



PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

A meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council was held at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 via Zoom virtual meeting platform

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| x | Judge Wells Ashby (<i>Chair</i>) | | Nick Lelack, <i>County Administrator (Vice Chair)</i> |
| x | Stephen Gunnels, <i>District Attorney</i> | | L. Shane Nelson, <i>Deschutes County Sheriff</i> |
| | Mike Krantz, <i>Bend Police Chief</i> | x | Anthony Broadman, <i>Bend City Councilor</i> |
| | 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> |
| x | Donna Mills, <i>Citizen Member</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> |
| x | Jason Van Meter (<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: Michael Shults, *Captain Deschutes County Sheriff's Office*; Erik Kropp, *Deputy County Administrator*; Trevor Stephens, *Business Manager Community Justice*; and Angie Powers, *Administrative Assistant BOCC*; Breanne Barrett, *J Bar J Youth Services*; Cheryl Csiky, *In Our Backyard*; Gail Bartley, *Mary's Place (Saving Grace)*; Heather Dion, *CASA of Central Oregon*.

Media present: Richard Coe, *The Bulletin*

1. Call to Order and Introductions:

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

2. Approval of LPSCC Meeting Minutes:

Action: Deevy Holcomb moved approval of the July 2, 2024 minutes

Second: Commissioner Chang seconded the motion

Votes: All Yes. Motion carried

3. Public Comment:

None presented.

4. JRI Victim's Services Annual Report

Trevor Stephens, Business Manager Community Justice, summarized that 10% of the Justice Reinvestment Investment (JRI) funds go towards victim's services organizations in Deschutes County. Five of these agencies are joining the meeting to share how they've used the funds over the past year.

CASA of Central Oregon: Heather Dion, Executive Director of CASA Central Oregon, provided an overview of her organization and how they've utilized their JRI grant funds. CASA recruits, trains, and supports volunteers to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates for children in foster care. Volunteers complete a background check and complete 40 hours of training and are sworn in as officers of the court. CASA staff provide a high level of support to their volunteers. CASA volunteers work with ODS Child Welfare and attend trials to speak to the child's best interests. In 2023, 313 children spent time in foster care in Deschutes County due to being removed from their home for neglect or abuse. Over the past year, 5 trainings were held, and 27 new CASA volunteers were recruited. 182 volunteers served children in the tri-county area. Last year, 275 children (88% of foster children) were served by a CASA, and the statewide average is 50%. Dion said they are always looking for more volunteers and aim for 100%.

Responding to Witcosky, volunteers commit an average of 10 to 15 hours per month. CASA asks volunteers for a two-year commitment, as two years is the average amount of time children spend in foster care in our region.

Responding to Mabonga, CASA works closely with ODHS after children enter foster care. While they ask their volunteers for a two-year commitment, their longest serving current CASA volunteer has served for 14 years. This is to provide for continuity, as they want to minimize children from having to transition to a new CASA volunteer.

In Our Backyard: Cheryl Csiky provided a brief report. Her organization's goal is to assist adults who are being trafficked. She is a survivor herself. In Central Oregon, she shared that there is a 60-day waiting period to see a trauma-licensed therapist. Her organization has a referral list of licensed therapists who will see survivors within three days of the request. Their office is a crisis center and those in crisis can be seen within 24 hours. One to two appointments are covered by the grant, and they assist clients in signing up for OHP to cover future appointments. They also have a prevention curriculum they share in schools.

Holcomb stated she appreciates the emphasis Csiky placed on the partnership between advocates and those in tough situations and it's important to "seize the moment" when those in crisis are ready to get out and to get help.

Anti-Trafficking Project (J Bar J Youth Services): Bre Barrett, Anti-Trafficking Project at J Bar J, spoke about the program. They provide direct services to sex and labor trafficking victims and survivors. One piece includes crisis intervention (responding with law enforcement as an advocate), to meet their immediate needs and long-term case management. Last year they worked with 82 clients, and one of their clients' greatest needs is getting into stable long-term housing. They help to reduce barriers to housing access. JRI grant funding funds a bilingual housing navigator to help reduce barriers, payment of housing application and deposit fees, and housing retention (one month of rental assistance). Twelve survivors of trafficking (9 sex-trafficked and 3 labor-trafficked) and five of their family members have benefitted from JRI grant funds. Bre shared a quote from a client: "Thank you so, so much. I am beyond grateful to the AT Project. I cannot wait to be on my feet and stable. Thank you for helping me survive and thrive."

