



PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

A meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council was held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 via Zoom virtual meeting platform

x	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>
x	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>
x	Stephen Lopez, <i>Sunriver Police Chief</i>	x	Thomas Spear, <i>Defense Attorney</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>		Janice Garceau, <i>Director Health Services</i>
x	Angie Curtis, <i>Court Administrator</i>	x	Gil Levy, <i>Citizen Member and Director KIDS Center</i>
	Vacant/TBD, <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 Interim Police Chief</i>		Roger Olsen (<i>Interested Party</i>), <i>NAMI Central Oregon</i>

Also present were: Erik Kropp, *Deputy County Administrator*; Trevor Stephens, *Business Manager Community Justice*; Angie Powers, *Administrative Assistant BOCC*; Justin Bendele, *Supervisor Adult Parole & Probation*; Tanner Wark, *Deputy Director Community Justice*; Erica Wimbish, *Peer Support Specialist Behavioral Health*; Morgan Bates, *Officer Parole and Probation*; Dominic Passarelli, *Administrative Supervisor DA's Office*; Nicole Borchert, *Director Mary's Place*; Abby Rowland, *Executive Director Saving Grace*; Joanne Mina, *community member*; Bradley Porterfield, *community member*.

1. Call to Order and Introductions – Chair Presiding Judge Wells Ashby

Chair Ashby called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. Approval of LPSCC October Meeting Minutes – Chair Ashby

Motion: Donna Mills made a motion to approve the October 1, 2024 minutes as presented

Second: Nick Lelack

Votes: All yes; motion carried

3. Public Comment – Chair Ashby

Bradley Porterfield spoke about the threats of mass arrests and deportations to our immigrant communities from the new administration, and wished to know how local law enforcement will respond. He expressed concerns that law-abiding immigrants who are actively contributing to our economy and culture will be targeted, not just those who have been found guilty of committing crimes.

Judge Ashby expressed appreciation for his comments, stating that the courts feel strongly for equal access to justice and legal protections for all without regard to immigration status. Although illegal immigration is a political policy issue, access to justice is at the core of the judiciary.

Mr. Porterfield shared a legal resource for local law enforcement:

https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/ice_warrants_may_2017.pdf.

Mr. Porterfield would like to hear a future discussion about what the Bend Police Department has learned, and what changes they have made since the August 2020 incident with ICE in Bend. He would also like to see a regional law enforcement effort focused on the issue and to share information and policies.

Joanne Mina, a longtime resident of Deschutes County who works with the Latino Community Association (LCA), provided public comment. She cited a concerning letter circulating in Lincoln County with the goal of mobilizing community members to engage in discrimination and hate, creating distrust and uncertainty across the community. She wishes for all authorities to have uniform protocols in place on how to engage and to detach from any overlap in collaboration to avoid racist ideologies. Overlapping collaboration due in part to overlapping databases, are prohibited by state law.

She extended an invitation for all in attendance to join LCA's United for Justice campaign. This campaign offers many training opportunities. This Saturday, January 11th from 2 to 4 p.m. they will host a Hate and Bias training including bystander intervention strategies, in the Brooks room of the Downtown Bend library.

Chief Lewis shared that his department has collaborated with Redmond School District, High Desert Education Service District and DA Gunnels to come up with a protocol designed specifically for school districts. They will follow **ORS 181A.820** and will not assist federal immigration authorities without ensuring a valid judicial arrest warrant for a criminal violation is in place.

Judge Ashby thanked Mr. Porterfield and Ms. Mina for their public comments. He wants the courts to be a safe place to go where individuals can seek legal relief. He highlighted the importance of clear communication between law enforcement agencies. On next month's agenda, he is willing to speak about how the courts will deal with these issues.

Commissioner Chang acknowledged the desire for communities to have clear expectations of how law enforcement will respond. He suggested law enforcement colleagues might consider penning a guest column outlining their response.

Chief Krantz shared that Bend PD has an explicit written policy on how they interact with federal immigration officials, including their responsibilities and response. They are in alignment with Oregon state laws. The policy is on their public website.

Responding to Mr. Porterfield, Chief Krantz said there is not a general regional (tri-county) law enforcement team. Chief Lewis shared the school district guidance document will be distributed throughout the region and will outline what law enforcement can and cannot do, in terms of immigration enforcement and arrests. Federal authorities must have a valid arrest warrant. Otherwise, local law enforcement will not assist.

Chair Lewis shared a link to resources regarding Oregon's sanctuary laws:
<https://www.doj.state.or.us/oregon-department-of-justice/civil-rights/sanctuary-promise/community-toolkit/>

4. Officer Elections – Chair Ashby

Chair Ashby and Vice Chair Lelack both shared that they are both willing to continue serving as Committee Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, if no other interest is expressed by others.

Motion: Donna Mills made a motion nominating Judge Ashby as Chair for another three-year term

Second: Commissioner Chang

Votes: All yes; motion passed

Motion: Chief Krantz made a motion nominating Nick Lelack as Vice Chair for another three-year term

Second: Deevy Holcomb

Votes: All yes; motion passed

5. Justice Involved Women on Community Supervision – Justin Bendele and Erica Wimbish

Deevy Holcomb introduced Community Justice Adult Parole and Probation Supervisor Justin Bendele and Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist Erica Wimbish. They shared a presentation on what they're doing to improve upon how they work with justice-involved women.

Bendele said that Jackson County was the first to kick off a similar gender-responsive program. He shared that women's pathways to the criminal justice system are different than men's. Additionally, women require a supportive, relational approach and enter with the expectation that we are there to help them. Women are more successful when a gender-responsive approach is taken.

Wimbish shared her own personal story of how she entered the justice system as a juvenile. She became stuck in a holding pattern of substance use and criminal activity and spent five years on supervised probation in and out of the courts. Speaking from personal experience, she yearned for someone to support her and wanted help. A female PO gave her a second chance, when she asked her for community service in lieu of jail and the female PO obliged. This changed her life and she's been clean for eight years. She said a gender responsive program will reduce the trauma women experience as they navigate the process, and she is eager to see the positive outcomes.

Bendele summarized a historical timeline of what they have been doing to improve how they deal with female clients. It is important for them to ask the right questions, focus on what prevents crime, assess operations to ensure effective practices, improve their trauma-informed care approach, and implement/evaluate physical spaces, policies and procedures.

Bendele summarized things that are important to keep in mind when working with women. In general, women pose less of a public safety risk than men. Accountability is crucial, and it must be determined if defiance/non-compliance is a survival skill or if it is criminal thinking then respond accordingly. Rehabilitation includes reinforcement, relationship building and building resilience.

Bendele welcomed those in attendance to please reach out to him or Tanner Wark with any questions about the program.

Chair Ashby thanked Bendele for his informative presentation on a gender-responsive approach and Wimbish for her personal testimony. Vice Chair Lelack echoed these sentiments. Mabonga said he is grateful for this important work and thanked Wimbish for being sharing her story.

Responding to Witcosky, Bendele said the program currently has three Parole Officers with a caseload of 30 clients each.

6. Ongoing Program Updates – Public Defense Crisis – Chair Ashby

Chair Ashby said that major crimes such as homicides have disrupted the progress that had been made. Homicides have put a strain on public defense resources. They continue to work with justice partners. The good news is that hiring at public defense firms is up and non-trial methods for resolution are being utilized. The unrepresented docket is currently staffed by Judge Ashby and DA Gunnels, and the situation is much better than it was a few months ago. DA Gunnels said this is a testament to our local courts and attorneys who have stepped up. Judge Ashby recognized Becky Williams for her tireless work on this public safety issue.

7. Agency Updates and Other Business – Chair Ashby

Discussion ensued regarding the committee meeting in-person.

Commissioner Chang said that he would find great value in meeting 3-4 times per year in person to help build personal relationships, depending on the meatiness of the agenda topics.

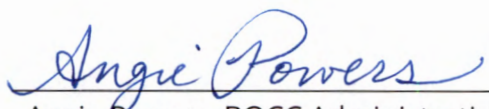
Mills suggested that in-person meetings be the norm, and reserve Zoom meetings for inclement weather or light agendas. Additionally, meetings should not be scheduled unless necessary.

It was determined that the April 1st meeting will take place in-person at the Sheriff's Office, and at that time the committee can discuss the meeting schedule moving forward.

Chief Lopez notified the group that he is headed to work for Redmond PD and will notify the committee on the new Sunriver Police Chief, once that has been determined.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Ashby adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant