### POLK COUNTY

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

**Wednesday September 3, 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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| Annie Buse – Family Community Outreach  Aaron Ferguson – Reconnections Counseling  Christine Felt – Reconnections Counseling  Craig Pope – Polk County Commissioner |
| Jodi Merritt – Community Corrections |
| Kari Wilhite – Public Health |
| Sam Hittle – Community Corrections, LADPC Coordinator |

**Attending on Video:**

Amber Mcclelland – Department of Human Services

Frank Ehrmantraut – Polk County Fire District

Isaiah Haines – Monmouth Police

**2. Minutes Approved for AUGUST 2025**

**MOTION:** **KARI WILHITE MOVED, ISAIAH HAINES SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 2025.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. Membership Update**

Jodi shared that Frank Ehrmantraut is officially a Member-at-Large for LADPC. Christina Felt shared that she was interested in also becoming a Member-at-Large for the committee. A vote from the committee is required in order to proceed to the next step.

**MOTION:** **ANNIE BUSE MOVED, KARI WILHITE SECONDED, TO APPORVE THE MEMBER-AT-LARGE NOMINATION.**

**MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Commissioner Pope asked for clarification on next steps after the group appoints someone onto the membership. Jodi Merritt identified that once the committee passes the voting of the membership, Jodi will prepare a letter to the Board of Commissioners for approval.

**4. Tall Cop Update**

Annie Buse shared an update with the group regarding the Tall Cop event that is scheduled in October. As of this morning there are 136 registered for the professional’s event on October 16, 2025 at Western Oregon University. The community event has 22 registered; Annie Buse stated that typically she sees an increase of registrants as it gets closer to the event. The community event is scheduled for October 15, 2025 at The Gate. At the community event, there will be tables with resources for the attendees.

A few things that Annie Buse has been doing to promote both of the events is, she has been in contact with the radio station 99.9 KRKT, the flyers will be shared on the Dallas City water billing. In addition, she did an interview on a local podcast; she has an interview with Capitol Community Media on September 11, 2025, and has two Tall Cop Sharing Weeks scheduled. These are scheduled for September 8-12, 2025 and October 6-10, 2025. The intent of these scheduled weeks is to share both of the events on social media accounts and blast the flyers through email.

In addition, Annie Buse is creating a survey for both events, which attendees can scan a QR code and answer various questions about the event, what they want to learn in the future, etc. The committee needs to identify what the follow-up event is going to be after Tall Cop. A few ideas that Annie Buse identified is, connecting with Liberty House, how folks handle stress around the Holiday season, and lastly, how to talk to youths about substances.

**Action Item: Jodi Merritt – reach out to contact at the Statesman Journal to promote the Tall Cop events.**

**Action Item: LADPC Committee – plan a follow-up event after Tall Cop.**

**5. Opioid Settlement Dollars**

Kari Wilhite asked the group for clarification on what these dollars are used for. For example, she stated that a Medical Examiner reached out to her directly and asked if there was any grant funding for a Mobile Toxicology Unit. Chief Haines identified that the Opioid Settlement Dollars has to be used for certain things, however stated that there is a variety of options.

Commissioner Pope stated that he has been battling with the usage of Opioid Settlement dollars for quite some time. In addition, he believes that these funds should be housed in the LADPC group so the committee has access to the funds for promotion of prevention programs. LADPC is statutory responsible for prevention, however do not have access to grants or funding. Commissioner Pope recommends the group to create a list of prevention projects and go in front of the Board to ask questions to see if the committee can get funding or partner with local agencies with their available funding.

**6. Department Reports**

~ Board of Commissioners (BOC) – Commissioner Craig Pope shared that the new Polk County building has their open house on October 6, 2025 in the afternoon. Please join if you are able to.

~ Department of Community Corrections (Adult & Juvenile) – Director Merritt shared a staffing update and a brief funding update with the group.

~ Family Community Outreach (FCO) – Annie Buse stated that the donor registration for Adopt-A-Family is now open for this Holiday season. They will be opening the registration for families in the near future.

~ Public Health – Kari Wilhite shared that they have had a good summer with a unified front of Health Services with outreach and providing services to the community. Lastly, she shared that the Home Visiting Program is taking off and they have been sending nurses out to homes for baby checkups with young families.

~ Reconnections Counseling – Aaron Ferguson stated that they recently met with several community partners, including the Juvenile Department regarding the up-and-coming Juvenile Treatment Program, to get the word out that Reconnections Counseling offers services to youths.

~ Monmouth Police Department – Chief Haines provided a staffing update.

~ Polk County Fire District – Frank Ehrmantraut shared that they have seen an increase of Narcan usage and overdose cases. Jodi Merritt asked if Frank could provide her with overdose numbers and statistics. Frank said that he would get that information to her.

~ Department of Human Services – Amber Mcclelland stated that they have started a collaboration with Clear Court, the Polk County Family Court. Recently, they celebrations with some graduations and folks meeting their goals.

***\*\* 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 1:53 p.m.

Next LADPC meeting date is October 1, 2025.

Minutes: Sam Hittle