### POLK COUNTY

**POLK COUNTY LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**May 6, 2024 - 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 12:00 p.m.

**Those in attendance:**

Mark Garton – Sherriff

Lyle Mordhorst – Polk County Commissioner

Sam Hittle – LPSCC Coordinator

Treven Upkes – Salem PD

Norm Hill – Presiding Judge Polk County

Tim Park – Judge

Alison Kelley – Liberty House

Tom Simpson – Dallas Police

Robert Mason – Independence Police

Jodi Merritt – Community Corrections

Jessica Fitts – Community Member

Matt Jarvis – Local Defense Attorney

Amber Mcclelland – DHS

Jeremy Gordon – Polk County Commissioner

**Attending on video:**

Aaron Felton – District Attorney

John Cummings – OYA

Renee Naylor – Liberty House

Noelle Carroll – Health Services

Jennifer Lief – Health Services

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 5, 2024:**

**Motion: Jodi Merritt moved to approve February 5, 2024 meeting minutes, Treven Upkes seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

**3. Pre-Trial Release Program**

Judge Hill, stated that he wanted to share some information about the pre-trial release program. Judge Hill provided background information on this program and the issues that the legislator had with it a couple cycles ago. Judge Hill shared an example scenario in which this wouldn’t be successful and stated that they have developed 3 categories and explained what those categories are. Judge Hill shared data from the courts and jail stats with everyone. Sheriff Garton responded to Judge Hill’s possible scenarios. Chief Mason agreed with Sheriff Garton. Treven talked about West Salem and shared arrest data from that area and also stated that he would like to look into that data more. Judge Hill stated that he has a list of citations that he can share with Treven. Commissioner Gordon asked if there will be any parodies or inconsistencies created across counties and Judge Hill stated no and answered his question.

**4. Deflection Program**

Commissioner Mordhorst wanted to talk to the group about deflection and stated that the State gave all the counties 10 days to jump into it, but without any rules or regulations to follow at that time and now the State is allowing the counties to create their own deflection programs. Commissioner Mordhorst talked about discussions that have happened and stated that the Board wanted to hear what everyone’s opinions/ideas/feelings on this subject are. Judge Hill provided his input and shared his concerns. Commissioner Mordhorst asked about instances where criminal activity and drugs are involved or do they only want to look into deflection if drugs are involved with no criminal activity. DA Aaron Felton provided his response to that question. Commissioner Mordhorst thanked them for their input and explained why he thinks this conversation is so important and shared what his concerns are. DA Felton responded to Commissioner Mordhorst’s statements and questions. Sheriff Garton stated that several of them are going to the May 9th meeting and they are hoping to have a follow up meeting with the Police Chiefs as well. Commissioner Gordon stated that deflection is meant to be prebooking and it’s to bypass the criminal justice system altogether for a certain population and he shared his thoughts, concerns and ideas about this topic. Judge Hill stated that how he understands the process is that the individual only needs to have an evaluation done, but does not have to follow through and get treatment. Commissioner Gordon responded to Judge Hill. Judge Hill stated that in his opinion from the courts perspective, it is not that they cannot convince people to get treatment, what he sees is people who are begging for help, but our local system cannot help them. Judge Hill shared some examples of people who have recently gone through his courtroom and the challenges they are facing. Commissioner Gordon responded to Judge Hill. Jodi Merritt provided input. Jennifer Lief talked about what it looks like when someone walks into their facility looking for treatment and what deflection could look like for them. Commissioner Gordon talked about the goals and how it will be important to track the success rates from deflection and getting people into treatment. Mrs. Merritt responded to Commissioner Gordon’s statement. Mrs. Kelly shared her input and take away from this discussion. Sherriff Garton stated that the funding is supposed to open mid to end of May 2024 and that the turnaround would be for end of June 2024. Judge Hill stated that he wanted to ask Mrs. Merritt about the funding and Mrs. Merritt stated that the funding will be attached to the body so no they will not see more funding for this. DA Felton stated that he had to get off of the call but wanted to thank everyone for the conversation and that things in the DA’s Office have been good.

**5. Department Reports:**

* Community Corrections – Jodi Merritt: Jodi stated that they received the $16 million in funding that she talked about in the last LPSSC meeting.
* Courts – Judge Hill: stated they have resurrected family treatment court and they have contracted with someone who has their facility near the Courthouse. He provided some of their background information and stated that they currently have 18 families who come to meet with him every Tuesday. Judge Hill stated that they are very happy with this provider and the experience they have to offer with the treatment court model. Judge Hill shared their successes.
* Sheriff’s Office – Mark Garton: Mark gave an update on staffing levels.
* Defense Council – Matt Jarvis: Mr. Jarvis stated that he is still looking for another Misdemeanor Attorney.
* Board of Commissioners – Commissioner Lyle Mordhorst: Lyle stated that he will be attending the May 9th training.
* Health Services – Jennifer Lief: Jennifer stated that they just hired a Jail Diversion Case Manager and talked about what she is working on now. Mrs. Lief stated that she is located Community Corrections building and that she is doing an amazing job. Mrs. Lief stated that they are working on having a Peer over at Jodi’s office as well to help assist with jail diversion. Next, she provided a staffing update and what their staffing goals are for their department. She identified that they are interviewing to have four therapists and four peers, so they have the ability to rotate their schedules, on an 8:00 am – 8:00 pm, 7 days a week schedule. Chief Mason asked about what happens if they have an after 8:00 pm call. Jennifer stated that law enforcement could call the after hour’s phone number.
* Independence Police Department – Bob Mason: Stated that they are fully staffed and that there is a fun event for kids called Touch a Truck and the park.
* Department of Human Services – Amber Mcclelland: Amber stated that they are excited about treatment support starting in June and that the case workers are excited for the work and to be able to help people.
* Oregon Youth Authority – Brian Cummings: Nothing to report.
* Dallas Police Department – Tom Simpson: Stated that are not fully staffed and that they are currently working on developing a cadet program. He stated that they are currently in union negotiations.
* Liberty House – Alison Kelley: Stated that things are okay at Liberty House and gave a staffing update.
* Sable House – Renee Naylor: Nothing to report.

**5. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. The next LPSCC meeting date is Monday August 5, 2024

Minutes: Nicole Pineda

Approve: August 5, 2024