### POLK COUNTY

**POLK COUNTY LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**November 6, 2023 - 12:00 Noon**

**Board of Commissioners Main Conference Room**

## 1. OPENING AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Sheriff Garton called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**Those in attendance:**

Mark Garton – Sherriff

Sam Hittle – LPSCC Coordinator

Jodi Merritt – Community Corrections Director

Robert Mason – Independence Police

John Cummings – OYA

Matt Jarvis – Defense Counsel

UnCha Kim – Courts Administrator

Tim Park – Judge

Brian Latta – Dallas City Manager

Alison Kelley – Liberty House

Morgan Smith – County Counsel

Jeremy Gordon – County Commissioner

Norman Hill - Judge

**Attending on video:**

Aaron Felton – District Attorney

Noelle Carroll – Health Services Director

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST & OCTOBER 2023:**

**A quorum was not present to approve the minutes from AUGUST 2023 and OCTOBER 2023. Defer to February’s meeting.**

**3. Lay Citizen Approval:**

Sheriff Garton suggested talking about the Lay Citizen approval while they waited for enough members to have a quorum. Sheriff Garton stated that the Board does have to appoint the Lay Citizen position, however LPSCC is able to make a recommendation. Sheriff Garton asked Alison Kelley if she was appointed and she responded that yes, she was, years ago. Sheriff Garton asked if LPSCC wanted to add any other Commissioners to the appointed positions. Morgan Smith explained that every time that someone is appointed, it adds to the amount of people you need present in order to maintain the quorum. Sheriff Garton asked about appointing a tribal representative and if he needed to reach out to fill that position. Sheriff Garton asked Judge Hill if the other two judges have ever been appointed as lay members. Judge Hill stated that he thought there was one spot for the Drug Court Judge along with the Presiding Judge.

**3. 110 Discussion**

Sheriff Garton suggested waiting on talking about this topic until Commissioner Mordhorst was available, but asked if Commissioner Gordon had anything he wanted to share on this subject. Commissioner Gordon talked about a Resolution that the BOC passed recently that declared a preference that the decriminalization aspect of Measure 110 be repealed while retaining the funding mechanism for treatment. Next, Commissioner Gordon shared some insights he received from the NACo Steering Committee for Public Safety that he serves on.

**4. Department Reports:**

* Sheriff’s Office – Mark Garton: gave an update on their staffing levels.
* District Attorney’s Office – Aaron Felton: provided an update on their staffing levels.
* Courts - Judge Hill: Talked about a state wide injunction that was issued from Federal Court. If there’s an offender who does not have court appointed counsel within 7 days, they have to be released, no matter the reason for being in jail. Judge Hill stated that the courts are in very good shape, however this could create challenges down the road. Next, Judge Hill stated that they have tried to make as much progress as they can on utilizing the jail appropriately. He provided an example of an issue they had during the pandemic. Judge Hill shared his concerns that they have when someone may not understand the jurisdictional issues. Robert Mason asked a follow up question directed to Sheriff Garton about the Polk County Jail and when someone gets cited into Municipal Court versus being cited into Circuit Court and if they have a different policy. Sheriff Garton stated that there is a slight difference and they do not like to hold on Salem Municipal citing’s.
* Defense Council – Matt Jarvis: Mr. Jarvis stated that he just got back from the Contract Administrator’s Conference and provided a brief recap. He stated that it was pretty interesting because they were proposing the removal of Contract Administrators and wanted their opinions. He also shared his concerns from that conference. Sheriff Garton asked Matt Jarvis about the OJD dashboard to verify which offenders have an attorney. Uncha Kim stated that the Sherriff’s office will need to know which offenders are not appointed and possibly creating a daily report for them to utilize. Judge Hill stated that he can foresee the courts needing to come up with a process when they have identified an offender at their 7 days. Ideally, Judge Hill wants the courts to create a process for a conditional release as a backup plan.
* Commissioner Jeremy Gordon – BOC: Commissioner Gordon provided an update from the Polk County Homelessness Alliance, aka PATHs, and how they are working on creating a subcommittee. It would focus more on code enforcement, law enforcement and homeless outreach teams. They would work on handling more of the nuisance calls, where no crimes have been committed. The plan would be to have them hold a couple of work sessions or workshops if needed. Commissioner Gordon asked if anyone is interested, please let him know. He also stated that he will be apart of a work group for the Legislature, along with another Commissioner from Klamath Falls and Rep. Paul Evans to discuss on going Department of Corrections funding starting in 2025.
* Health Services – Noelle Carroll: There are no updates for Behavioral Health, but she did want to confirm that Jennifer Lief is still the voting member for Behavioral Health. Sheriff Garton stated that yes, she is.
* Independence Police Department – Robert Mason: gave an update on staffing and stated that they are currently overstaffed 1 FTE and also anticipating a retirement.
* Brian Latta – City of Dallas: Mr. Latta stated that the Dallas Police is nearing full staff. He also said that the City of Dallas followed the City of Portland’s lead recently in passing an ordinance to criminalize controlled substances. He stated that the first reading is tonight and the second reading will be on November 20, 2023. The city recognizes that it cannot be implemented until the State repeals the decriminalization of controlled substances, but they are sending the message along with many other communities.
* John Cummings – OYA: John stated that there is still a massive hiring crisis in their correctional facilities.
* Alison Kelley – Liberty House: Alison stated that every December they have a Strategic Planning Retreat for the Board of Directors and they welcome feedback from anyone here. She stated that their staffing is holding steady. She shared that they are opening a satellite office in Woodburn and wanted to stress that Polk County is still a high priority for Liberty House.

**5. 2024 Meeting Dates:**

Sheriff Garton directed everyone to look at the agenda and review the 2024 meeting dates.

**6. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 pm. The next LPSCC meeting date is Monday February 5, 2024

Minutes: Nicole Pineda

Approve: February 5, 2024