

**POLK COUNTY
POLK COUNTY LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL
February 7, 2022 - 12:00 Noon
Courthouse Conference Room**

1. OPENING AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Judge Hill called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Those in attendance:

Mike Runyon, OYA
Alison Kelley, Liberty House
Isaiah Haines, Chief Monmouth PD
Noelle Carroll, Director of HHS
James Parr, Lay Citizen
Norm Hill, Presiding Judge, Chair
Greg Hansen, County Administrator, Vice-Chair
Mark Garton, Sheriff
Aaron Felton, DA
Uncha Kim, Trial Court Administrator
Tom Simpson, Chief Dallas PD
Morgan Smith, County Counsel
Brian Latta, Dallas City Manager
Bob Mason, Chief Independence PD
Lee Warren, PO Supervisor Community Corrections
Jodi Merritt, Director of Community Corrections
Cassy Polen, Office Manager Community Corrections
Lyle Mordhorst, Commissioner
Jeremy Gordon, Commissioner

Those not in attendance:

Tim Park, Defense Attorney
Jennifer Leif, PC Behavioral Health
Charles Luukinen, Lay Citizen/Ret. Judge
Adam Wilson, Lay Citizen
Mike Iwai, Superintendent Oregon State Police
Jake McKnight, Grand Ronde Tribal Police

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November

MOTION: GREG HANSEN MOVED, JEREMY GORDON SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. JRI PROGRESS REPORT AND APPROVAL

Ms. Merritt, Community Correction Director, went over a report that provides an update on the current program Community Corrections has. She then went over and answered a set of questions that Judge Hill had previously sent over. Noelle Carroll provided details about the FAC Program (Forensic and Acute Care) and how this program works and the impact it has on Polk County. Ms. Carroll stated that the FAC Team is a series of programs with a team of staff that has been crossed trained with specific trainings. Ms. Merritt talked about their efforts in engaging the people who do not want help. She stated there are some people who are released that they have to try and find and constantly engage with them and offer resources. Ms. Merritt stated their role when someone is assigned to them is to assess, identify a case plan, and work with Behavioral Health. Next they do highest needs first. For example, if it is a livability issue and they're homeless, they will work on that first. If it is drug affected, they will focus on getting them engaged in treatment. Once engaged in treatment, they will then move on to mental health. Mr. Hill stated he would like that language stricken that speculates the reason we are not incarcerating at the same rate as the State was due to the Court, because he does not think that is factually correct.

MOTION: GREG HANSEN MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JRI PROGRESS REPORT WITH THE AMENDED CHANGES JUDGE HILL REQUESTED.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commissioner Gordon stated he would like there to be some kind of explanation that goes along with the language that Judge Hill is requesting be stricken from the record. Mr. Gordon stated it is in the public interest to know. Mr. Hill agrees and states there is a gap and he is confident this isn't a Courts issue. Jodi Merritt stated she feels like it is a DA and Courts issue because the Courts are the ones sentencing people to prison. Aaron Felton, District Attorney for Polk County, states that he is not prepared to answer this question at this time. Mr. Hill asked if this was a question we need to answer and if we do not have the tools to answer it today, do we want to come back to it? James Parr stated that the incarceration rate is an important question and would be good to address at a later time. Commissioner Mordhorst brought up the impacts of COVID-19 restrictions on the jails and how much of an impact it has on the answer to the question. Mr. Hill asked if there was a consensus that there are two questions imbedded within Commissioner Gordon's question. He stated the first question is, is this a question that we as a system should spend time analyzing from each different perspective? The second question is, do we need to answer that question in order to submit the JRI report? Ms. Merritt wanted to clarify that the report has been submitted, but she would be amending the report. The report had a deadline that was January 25, 2022 and it has already been submitted, but is able to amend the report. Alison Kelley stated she has two questions she wanted to ask. First question is, what are the overall arrest rates in general? Her second question is regarding those individuals who aren't following through with their accountability and how many of those have children in their lives or children in the DHS system? She asked if those are things we can look at in the next six months. Ms. Merritt stated that the arrest rates are identified in their report as well as incarceration rates. Judge Hill asked if they needed to put together a work group to formulate the question first to agree on terms, then report back at the next meeting. It is Mr. Hill's recommendation that a work group be put together that included local cities, local law enforcement, sheriff's office, the DA's office, and the courts. He asked if there was anyone else who would want to be a part of that meeting and those who said yes are as follows: Sheriff Garton, DA Felton, Chief Simpson, Mr. Latta, Chief Mason, Jodi Merritt, Jennifer Lief, Greg Hansen, Chief Haines, Commissioner Mordhorst, Judge Hill, and possibly Uncha Kim.

4. LPSCC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR SELECTION

Morgan Smith, County Counsel, stated that the Board needs to select a Chair and Vice Chair. These positions are valid for 2 years and the selection needs to be made at the first meeting of the calendar year. He stated we are on year 3 and it was missed last year. Sheriff Garton said he would like to be Chair.

MOTION: SHERIFF MARK GARTON WAS NOMINATED AS CHAIR FOR LPSCC.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION: COMMISSIONER LYLE MORDHORST WAS NOMINATED AS VICE CHAIR FOR LPSCC.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

a) Community Corrections – A new supervisor has been hired, Lee Warren. They are also recruiting for a new PO.

b) Court/Drug Court – Part of Senate Bill 48, there is some pretrial release conditions that they need to address and they can't use the old bail schedule. Judge Hill will be meeting with the Sheriff and the DA to discuss this further. Mr. Hill stated another issue they have, which is a statewide issue, is there is not enough defense attorneys. They are going to start instituting more settlement conferences to facilitate resolution of cases more quickly.

c) Sheriff Office – No updates.

d) District Attorney – They are still short staffed 2 attorneys. Currently recruiting for Law Clerks and a Discovery Evidence Clerk. They recently participated at some hiring fairs and has some good interest. They have a new Victim's Advocate Coordinate Supervisor.

e) Commissioners – HB 3123 for City/County Homelessness Pilot Program being considered in the short session, and if passed there will be an office set up and law enforcement will be engaged if this passes.

f) Behavioral Health – They have hired another Mobile Crisis Response Counselor for the third MCRT. They have the FACT program up and running and hopes to have a steering committee by next year. They are working with Salem to open a sobering station.

g) Salem Police – They are trying to recruit and having trouble. They are still having trouble with shoplifting happening in West Salem which continues to be a problem due to COVID and arrest restrictions.

h) Independence Police – Currently short staffed by a couple positions. They are trying to hire a Sargent position and an Officer position. They have had a recent rise in theft of vehicles at some construction sites.

i) Health and Human Services – Currently waiting on an award letter from the State on the Byrne Grant for the County which is related to Measure 110.

j) Dallas Police – Currently trying to fill 3 job openings they have. 1 is a vacancy they have been trying to fill for 1.5 years now. Starting February 1st 2022, they are having the Sheriff take over dog control and dog licensing.

k) Monmouth Police – They are currently short staffed by several positions.

l) OYA – No updates.

m) Victim Services – Liberty House had some staffing issues in January due to COVID-19, but are fully staffed now. Looking at numbers, in 2020 they served 17% more kids than in 2019 and in 2021 they served 30% more kids than in 2020.

9. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 pm. The next LPSCC meeting date is May 2, 2022.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approve: May 2, 2022