



PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

A meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council was held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 in the DeArmond room of the Deschutes Services Building and via Zoom virtual meeting platform

x	Presiding Judge Wells Ashby (<i>Chair</i>)	x	Nick Lelack, <i>County Administrator (Vice Chair)</i>
	Stephen Gunnels, <i>District Attorney</i>		Ty Rupert, <i>Deschutes County Sheriff</i>
x	Mike Krantz, <i>Bend Police Chief</i>	x	Donna Mills, <i>Citizen Member</i>
x	Devin Lewis, <i>Redmond Police Chief</i>		Keith Witcosky, <i>Redmond City Manager</i>
x	Pete Rasic, <i>Sunriver Police Chief (via Zoom)</i>	x	Mike Riley, <i>Bend City Councilor</i>
	Sara Crosswhite, <i>Director 9-1-1 Operations</i>	x	Deevy Holcomb, <i>Director Community Justice</i>
x	Phil Chang, <i>County Commissioner</i>	x	Holly Harris, <i>Director Health Services</i>
x	Zoe Wild, <i>Trial Court Administrator</i>	x	Gil Levy, <i>Citizen Member and Director KIDS Center</i>
	Vacant, <i>Defense Attorney or Public Defender</i>		<i>Quorum = 9 or more</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: Sonya Littledeer-Evans, *Deputy Director Community Justice*; Judge Owyhee Weikel-Magden, *Juvenile Delinquency Court Judge Pro Tem*; Trevor Stephens, *Business Manager Community Justice*; Lee Randall, *Facilities Director*; Abby Rowland, *Executive Director Saving Grace*; Erik Kropp, *Deputy County Administrator*; Robert Gilman, *Manager Juvenile Detention*;

Media present: Richard Coe, *Editorial Page Editor for The Bulletin*

1. Call to Order

Chair Ashby called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

Motion: Deevy Holcomb moved approval of the November 4, 2025 minutes

Second: Chief Lewis

Votes: All yes. Minutes approved.

5. Juvenile Detention 2025 Assessment

Deevy Holcomb, Sonya Littledeer-Evans, Judge Owyhee Wiekkel-Magden, and Gil Levy presented this item to the committee.

The Juvenile Detention Assessment workgroup consisted of 15 participants, representing those both with and without ties to juvenile justice. The group met five times for two hours each time. Holcomb and Littledeer-Evans were the group's facilitators. The group took a consensus approach to determine the best recommendation for an alternate staffing model under a limited budget growth strategy. Juvenile Detention staff provided input to the workgroup throughout the process.

Responding to Judge Ashby, Holcomb said that changes in detention needs over time, coupled with current County General Fund (GF) budget challenges, prompted the group's efforts. 90% of the department's funding is from the County's GF.

The Budget Committee asked Holcomb to evaluate current operations and alternate options for future operations. Holcomb and Erik Kropp referenced a memo which outlined the approach and charge. Holcomb then spoke about the vital 24/7 response services provided by Juvenile Detention.

Holcomb referenced the report included in the meeting packet, noting that today's request is to consider a motion to support the workgroup's recommendation. A

timeline illustrates that in January/February 2026, staff will share the recommendation with the Budget Committee. The Board of Commissioners are aware of the charge and as part of the annual budget process, Community Justice will propose a budget in alignment with the group's recommendation.

Littledeer-Evans provided some background and context. As noted by Holcomb and Kropp, due to budget constraints in the County's GF, the department was asked to plan for a limited growth strategy over the next five years. Additionally, juvenile detention admissions have trended steadily downward over the past 15 years. While recognizing the vital services provided, there is a 24/7 operations requirement regardless of the number of juveniles housed. This requirement includes providing education, healthcare, adequate gender ratios, among other services. On another note, the building is 27 years old and would be difficult to remodel as it was built for secure confinement.

Littledeer-Evans likened juvenile detention to an "insurance policy" or a firehouse. She acknowledged that while it is expensive to operate the facility 24/7, when it is needed, it plays a critical role in ensuring immediate community safety. She noted that Deschutes County's facility is used as a regional facility where all youth are assessed and triaged. The facility serves Deschutes, Crook, Jefferson, Harney, and Baker counties. Additionally, a nonprofit who operates a residential program in the building serves youth from all over the state of Oregon.

Responding to Judge Ashby, Holcomb said that the regional partner use of the facility is revenue negative and currently operates on a per-diem basis. A statewide agreement requires counties to house a juvenile from any county overnight free of charge, then a fee of \$180 per day per youth is assessed. Responding to Lelack's question related to subsidizing other counties, Holcomb noted that all counties in the state who operate juvenile facilities are struggling with expensive costs.

Levy noted that if Deschutes County did not have an operating facility, it would create a burden on the rest of the state. Commissioner Chang referred to a cost study completed by Adult Parole and Probation, estimating the actual cost per supervised individual per day, and questioned whether a similar juvenile study has value. He also asked whether it may be appropriate for counties to come together in agreement on an adequate charge per juvenile per day to get closer to revenue neutral. Holcomb said there are currently no proposals in the short legislative session nor are they likely in the long session, but there are initial conversations happening with all counties who operate juvenile detention facilities.

