

MINUTES

Public Safety Coordinating Council
John Serbu Center, Carmichael Room
2727 Martin Luther King Boulevard—Eugene, Oregon

March 17, 2011
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Tim Laue, Chair; Paul Solomon, Vice Chair; Jacque Betz (arrived at 2:17 p.m.), Joan Copperwheat, Stephen Davis, Tom English, Karen Gillette, Greg Hazarabedian, Roland Hoskins, Andrea Ortiz, Dave Ralston (for Hillary Wylie), Faye Stewart, Steve Swenson (for Pete Kerns), Tom Turner, members; Robert Edwards, *ex officio* member; Susan Sowards, staff.

GUESTS: Doug Hooley, Randy Smith, Greg Fox, Lane County Sheriff's Office; Andrea Schlessinger, Parole and Probation; Lynn Schroeder, Lane County Youth Services; Rob Handy, Lane County Board of Commissioners.

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Douglas Bakke, Maryann Bearden, Alex Gardner, Rob Rockstroh, David Winett, Hillary Wylie, Pete Kerns, members.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Laue convened the meeting of the Public Safety Coordinating Council (PSCC) at 2:05 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

III. Public Comment

There was no one who wished to provide public comment.

IV. January 20, 2011 Minutes

Noting no objections, Mr. Laue deemed the minutes approved.

V. County Budget Report

Mr. Stewart reported that Ms. Richardson was working with staff to gather information and planned to submit a proposed budget to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) by the end of March 2011. Cost savings including no cost of living increases (COLA) to employees who did not already have COLA as part of their contracts would reduce the deficit to \$6 million. She was exploring all options to close the deficit including cutting programs and was asking employees to help.

Mr. Stewart was in Washington, D.C. in early March with the United Front delegation. Everyone in the delegation wanted to find a way to reauthorize the federal Secure Rural Schools funding. The challenge was how to find the offsets to fund Secure Rural Schools. Representative Greg Walden, who is now in a leadership position, had helped craft the rules under which the U.S. House of Representatives operated and wanted to support Secure Rural Schools and find a way to fund the program. Due to the rules the House adopted, it would be very difficult to find a way to do so. The Secure Rural Schools program was in President Obama's budget at a reduced level and continues on a downward glide path to zero in five years. The coalition which represented counties and school districts in 41 states had initiated the Campaign for Rural America which was working to fund the ten year authorization at the 80 percent level received two years ago. In addition to looking for offsets and having the Secure Rural Schools program included in the budget, Senator Ron Wyden was crafting a stand alone bill that he could place in any bill that moved forward in the next year.

Mr. Stewart said after meeting with the Supervisory Authority Team it was apparent that the Community Corrections Act budget would be \$550,000 less than it was originally, but no recommendation has been developed for the Adult Committee. Opt out options for Parole and Probation, even though that was not considered a viable option, were being considered. Efficiencies in other programs were under consideration. Lane County Mental Health (LCMH) said it would no longer provide mental health services to corrections which would represent one program reduction. However, the services were needed and it would not be easy to determine how they would be provided.

Mr. Hooley concurred with Mr. Stewart, noting there was always pressure through County budget cycle to submit a budget proposal, which meant staff would have to make a best guess on what the State of Oregon would do. Staff were assuming the same percentage of offenders in the state but the state regularly recalculated the baseline based on the total offender population, which had dropped and would result in a smaller amount of funding. It would not be possible to fund programs at the same level next year.

In response to a question from Mr. Hazarabedian, Mr. Stewart said the County was currently in negotiations with AFSCME employees and they were the only ones who would be asked to accept no increase in COLA.

In response to Mr. Laue, Mr. Hooley said LCMH had cited the offender population not matching the target of their mission as a reason for dropping corrections clients from their client list.

Ms. Betz arrived.

Mr. Stewart stated Governor Kitzhaber had put significant energy into restructuring provision of health care services and there were concerns among Health and Human Services staff that the County may no longer provide health services and have the public health authority it had in the past. There were concerns among other counties that they would be phased out of providing health and human services.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Adult Committee—No report. Mr. Laue stated a PSCC meeting was tentatively scheduled for June 23, 2011 for the PSCC to adopt the Community Corrections Plan before the 2011 Legislative Session ended and the PSCC went on hiatus.

- b. Juvenile Committee—Mr. Hoskins reported the committee met last week to discuss the Disproportionate Minority Confinement issue. Notices were sent to interested parties, including some PSCC members, which explained the next steps in the process. Staff planned to invite community leaders and agencies to form a steering committee that will meet in May to review their role in the project to provide resources to go to the problem solving phase. A subgroup would identify and narrow down the problems to provide two or three issues by the end of June, after which the project would be handed back to DYS. The committee also approved using some available funds for the MLK program which was teetering.

VII. Intra-System Communication

Mr. Laue said the focus of this year's work plan is to identify minimally adequate public safety and health services, what would happen in the event of a public safety emergency, and how that emergency declaration would be communicated to the Board of County Commissioners and the Oregon State Legislature

Mr. Turner liked the idea of being able to declare a public safety emergency as soon as possible. The information on the report card indicated that the County was woefully below the standards. The Sheriff's Office was anticipating a reduction of \$1.2 million next year. He said patrols would be reduced from 24 to 16 hours, which was risky. It also meant several patrol positions would be eliminated. Privatizing medical, laundry and food services at the jail were under consideration for privatization. There were a number of union issues that needed to be addressed. If sufficient savings were not realized, there would be a reduction in staff and in the number of available jail beds, which would be below what the County was required to provide. He opined the problem would be worse next year.

Mr. English said he had no "dog in the fight", and emphasized the importance of engaging the public in budget discussions.

Ms. Betz said the City of Florence started its budget process last week. The City was fortunate that many people who bought property in Florence had paid cash. The City was still receiving property tax revenue and there were relatively few mortgage foreclosures. The message was that the City needed to hold the line which meant needing to justify filling vacancies created by retirements. The City would continue to operate the jail. The City needed to determine how it would fund \$65 million in capital projects in the future. As a result of the recent tsunami, the community wanted the City to provide funding for emergency preparedness, which the City does not have the budget for.

Mr. Ralston said the City of Springfield had been positioning itself over the years by making cuts. Although some cuts would be necessary, it would not be overwhelming. He added the police and fire departments were doing well, and the jail was doing great.

Ms. Ortiz said the City of Eugene had also been fiscally conservative for a long time but would still take some hits. She thought the staff looked haggard, because she knew they were doing double duty.

Ms. Gillette said radiation concerns had been raised for Public Health staff. This served as a reminder that Public Health was there. The department was facing some uncertainty with the Legislature related to loss of funding for immunization programs which were important for maintaining a healthy disease level. With a loss of State funding, she was concerned with the ability of the communicable disease program to

respond to public health emergencies and to be in the forefront for those services. H1N1 had been a good practice for the real thing.

Mr. Hoskins reported Youth Services had received no word from the State about basic funding which funded the detention portion of the facility. There were still no dollars allocated for that service. Supervision services had received a slight increase in funding but there did not appear to be much flexibility in how the money could be used. There was lots of uncertainty with the State funding which made it hard for staff to reshape what it would do. A placeholder budget had been submitted to the County Administrator. There could be scenarios where the facility was down to eight detention beds, when sixteen was not currently enough. He did not expect the County to provide funding for the District Attorney (DA), Sheriff and Youth Services to sustain any meaningful level of service. He understood the DA would lose funding for Assistant DAs, as well as the Sheriff's Office losing funding. The Governor's budget called for eliminating 475 beds in the Oregon Youth Authority system which meant those youth would be pushed back into the communities. There were discussions about regional youth offender centers. He predicted if high risk kids were put back into the community, delinquency and crime would go up. This would increase the demand for County Youth Services, and there would not be places for those offenders to keep the community safe. He added there was no funding through the Workforce Investment Act for vocational programs.

Mr. Edwards reported OSP was in a similar boat, and stable for the remainder of the biennium. In Lane County, there are 23 troopers stationed in Springfield, 4 in Florence and 3 in Oakridge. It was difficult to assess the budget for the next biennium. There were 60 vacancies statewide, one of which was in Springfield, which contributed to the stability in Lane County for the current biennium. Some larger offices and some coastal offices did not have the personnel they needed to function properly.

Mr. Hazarabedian said Public Defender Services of Lane County is a private, non-profit organization funded by the State. The Office of Public Defense Services was a body of State government created in 2001 that received the appropriation from the Legislature. The Governor's budget proposed a 5 percent cut that could develop into a downward spiral and could result in layoffs. He explained as local law enforcement agencies lost staff, fewer people would be on felony probation. Community Corrections dollars are based on the number of people under supervision, i.e., the felony probation population. This would further impact the local case load, which could result in staff being laid off because there was not a sufficient case load to sustain the Public Defender Services' contract with the State.

Mr. Hazarabedian said he had attended the Project Homeless Connect program held at the Lane County Fair Grounds. The program had a record attendance of 15,095 homeless people, an increase of 13 percent over 2010.

Ms. Ortiz added she had helped in the medical area of Project Homeless Connect. She had assisted people who had access to medical services but because of the increase in co-pays for the Oregon Health Plan and because Medicare did not cover medications, people were not taking their medications and they did not have the money to finish their treatments.

Ms. Copperwheat stated Community Corrections was waiting to find out how much funding would be available for CCA funded programs. Parole Officer positions were stable, but she was concerned about availability of other services, including mental health, for their clients. They were seeing more and more clients who desperately need mental health treatment, and there was no place to send them.

Mr. Swenson said the Eugene Police Department (EPD) was experiencing many retirements and facing a shrinking budget. The department had done a lot of realignment in the department and repositioning

people to do extra jobs, reducing the number of captains from three to two. EPD was attempting to be more efficient and effective with the deployment of officers, and trying to expand services with new teams. Property crimes seemed to be coming down. The Budget Committee had been supportive of public safety in the past by providing the department with what it needed to do the work, for which the department was grateful.

