i>Redmond City Manager</i>
	Jason van Meter, <i>Interim Sunriver Police Chief</i>		Thomas Spear, <i>Defense Attorney</i>
x	Sara Crosswhite, <i>Director 9-1-1 Operations</i>	x	Tanner Wark, <i>Deputy Director Community Justice for Deevy Holcomb, Director Community Justice</i>
x	Phil Chang, <i>County Commissioner</i>	x	Holly Harris, <i>Deputy Director Health Services for Janice Garceau, Director Health Services</i>
	Christa Neal, <i>Interim Trial Court Administrator</i>		Gil Levy, <i>Citizen Member and Director KIDS Center</i>
x	Mike Riley, <i>Bend City Councilor</i>		
x	Joseph Mabonga (<i>non-voting</i>), <i>Juvenile P&P Supervisor Oregon Youth Authority</i>		Brandon Smithers (<i>non-voting</i>), <i>Lieutenant Oregon State Police</i>
	Todd Rich (<i>Interested Party</i>), <i>Black Butte Ranch Police Chief</i>		Roger Olsen (<i>Interested Party</i>), <i>NAMI Central Oregon</i>

Also present were: Aaron Wells, *Under Sheriff DCSO*; Neil Marchington, *Deflection Program Coordinator DCSO*; Trevor Stephens, *Business Manager Community Justice*; Tanner Wark, *Deputy*

Director Adult P&P; Dominic Passarelli, Administrative Supervisor District Attorney's Office; Michael Shults, Captain DCSO; Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator; Nicole Borchert, Director Mary's Place; Taryn Ramos, Program Services Director Saving Grace; Theresa Peterson, Navigator Ideal Options; Brandy Alford, Navigator Ideal Options; and Angie Powers, Administrative Assistant BOCC.

Media present: Richard Coe, Editorial Page Editor The Bulletin

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Erik Kropp called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. Those attending the meeting in person and via Zoom introduced themselves.

2. Approval of LPSCC February and March Meeting Minutes

Motion: Chief Lewis moved approval of the February and March LPSCC minutes

Second: Donna Mills

Votes: All yes; Councilor Riley abstained. Motion carried

2. Public Comment – None

3. Deschutes County Deflection Program – Neil Marchington

Deputy Neil Marchington, Deflection Program Coordinator for Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, spoke about the County's deflection program. He defined deflection as a way to help people escape from addiction. Deflection is voluntary, but those choosing to participate will get immediate access to treatment. Peer Navigators help to reduce barriers to housing, employment and other services.

Marchington provided some statistics on the deflection program. To date, the County has had 11 successful and 10 unsuccessful deflections, with 14 active deflection clients enrolled at this time. Many clients have secured housing, employment and custody of their children. He emphasized that jail alone cannot fix addiction, and treatment is key. Requirements for eligibility were summarized.

They are in the early stages of developing a new officer and social referral pathway into deflection.

Marchington shared some recent examples of success stories. They are discussing reciprocity and partnerships between county programs, with Klamath and Marion counties open to the concept. This would allow rural clients to seek treatment in a different county closer to their home.

Marchington spoke about challenges and lessons learned. 75% of PCS-U crimes have additional crimes associated. Theft 2 is the most common crime associated with drug charges. Over 70% of law enforcement officers began their careers during Measure 110, so they are learning to operate under new drug laws. Additionally, search case law severely limits their ability to search individuals for drugs in the field.

Responding to Councilor Riley, the statistics provided go back to September 1st of last year when the deflection program began. Responding to Commissioner Chang, Marchington described the different referral pathways noting that most are officer referrals in which law enforcement officers transport individuals directly to a Peer Navigator at the Taylor Center. Officers can also provide individuals with after-hours referral cards.

If those charged with PCS-U are unable to be reached, Navigators are sent to arraignments to provide individuals with options. Officer and social referrals are exploratory at the current time. These referrals apply to those individuals who aren't currently charged with a misdemeanor crime but are asking for help.

Lelack provided the Navigators in attendance with an opportunity to share. Theresa Peterson said that Navigators provide people with hope and an opportunity to change their lives.

Responding to Joseph Mabonga, Marchington explained that officers have some discretion while working in the field. Manning the program around the clock would be difficult as they are cognizant not to burn out providers. Candidates for deflection are often deeply involved in the justice system, and they try to keep the process equitable. Deflection is a medical-based program, and they leave it to the medical professionals to make decisions on drug treatment options.

Responding to Holly Harris, Marchington said there is a deflection funding Senate hearing on Thursday, and he plans to testify. Deflection is part of the Governor's budget, and he is hopeful the program will receive adequate funding. Commissioner Chang plans to testify on Thursday as well.

4. Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Preliminary Grant Application 25-27 Biennium – Trevor Stephens

Trevor Stephens, Business Manager Community Justice, noted it is time to submit the JRI preliminary grant application for formula funding. It is submitted without a budget, but he anticipates it to be in the range of \$1.6 to \$1.8 million. In July we can apply for competitive and supplemental funding.

The formula grant was created out of HB 3194 to provide funds to counties to address concerns over the growing prison population. Goals include prison bed reduction,

reduction in recidivism, public safety and accountability. Stephens summarized additional components of the formula grant.

The County's Justice Reinvestment Program (JRP) has been in operation since 2016. The program's focus has been on downward departures, Short Term Transitional Leave (STTL) and the Alternative to Incarceration (AIP) programs.

The County's prison utilization is 57% of our baseline figure. Since program implementation, there have been no major increases in recidivism. We have not seen any spikes when releasing individuals early and placing them on supervision. Fluctuation has been minimal. The application and a copy of the letter of support are included in the agenda packet.

Motion: Sheriff van der Kamp moved approval of Chair Ashby or Vice Chair Lelack to sign a letter of support for the Justice Reinvestment Grant formula grant application for the 25-27 biennium.

Second: Commissioner Chang

Votes: All yes; motion passed

5. Justice Reinvestment Victim Service Committee 25-27 Biennium – Trevor Stephens

Trevor Stephens noted the committee must appoint a review committee as part of a competitive bid process. He asked for three to five volunteers then summarized last year's grant recipients. The committee will review the applications and make a formal recommendation to LPSCC at their June meeting, as who will be listed on the Justice Reinvestment Victim Service grant application.

The following LPSCC members will serve on the grant review subcommittee:

- Donna Mills, Citizen Member
- Nick Lelack, County Administrator
- Aaron Wells, Under Sheriff
- Sara Crosswhite, Director 9-1-1
- Phil Chang, County Commissioner

6. Juvenile Crime Prevention Application 25-27 Biennium

Trevor Stephens said that an application must be submitted with a LPSCC letter of support to apply for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Grant application (\$225,000 for the biennium). Grant funds will be used for Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) for young men on supervision and restorative accountability program management staff. A copy of the letter of support is included in the agenda packet.

Motion: Chief Lewis moved approval of Chair Ashby or Vice Chair Lelack to sign a letter of support for the Juvenile Crime Prevention Application for the 25-27 biennium.

Second: Joseph Mabonga

Votes: All yes; motion passed.

7. Agency Updates and Other Business - There were no other agency updates.

ADJOURNMENT: Vice Chair Lelack adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant