### POLK COUNTY

**POLK COUNTY LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

**May 5, 2025 - 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 12:02 p.m.

**Those in attendance:**

Mark Garton – Sheriff

Nicole Pineda - BOC Executive Assistant

Tim Park – Judge

Morgan Smith – County Counsel

Tim Park – Circuit Court Judge

Lyle Mordhorst – Commissioner

Jessica Fitts – Community Member

Tom Simpson – Dallas PD

John Cummings – OYA

Matt Jarvis - Local Defense Attorney

Jodi Merritt – Community Corrections Director

Treven Upkes – Salem PD

Uncha Kim – Courts Administration

Alison Kelley – Liberty House

Jerry Mott – Dallas PD

Norman Hill – Circuit Court Judge

Jeremy Gordon – Commissioner

David Shein – Dallas City Council

**Attending on video:**

Aaron Felton – Polk County District Attorney

Mike Strack – Monmouth PD

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Feb 3, 2025:**

**Motion: DAVID SHEIN moved to approve February 3, 2025 meeting minutes, TREVEN UPKES seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

**3. Membership Nominations**

Morgan Smith spoke about the terms and to make sure we are up to date. We need a new chief of police; Chief Haines is replacing Bob Mason. Morgan said that Judge Hill’s role is current and Matt Jarvis if filling in the public defender position. Morgan stated that the Public Health Director Appointment needs to happen but we currently do not have anyone. Morgan stated that it is a BOC appointment and the BOC will take care of it. Morgan asked about elected representatives from the cities, David Shein is in that role and Brian Latta is the City Manager appointed to his role in LPSCC. Alison Kelley is representing the community based nonprofit victim services. Lastly, Morgan asked about the appointment for who is representing the State Police and no one was sure about whom the person was. Morgan recommends reaching out to them to confirm who they would like to represent them in LPSCC. John Cummings is the rep for OYA. Sheriff Garton asked if there was any notice needed to notice the voting of Chair Position, and Morgan stated no, no notice is necessary. Sheriff Garton and Commissioner Mordhorst stated that they are both ok with staying as the Chair and Vice Chair.

**Motion: ALISON KELLEY moved to approve to keep Sheriff Garton as the Chair and Commissioner Mordhorst as the Vice-Chair, DAVID SHEIN seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

**4. Juvenile Justice & JRP Conversation**

The Justice Reinvestment Preliminary Grant Application and they need to vote in order to ratify it. Director Merritt provided some background information what the grant is and how the funds are spent. Jodi is asking for a vote of support to ratify the decision.

**Motion: DAVID SHEIN moved to approve and ratify the Justice Reinvestment application for Polk County for the next biennium, COMMISSIONER MORDHORST seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

Director Merritt talked about the Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan and explained this needs to be ratified through a vote as well. Matt Jarvis talked about why he supports this and stated that he is seeing a rise in IEP kids having behavioral issues. Judge Hill stated that he believes the juveniles who make it to court have very large mental health needs. He spends most of their time with kids who have serious needs. Jodi Merritt responded to Judge Hill’s statement about the activity in the Salem-Keizer SD and that they do not get many people from that area.

**Motion: TREVOR UPKES moved to approve and Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan application for Polk County, DAVID SHEIN seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

Alison Kelley wanted to make a comment about SROs and how they used to be a significant resource for kids and the loss of that asset has had a significant negative impact on kids being able to get those resources.

Jodi Merritt wanted to follow up on Jarvis’s email that was sent a few weeks back. Matt Jarvis stated that what is happening is many schools do not have the proper resources available to help folks in need and he has noticed that there is a lack of communication with the rest of the community partners. He shared an example of how one child only needed a dark room to calm down in and he was not able to get that. Commissioner Mordhorst talked about a meeting he had with a local High School and how he believed kids in need to be loved, not corrected. Director Merritt talked about a meeting she had with Amanda Stevens about the group homes in Monmouth/Independence and the number of resources that are being taken from that area. She stated that she wanted to help understand the gaps and the disconnect between these plans and services. Jodi said they have one PO who is fairly versed in the DD world. She also stated that they currently have about 10 who are involved with DD services and there are 19 youths that are placed in our County. It is not a perfect system but they are working together to keep OYA from bring over run.

**5. Department Reports:**

·  Community Corrections – Jodi Merritt stated that the Juvenile Department is doing amazing. Corrections - they had two vacancies, their newest employee just graduated from the academy, and they are still in the process of training over the next 3-4 months. Their caseloads are too high but by summer, they should start to level out.

·  Courts – Judge Park stated that they have had a few occasions where people are being cited to appear in court but they are not ready to be in court. He wanted to remind local officers of the correct process. Uncha had no updates.

·  Sheriff’s Office – Mark Garton stated they have had some retirements so there has been a change in staffing. The Sheriff talked about the numbers being up for some reason. The Sheriff wanted to talk about HB 1145 and how it is only for 18-21 year olds and preventive things and if you have been in foster care at all, there is some coverage until the age of 26. The Sheriff said this bill is not really going to solve the issues they are having and it is not the savior they are making it sound like.

·  District Attorney – Aaron Felton was frozen on the screen.

·  Matt Jarvis – Gave a staffing update and stated they have a couple months left on a contract amendment, but so far no one is signing it. Judge Park said they do have a couple of unrepresented clients. Commissioner Mordhorst asked a question about those individuals and Matt Jarvis answered his question.

·  Board of Commissioners – Commissioner Mordhorst said they are watching all the unfunded mandates coming through and how Commissioner Gordon is very involved in that. They are mainly focused on the 1145 funding for Corrections. Another bill they want to discuss is HB 2039, which will keep the Deflection Program under the CJC, and he shared more details about that HB.

·  Dallas PD – Tom Simpson stated he was out for a couple weeks and didn’t have much to report, but they are fully staffed. He stated this is his last LPSCC meeting and Jerry Mott will be taking over for him.

·  Monmouth PD - Mike Strack provided an update for a department.

·  Salem PD – Treven Upkes stated they are down 11 positions and are looking to fill 6 of those positions. They are in the middle of Budget season and they are waiting to see about that as well as a Bond for city parks and libraries. There have been weekly protests and marches happening weekly on the west side.

·  City of Dallas – They are in budget season, but he has not seen it yet, as far as he knows there are not safety cuts. The biggest elephant in the room is asking for money for the new police department.

·  OYA – John Cummings stated that the State Budget will be released soon and they are waiting to see that.

·  Liberty House – Alison stated Liberty House received national accreditations and they can now breathe a little bit. She wants to make sure to get feedback from the local law enforcement agencies and talk about what they want to hear from them. Alison said that the current funding has not increased since 2013 and everything is unbalanced. She invited everyone to an Auction on Thursday night to help raise some money. Matt Jarvis asked about a new system that is coming out to help distribute reports and Alison said yes and spoke a little bit about it.

**6. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm. The next LPSCC meeting date is Monday August 4, 2025

Minutes: Nicole Pineda

Approve: August 4, 2025