KIDS Center: Gil Levy shared that the KIDS Center is a children's advocacy center to evaluate and treat children suspected of suffering from some sort of abuse. They work closely with child welfare, prosecution and law enforcement plus many other community partners. JRI funding has gone specifically towards this work provided by their professional team. They are a medical model of a children's advocacy center. Children receive checkups and forensic interviews are provided. Needs of family members are addressed directly in-house or through partner referrals. JRI funds are an important ingredient for this work and are impactful. They are seeing a sustained increase in the number of children being sent to the KIDS Center, and Levy provided some statistics. This year, they have served 310 children so far (217 from Deschutes County). Last calendar year, 270 children were served in total. Historically, 75-80% of the children they have served were from Deschutes County; now they are trending at 70% from Deschutes County while Jefferson/Crook County referral rates have grown.

Mary's Place (Saving Grace): Gail Bartley, Program Director, shared a slide presentation. Mary's Place is a supervised visitation and safe exchange program. She provided some case studies of violent criminal acts which occurred during child custody exchanges. There is a real public safety reason why they have Mary's Place in Deschutes

County. A brief history of the safe haven model for visit/exchange centers was outlined. Saving Grace was selected as the appropriate partner to operate Deschutes County's visitation center. Child custody exchanges take place at their facility. Access in/out of building is monitored by trauma-informed staff. Over 1,000 supervised visits and safe exchanges took place during FY 23-24. Most of their referrals come from Deschutes County courts. 98% of respondents report feeling safer utilizing Mary's Place and believe it's an essential service. She expressed gratitude for the JRI funding.

Responding to Holcomb, Bartley said there is not official security staff and staff must contact law enforcement if a situation becomes unsafe. They have a lot of in-house security measures and screen applicants. They get to know the people they are working with, so they can gauge when something may be "off".

Action: Donna Mills moved approval of the JRI Victim's Services Annual Report

Second: Keith Witcosky seconded the motion

Votes: All Yes. Motion carried

5. JRI Program Semi Annual Report

Trevor Stephens shared a slide presentation. Every six months he reports on the JRI program and how it's operating within Deschutes County. The Justice Reinvestment Program (JRP) was created out of HB 3194 and addresses concerns over the growing prison population with three goals in mind: prison bed reduction, reduction in recidivism for drug, property and some prison-eligible driving offenses, and a focus on public safety and holding clients accountable. JRP has three grant components: formula grant, competitive grant and supplemental grant. There is also a 10% grant to the victim's services organizations we just heard from.

Action: Witcosky moved approval of the submission of the Q4 and Q4 JRP Semi-Annual Report to the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission

Second: Commissioner Chang seconded the motion

Votes: All Yes. Motion carried

6. Agency Updates and Other Business

Judge Ashby shared that the courthouse expansion construction is well underway and will leave our community in a good place for decades to come and he expressed gratitude.

He is getting their newest judge trained through Mary's Place.

Progress continues to be made towards the public defense crisis. Two issues have been identified. Two providers were ready to hire public defenders, but the Oregon Public Defense Commission (OPDC) was unable to move fast enough to get them hired. Consequently, these potential public defenders moved on to other opportunities.

Another issue is that attorneys have been more reluctant to picking up cases for unrepresented Spanish-speaking clients.

He thanked victim's services providers for their presentations and it's inspirational to hear about the important work being done.

Holcomb reminded everyone in attendance that TK Floyd Foutz's Implicit Bias training will take place tomorrow at Adult Parole and Probation. Arrival time is 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

T.J. Spear, Defense Attorney and member of Bend Attorney Group, vouched for the hiring delays due to OPDC which Judge Ashby spoke about.

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Ashby adjourned the meeting at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Angie Powers, BOCC Administrative Assistant