



# LPSCC

## Executive Committee Meeting

### *Summary Minutes for July 6, 2010*

#### **I. Introductions, Announcements, and Approval of Minutes**

##### **LPSCC Executive Committee**

###### **Members In Attendance**

Judy Shiprack, Multnomah County  
District #3 Commissioner and LPSCC  
Co-Chair  
Jason Bledsoe, Oregon State Police  
Suzanne Bonamici, State Senator  
Lane Borg, Director, Metropolitan  
Public Defenders  
Judge Julie Frantz, Chief Criminal Court  
Judge  
Judy Hadley, Citizen Representative  
Dwight Holton, Acting U. S. Attorney  
Chief Ken Johnson, Fairview Police  
Chief Craig Junginger, Gresham Police  
Chief Phillip Klahn, Port of Portland  
Police  
Chief Mike Reese, Portland Police  
Bureau  
Chiquita Rollins, Domestic Violence  
Coordinator  
Michael Schunk, District Attorney  
Chip Shields, State Representative  
Dan Staton, Multnomah County Sheriff  
Scott Taylor, Director, Department of  
Community Justice  
Judge Nan Waller, Chief Family Court  
Judge

###### **LPSCC Staff**

Peter Ozanne, Executive Director  
Elizabeth Davies, Public Safety System  
Analyst  
Tom Bode, Research Associate

##### **Other Attendees**

Larry Aab, MCSO  
Dave Braaksma, MCSO  
Doug Bray, Circuit Court Administrator  
Drew Brosh, MCSO  
Jann Brown, DCJ  
Nancy Cozine, Oregon Judicial  
Department  
Markely Drake, MCSO  
Carl Goodman, DCJ  
Jason Heilbrun, County IT - Public  
Safety  
Neal Japport, Oregon Judicial  
Department  
Barry Jennings, Oregon Judicial  
Department  
Dave Koch, DCJ  
Matthew Lashua, Commissioner  
Shiprack's Office  
Beckie Lee, Commissioner Kafoury's  
Office  
Bobbi Luna, MCSO  
Shea Marshman, County Auditor's  
Office  
Gail McKeel, County IT  
Jana McLellan, Chair's Office  
Elise Nicholson, County IT  
Kathy Sevos, Volunteers of America  
Michael Shelts, MCSO  
Kathleen Treb, DCJ  
Carol Wessinger, Citizen  
Corie Wiren, Commissioner McKeel's  
Office

#### **Announcements**

Portland Police Chief Mike Reese gave an update on the activities of the Gang Violence Reduction Team. He described a "fairly dramatic" spike in gang violence in the past weeks, involving the traditional Portland Gangs (Rolling 60s, Hoovers, Crips, and Bloods). These gangs are no longer confined to inner northeast Portland, and have spread to East Portland, Rockwood, and Gresham. The level of violence is escalating, and the Chief urged people working in prevention to be careful, to attend the Friday gang meetings, and to report intelligence to the police.

#### **Questions, comments or suggestions?**

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**Serving  
Public  
Safety  
Agencies in  
Multnomah  
County**

Sheriff Dan Staton gave an update regarding the Kyron Horman case. Over five hundred people were involved in the initial search, including the FBI, the military, and several police departments from across the state. Although the initial search concluded without finding Kyron, the criminal investigation continues with 20 investigators on the case, including eight FBI agents pursuing the evidence-based portion. To date, there have been 2,877 viable leads which have been pursued. Costs have been considerable – about \$300-350 thousand to date – but the Sheriff's Office has been able to cover most of these expenses internally. Many of the partnering agencies have covered their own costs of participation in the investigation.

Senator Suzanne Bonamici requested that the June LPSCC minutes be amended to reflect that two meetings of the Emergency Board will be held in the next month or two. She added that the release of an updated revenue forecast in August will again trigger discussion of holding a special session. Senator Chip Shields concurred. The committee approved the minutes, with amendments, from the June 1, 2010 LPSCC meeting.

Senator Shields announced that the American Society of Criminology is holding its conference in San Francisco from November 17 - 20 this year.

## **II. Crime Rates in Oregon; Updates on Senate Bill 77<sup>1</sup>**

*Materials: Powerpoint handout; text of Senate Bill 77; book review of The Great American Crime Decline; transcript of NPR Talk of the Nation segment on crime rates*

Craig Prins, Executive Director of the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, presented an analysis of crime trends in Oregon, including a discussion of their precipitous decline since the 1990s. Prins used data from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports<sup>2</sup> to provide an overview of crime in Oregon. Starting in the 1990s, crime rates in Oregon began to decline and have continued to the present. Homicide, which is recorded by coroners, and auto theft, which is reported to insurance, show similar declines in Oregon crime since the late 1980s. Victimization surveys, which are also used to confirm UCR results, evidence the same crime drop. These surveys also indicate that a larger portion of crime is reported nationally than used to be. The Oregon Crime Commission is working with Portland State to conduct a victimization survey in Oregon.

