###  POLK COUNTY

 **POLK COUNTY LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL**

 **August 4, 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 12:01 p.m.

**Those in attendance:**

Mark Garton – Polk County Sheriff

Sam Hittle – LPSCC Coordinator

Greg Hansen – Polk County Administrator

David Shein – Dallas City Council

Alison Kelley – Liberty House

Deputy Chief Treven Upkes – Salem Police Department

Jennifer Lief – Polk County Behavioral Health

Brian Latta – Dallas City Manager

Amber Mcclelland – Polk County Child Welfare

Uncha Kim – Circuit Court Administration

Aaron Felton – Polk County District Attorney

Noelle Carroll – Polk County Health Services Director

Rochelle Stinler – Circuit Court

**Attending on video:**

Matt Jarvis - Local Defense Attorney

Chief Isaiah Haines – Monmouth Police Department

Lt. Jamison Goetz – Oregon State Police

Chief Juventino Banuelos – Independence Police Department

**2. Approval of Minutes – May 5, 2025 & July 8, 2025 *(vote required):***

**Motion: DAVID SHEIN moved to approve May 5, 2025 & July 8, 2025 meeting minutes, ALLISON KELLEY seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

**3. Justice Reinvestment Progress Reports – *(vote required):***

Greg Hansen went over a semiannual report on Justice Reinvestment (April to June of 2025) that highlighted funds and statistics on mental health counselors in the jail and efforts to address outliers in length of stay and prison time. Mr. Hansen stated that he could answer any questions if needed; otherwise, this requires approval from the LPSCC committee in order to submit this report to the State. There were no questions at this time.

**Motion: DAVID SHEIN moved to approve the presented report, TREVEN UPKES seconded.**

**Motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.**

**4. Department Reports:**

· Courts – Uncha Kim stated that they are closely monitoring Senate Bill 236 and the impact of it on fentanyl use and potential implications for the courts and justice partners.

· Sheriff’s Office – Sheriff Garton shared with the group that they have ended the seasonal Marine Program (June 30, 2025). Lastly, he stated that the Sheriff’s office is fully staffed.

· District Attorney – District Attorney, Aaron Felton shared that they are fully staffed, with a new attorney scheduled to start on August 18th, and a legal assistant position filled a month ago. The DA’s office is optimistic about their budget, and hopeful that they will not need to lay off employees and are monitoring potential federal grant cuts for victim advocates. The office is busy, with increased intake numbers and trial cases. Notably, cases involving behavioral health and mental health issues are significant and new legislation will affect their operations. They are attending the Oregon District Attorney Association conference to learn more about implementing these changes. Overall, the office has seen a noticeable uptick in cases over the past year, particularly in the last quarter, with jail numbers reaching the mid-140s, up from 120 a month ago.

· Defense Attorney – Matt Jarvis stated that all the public defenders are on an extension until Oct 1, 2025 and there is some work to be done. The providers will be for the new contract period, he does not anticipate having any problems covering until maybe a year into the new contract because they may be losing a provider who did a lot of misdemeanor work. In addition, that would mean towards the end of the contract period, they might have some trouble with coverage unless they get another provider in their office.

* Health Services – Jennifer Lief shared some information regarding the Aid & Assist Program, Rapid

Access Docket. Jennifer stated that this has been a great partnership and one of the things they have been able to do is provide forensic evaluations in the jail. This has given them the ability to meet timelines, and they do not have to rely on the hospital for transportation. In addition, the team has been providing and helping the individuals to understand what resources are available. Jennifer shared with the group that crisis is staffed 24/7, the staff processes are slightly changing so that they can improve their response.

· Monmouth PD – Chief Isaiah Haines shared that the department is technically fully staffed but has three officers in training and two upcoming retirements, which will impact their workload. They have implemented two License Plate Readers (LPRs) on Highway 99 and Main Street to aid investigations. Tomorrow, (August 5, 2025) they will participate in National Night Out with Independence PD and Polk County Fire at Faith Lutheran Church from 6:00 to 8:00 PM.

·  Independence PD – Chief Juventino Banuelos shared that the department's focus remains on staffing, with two vacancies and two applicants in background checks, while one officer is on light duty and another is in the academy. They are also participating in National Night Out tomorrow night (August 5, 2025).

·  Salem PD – Deputy Chief Treven Upkes stated that the police department is also participating in National Night Out and focusing on proactive policing in two hotspots: northeast Salem and downtown, including Wallace Marine Park. Sergeant Trevor Morrison has been re-assigned to lead this initiative, using cost savings from vacancies to fund overtime shifts. The goal is to address issues and provide proactive policing in these areas.

· Oregon State Police (OSP) – Lt. Jamison Goetz stated that the department has completed its Axon outfitting and installed license plate readers in all cars. Area commands are being reshaped, with McMinnville office becoming a work site for Salem and being fully staffed. The speaker will be heading the new North Plains Area Command in September, and Lieutenant Jace Hall will take over in Salem. A large class is expected in the fall, which will provide additional staffing in Salem.

· City of Dallas – Brian Latta shared that the city of Dallas is considering proposals for Municipal Court services, which they previously provided but then switched to Independence. The City Government is now looking to restart this service, and Dallas will submit a proposal. In Dallas, interviews are being held for a Lieutenant position, with a potential selection within the next few weeks. The city will also participate in National Night Out tomorrow night.

· DHS – Amber Mccllelland shared that they will have a table at the Polk County Fair this year (August 6-9, 2025) as a resource to recruit parents, particularly for teens and kids with high behaviors.

· Liberty House – Alison Kelley stated Liberty House is facing challenges due to staff shortages and funding cuts, including a 42% reduction in federal VOCA funding. They are awaiting potential funding decisions in the fall and are preparing for possible further cuts. Lastly, they are hosting a fundraiser luncheon on September 18th and appreciate their partnerships with local law enforcement and government agencies.

**5. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm. The next LPSCC meeting date is Monday November 3, 2025

Minutes: Nicole Pineda

Approve: November 3, 2025