Judge Weikel-Magden described the consensus-based process to determine the best option for adapting necessary 24/7 juvenile detention services over the next five years and described four main goals as reflected on a slide. All fifteen members of the workgroup were fully engaged with shared values and goals. The result was a

consensus recommendation, with everyone supporting the recommendation in the end, and none objecting. Judge Weikel-Magden expressed her appreciation for Holcomb, Littledeer-Evans and staff.

Holcomb spoke in detail about the current footprint/capacity and four alternate options, referencing the color-coded table on page 3 of the Community Workgroup Report. She discussed some of the advantages and disadvantages of each, while acknowledging that staffing is the most expensive cost of operating a facility. The table estimates what each alternative option would cost over the next five years, through FY20, noting that the current baseline is not sustainable. She highlighted the far-right column which summarizes the lowest cost option that would eliminate the local juvenile detention facility, noting that this option would have costs associated with transporting youth to another county's facility.

Judge Weikel-Magden spoke about how the group arrived at reduced footprint Option B. She noted the lowest cost option was appealing to many in the group due to the \$3.6 million surplus. However, the lack of control over detention, the risk and liability associated with transport, and the separation of juveniles from their family and support services resulted in this option being eliminated from consideration. The long-term goal is to return juveniles to the community in a safe and responsible way and to mitigate damage.

Responding to Judge Ashby, Judge Weikel-Magden said that families do show up for juveniles in detention. Responding to Commissioner Chang, Littledeer-Evans said that family and community connections lead to better outcomes. Behavioral health and education resources are protective factors, and the removal of juveniles from their community causes disruption and increases the risk of reoffending. She distinguished protective factors from risk factors. Mabonga echoed these comments, noting that Deschutes County has the best juvenile facility that he's seen in his career and closing the facility would be a huge loss for the community.

Levy noted that initially, Option B wasn't offered but the workgroup asked for an option that was a hybrid of Options A and C. From the workgroup's standpoint, he spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of each option. The group's consensus was that Option B is the most favorable and balanced option, resulting in only a \$280,000 deficit in the next five years. Responding to Councilor Riley and Judge Ashby, Stephens added that the \$280,000 deficit doesn't occur until FY30, and this budget estimate does include annual escalators.

Responding to Commissioner Chang, Holcomb spoke about the impacts of natural attrition on staffing. She then reported that her department is currently at 15.8 total staff, which is the total staff number in Option B. Although the current footprint/capacity reflects 20 staff, the department was previously closer to 17. She is confident that the department can operate at 15.8, noting that staff have become

flexible and adaptive over the past several years. The department is currently shifting from specialization to generalization, with staff being cross trained.

Although Option B is not the cheapest option, Holcomb is confident it is good use of public money and will be asking the Budget Committee to allow the department a chance to make it work. The department will integrate detention and probation services into one seamless juvenile community justice program.

Judge Weikel-Magden offered up the topic for dialogue and discussion, asking the group if this recommendation (Option B) meets the needs of the committee. Commissioner Chang commented "These are our kids", and it is important to keep them close to their families, service providers, and judges. Judge Ashby said that Deschutes County is special, highlighting its collaboration and community spirit. His hope is for juveniles to be successful, emphasizing the unique opportunity to change outcomes at the youth level.

Donna Mills likened juvenile detention to preventative medicine. It is important to provide youth with tools before trauma informed care is necessary.

Councilor Riley shared that his son was in the juvenile system 6 to 8 years ago. He echoed his support for not selecting the lowest cost "assess and transport" option. He acknowledged that navigating the system would be difficult for those families with limited resources. He echoed Commissioner Chang's comment "These are our kids".

Chief Lewis noted that the lowest cost option is not feasible. He believes that Option B makes sense and balances multiple factors, keeping the community safe and investing in juvenile justice.

Kropp commended the department for completing a thorough analysis.

Lelack thanked department leadership for the analysis and said that he believes that Option B is a solid recommendation. He also echoed Commissioner Chang's comment "These are our kids".

Brister noted that when kids are transported, they get lost as issues arise related to medical insurance, family visitation, and other factors.

Chang noted other concerns related to staff safety and job security.

Judge Ashby expressed his full confidence in Holcomb and her staff. He spoke to the credibility of the workgroup.

Motion: Mike Riley moved LPSCC support the Juvenile Detention 2025 Assessment community workgroup recommendation to continue to provide local detention and 24/7 services under the reduced staffing model on slide 8: Option 2B - 15.8 FTE

Second: Donna Mills

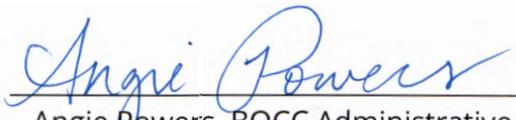
Votes: All yes. Motion approved.

6. Agency Announcements / Other

Judge Ashby shared that Judge Randy Miller is taking over as Presiding Judge, effective January 1, 2026. This means that Judge Ashby may not remain a member of this committee, but it would allow him more time in the courtroom. Lelack thanked Judge Ashby for chairing the Public Safety Coordinating Council.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Ashby adjourned the meeting at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant