### POLK COUNTY

**POLK COUNTY LOCAL ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday August 6, 2025 - 1:00 p.m.**

**Courthouse Conference Room Hybrid/Virtual**

## 1. OPENING AND NOTE OF ATTENDANCE

Jodi Merritt called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Those in Attendance:**

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| Amanda Stephens – Health Services |
| Amber Mcclelland – DHS |
| Annie Buse – Family Community Outreach  Christine Felt – Reconnections Counseling |
| Isaiah Haines – Monmouth Police  Janette Marsh – Reconnections Counseling |
| Kari Wilhite – Public Health |
| Sam Hittle – Community Corrections, LADPC Coordinator |

**Attending on Video:**

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| Christina McCollum – PacificSource |
| Elijah Cavillo – Youth ERA  Frank Ehrmantraut – Polk County Fire District |
| Isaiah Haines – Monmouth Police |
| Jill Dale – Regional Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention |

**2. Minutes Approved for JUNE 2025**

**MOTION:** **AMANDA STEPHENS MOVED, KARI WILHITE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM JUNE 2025.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. Membership Update & Nominations**

Abby Warren is no longer the designee for Family Community Outreach (FCO) and will not be able to continue as the vice chair of LADPC. Annie Buse will step into the designee for FCO; therefore, that leaves a vacant spot for the Member-At-Large. Amanda Stephens nominated Frank Ehrmantraut to step into the Member-At-Large.

Amanda Stephens also volunteered to step into the role of the vice chair for LADPC.

**MOTION:** **AMANDA STEPHENS MOVED, KARI WILHITE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINATION.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Deflection Update**

Jodi Merritt provided a brief update on Deflection. The Deflection team is meeting next week to discuss the 25-27 grant through the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). Director Merritt told the group that the DA Second Looks have been going great and they have received 26 referrals from the DA’s office. Currently Deflection has received 8 social referrals and 6 citation referrals. Lastly, Director Merritt stated that a pathway through EMS and Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) is still pending and they are trying to work out the details.

Annie Buse asked Jodi Merritt if she knew the age ranges for the referrals they have received. Director Merritt stated that she did not know the exact age range; however, she believes they are a wide range. Kari Wilhite asked Amanda Stephens how the peer was doing with the referrals. Amanda Stephens stated that she attempts to contact the individual, however most of the time; she does not have a way to contact them. Janette Marsh stated that they are available to go out with the peer and try to make contact with the individual.

**5. Tall Cop – Added to agenda**

Annie Buse provided an update to the group regarding the Tall Cop event. The Tall Cop planning committee met last week, discussed goals, and made some decisions. Western Oregon University (WOU) has been secured for the professionals training that is scheduled on October 16, 2025. As of today, there have been 100 Polk County individuals registered for the professionals training. On September 1, 2025, Annie Buse stated she would open the registration up to the rest of the counties.

In addition, Annie Buse stated that The Gate has been secured for the community event that is scheduled on October 15, 2025. As of today, there has been 16 spots filled, she also stated to continue sharing the event with the community and local partners. In addition, if anyone from LADPC plans on attending to please register. Amanda Stephens stated that she would have the peers start sharing the event with local businesses. Sam Hittle has shared both events with local school districts and other school agencies. Annie Buse stated that the goal for attendees for the community event is 50 people. She added, the Tall Cop contract states that if there are less than 50 attendees, then the presentation will be cut in length. Lastly, Chief Haines has accepted the role in introducing Jermaine Galloway as the speaker for both events.

**6. Department Reports**

~ Department of Community Corrections (Adult & Juvenile) – Jodi Merritt shared with the group that the Community Corrections funding is not what they were hoping it would be. She stated that they are down a Probation Officer and will not be filling it at this time. Corrections has found a way to reduce workload for their officers, this will not reduce their caseloads, only the work. She added that they have increased their fieldwork in the community and are collaborating with community partners. In addition, Director Merritt stated that they are reducing their community service days, going from 7 days to 6 days.

Lastly, Director Merritt shared that the Juvenile Department is business as usual and are excited about the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association (OJDDA) conference in September. She added that Polk County’s Coordinated Care Organization (CCO), through Willamette Health Council is offering scholarships for the cost of attending the conference. The OJDDA conference is scheduled for September 15-16, 2025 at The Graduate Hotel in Eugene.

~ Family Community Outreach (FCO) – Annie Buse, no update at this time.

~ Public Health – Kari Wilhite shared with the group that they are kicking off the Polk County Fair this week and for the first time they are going out with different divisions such as, DD, Behavioral Health and Public Health working at the events together. Kari Wilhite said this has been a great collaboration.

Lastly, Kari Wilhite stated that they have a CBO grant that is going out for Public Health. These grants are for CBO’s to work alongside Public Health departments. The applications are due at the end of this month.

~ Behavioral Health – Amanda Stephens shared that the new building has received its Certificate of Occupancy and are hopeful to start serving clients by the beginning of October of this year. The building will host the Crisis team and the BHRN team, and will be a welcome center for individuals who need support and assistance. Christina Felt asked Amanda Stephens if the center would be a drop in center for folks who need to see peers. Amanda Stephens stated that they are still trying to decide if they will be offering a drop in option, because they have four peers on the BHRN team, who have large caseloads and may not be able to pull a peer away from their clients. Lastly, Amanda Stephens stated that assessments for folks would be available in the new building, in addition to putting folks on insurance and sending them to treatment.

~ Monmouth Police Department – Chief Isaiah Haines provided a staffing update. He also stated that the night prior was National Night Out. Polk Fire, Independence Police and Monmouth Police attended, he also added that it was a good community event and it was well attended by the community.

~ Department of Human Services (DHS) – Amber Mccelland shared with the group that Jenn Huntsman’s position will be a permanent position.

~ Reconnections Counseling – Christine Felt, no update at this time. However, added to continue sending referrals to their office.

~ Polk County Fire District – Frank Ehrmantraut stated that they have received new equipment through the Deflection funds.

~PacificSource – Christina McCollum, no update at this time.

~ Regional Prescription Drug Overdose Prevention – Jill Dale shared with the group that the Opioid Summit is in October of this year. She will send the group the flyer when it is available. Jill Dale asked the group if anyone was participating in Overdose Awareness at the end of August. Christine Felt provided some examples of how to spread Awareness in the community; a candle-lite vigil, t-shirts, tabling events, provide Narcan. The overall goal is to help spread awareness, overdose and education in the community.

~ Youth Era – Elijah Cavillo stated that they serve individuals between the ages of 14-25 years. He added, that he was recently promoted to a Supervisor, therefore will be hiring another peer support to assist with the caseload. Lastly, he stated that Youth Eras has the ability to distribute Narcan to youths.

***\*\* If anyone has anything they would like to see on the LADPC agenda, please notify Sam Hittle to add to the agenda.***

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

Next LADPC meeting date is September 3, 2025

Minutes: Sam Hittle