Mr. Stewart said when he was in Washington, D.C. recently, he met with people from COPS and other agencies. The federal agencies thought they would have funds that would be disbursed through the grant process to support programs such as Sponsors, which provided services for recently released offenders for job training and housing. The Department of Labor, which had supported youth labor programs for at risk youth in the past, would have some funding available. As BCC Chair, he would do everything he could to reach out and strengthen partnerships with other organizations. He had met with City of Florence staff and would meet with UO staff and Junction City leadership this week, and was attempting to reach out weekly and communicate that if Lane County had to cut \$20 million over the next two years, it would not be the same organization it was today. It was important to work together in a partnership to meet the community's needs, which were increasing rather than going away. He was encouraged by peoples' willingness to work together. He said Mohawk High School would host another *Every 15 Minute* program on April 13 and 14 presented by Lane County Deputy Sheriff Dave Silano which addressed the fact that every 15 minutes a teenage youth would die in an alcohol related accident. He commended the Lane County Sheriff's Office for supporting the program. Metro TV had filmed the program last year and he was working to get the program on the County's webpage.

Mr. Solomon said his agency did a lot with a small budget. Sponsors currently has nine buildings at four sites which provide 128 beds. The agency is looking at a 30 to 40 percent budget reduction from a variety of sources, including Community Corrections, State funding, and alternative incarceration programs. He had been in Salem, and drug treatment and cognitive skills programs were eliminated from the Governor's budget, resulting in a \$16 million cut in funding. There was a possibility that funding would be restored, but ultimately, the only way Sponsors would be able handle that large of a loss would be to close buildings, the first of which would be the sex offender house. Due to the difficulty of siting those services in the community, once they were cut they were difficult to restart. Sponsors currently receives FEMA funding which was not in the President's proposed budget. Sponsors serves 300 to 400 medium and high risk, homeless offenders annually in the housing program who had been released from institutions. Those people who most needed the services would end up on the streets. The agency had been able to leverage various grants by using their bread and butter contracts as match for grant funding. However, many grant funded programs such as the reentry mentoring program and resource center were targeted for reductions. The heart of Sponsors' program is housing and the services associated with the housing. Without housing funding, things would fall apart. He noted he would need to find another mental health provider since Lane County Mental Health would no longer serve corrections clients.

VIII. Committee Reports

a. Workplan Task Force

- **HB 2475**—Mr. Laue directed PSCC members to House Bill (HB) 2475, a copy of which was included in the agenda packet. The bill would allow county governing bodies to ask for an emergency designation when they were faced with a fiscal emergency or anticipated being faced with a fiscal emergency. Regardless of whether or not the bill was passed, Mr. Laue anticipated the county would be facing an emergency July 1, 2011. He directed PSCC members to the administrative rules information implementing Senate Bill (SB) 77 that had been

distributed to members. Ms. Sowards asked members to let her know if any of the data was inaccurate.

- **Scope for Completing the PSCC Workplan Defining a Minimally Adequate Public Safety System and What Constitutes a Public Safety Emergency for Lane County**—Mr. Laue proposed asking law enforcement, corrections, social service, mental health and other agencies to identify their current level of services, their historic level of services, where they may have fallen below the minimally adequate level in the past, when they anticipated in the future they would fall below the minimally adequate level of service, using the template included in the agenda packet. He asked PSCC members to complete the template for their agencies and forward them to Ms. Sowards. They will be reviewed at a meeting of the PSCC Workplan Workgroup in April or May, and presented to the PSCC at the May 19, 2011 meeting. He understood Court Services might lose the Drug Court and the DA's office could lose two or three prosecutors, both of which had serious implications.
- **Justice Reinvestment Initiative Solicitation**—Ms. Sowards stated that the initiative provided an opportunity for technical assistance and to complete a planning process to look at justice reinvestment in the community. This data driven approach fit well with the PSCC's workplan to reduce corrections and related criminal justice spending, reinvesting those savings, and reworking the system to be more efficient. Implementation funding was available to help with the transition to how we do business. Ms. Sowards directed PSCC members to the *Grant Opportunity Overview* and *Grant Writing Workplan* documents in the agenda packet. Liane Richardson was willing for County Administration to be the applicant for the project. The PSCC needed to decide if it wanted to move forward with the application and appoint an individual as the jurisdictional champion for the application.

Mr. English, seconded by Mr. Solomon, moved that the PSCC make the application. Noting no objection, Mr. Laue deemed the motion passed.

Mr. Hazarabedian suggested that the PSCC Workplan Workgroup serve as the working group for the application. Mr. Laue noted no objections.

Mr. Stewart agreed to serve as the jurisdictional champion for the application in collaboration with the District Attorney and Lane County Sheriff.

Mr. Turner announced that Doug Hooley was new the LCSO Chief Deputy, Greg Fox was Acting Captain for Community Corrections, and Randy Smith was Acting Captain for Adult Corrections. They could be reached at the following telephone numbers: Doug Hooley, 541-682-4450; Greg Fox, 541-682-2252; Randy Smith, 541-682-2246.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.