Oregon has experienced a steep drop in violent crime in the last few years that is unrivaled by any other state. Oregon is now ranked 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation for violent crime, the state's lowest ranking since 1965. The crime drop in Oregon appears to be driven by the crime drop in Portland. In the 1980s, violent crime in Portland was 56% of the violent crime in the state – since then, violent crime in Portland has dropped by 73%.

Property crime rates in Oregon fell 29% from 2004 to 2008, the largest drop of any state in that period. Oregon now ranks 23<sup>rd</sup> on the nation for property crime rates; earlier this decade, it ranked in the top five. The statewide drop in property crime rates also appears to be driven by the drop in property crime in Portland. Portland comprises about a third of all property crime in the state.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to scheduling issues, the presentation on Crime Rates in Oregon occurred after the presentation from the Portland Police Bureau's Service Coordination Team (Agenda item III).

<sup>2</sup> The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) provide the standard crime measurement tools for the country. There are two indices, violent crime and property crime, which are driven by trends in simple assault and larceny, respectively.

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Recent data points to a continuation of this decade's downward crime trend. The FBI's 2009 Uniform Crime Reports for the four biggest cities in Oregon, released in May, shows a further general decrease of crime in Oregon, driven by drops in violent and property crime in Portland. As follow-up, Chiquita Rollins asked to what extent Washington and Clackamas counties have contributed to the crime drop in Portland and the state. Prins responded that the crime drop for the state does not mean that crime dropped uniformly around the state; some communities experience increases even if the state as a whole is dropping.

The declines in crime seen in Oregon and across the country cannot be fully explained by the three "usual suspects" that criminologists traditionally turn to when examining changes in crime. Economic conditions and incarceration rates do not appear to explain the decrease in crime. Demographics trends appear to have *contributed* to the decrease in crime, particularly over the last ten years as the portion of the male population between the ages of 15 and 39 has decreased and juvenile arrests decrease, but cannot fully explain the decline in crime rates. This finding, that no single factor can explain the recent decline in crime, is further explored by criminologist Franklin Zimring in his book *The Great American Crime Decline*. Zimring also noted that crime in the US, Canada, and Great Britain increased in the 1960s and 1970s with the result that many types of criminal justice policy were discounted as ineffective during that period. Conversely, as crime decreased in the 1990s and the current decade, officials and academics have turned to a "pulling levers" look at crime, attempting to find simple causal relationships to explain the drop in crime.

With none of the "usual suspects" satisfactorily explaining the decrease in crime over the past decade, experts conclude that there are unseen factors that impact crime. In Prins' view, Oregon's anti-meth legislation, community policing models, changes in probation and treatment programs, and the use of evidence based practices have contributed to the crime rate drop. Prins noted that the passage of legislation in Oregon and Mexico to limit access to the essential ingredients used to make meth has significantly changes the way meth is distributed. Meth is now trafficked from Mexico, but limitations on ingredients have halved its potency. A precipitous decrease in the number of meth labs seized has decreased related cases of abuse and neglect, decreased violence surrounding the labs, and freed up law enforcement to deal with interdiction. Meth arrests have decreased 32% since 2007.

Mike Schrunk credited the drop in crime to the hard work and smart use of tools by officials in Multnomah County, including many LPSCC members. He cited the Service Coordination Team, programs that help people stay out of trouble, the incarceration of the county's most dangerous individuals, the community court programs, and diversion as examples of efforts to protect the community and make the best use of limited resources.

Contrary to the findings of criminologists, many citizens do not believe that violent crime has dropped. Prins suggested that this skew in perception is due to the "Mean World Syndrome," a theory developed by George Gerbner, which posits that the media's portrayal of violence causes people to perceive the world as a more violent place, despite what may actually be occurring in their communities.

Chiquita Rollins suggested that a number of important social changes since the 1960s, such as the civil rights movement, the movement of women into the workplace, and the decreased birthrate, might be partially responsible for the changes in crime rates. She cited a study that concluded that cities with a larger number of women in law enforcement leadership positions

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also have lower rates of domestic violence-related homicides. Prins responded that there are many theories about the changing crime rate, which are more “social big picture” theories than strictly criminological theories.

Chief Reese commented that Portland Police have seen an increase in crime by about eight percent in the last six months.

### **III. Portland Police Bureau’s Service Coordination Team**

#### *Materials: Service Coordination Team Program Summary*

Austin Raglioni, Program Manager for Portland Police's Service Coordination Team (SCT), discussed the history and current status of the program. The team began in 2003 in response to rampant crime and drug use in Portland's Old Town and Downtown areas; the majority of these crimes were committed by a relatively small group of “chronic” offenders. The team uses a “carrot and stick” approach to motivate the target population, in which housing and treatment offered by the program represent the “carrots” and law enforcement and prosecution represent the “stick.”

The program is a collaboration of many agencies: the District Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Office, Department Community Justice, Mental Health, Portland Police, Central City Concern (housing), and Volunteers of America (treatment). The program begins with an optional “wet housing” pretreatment phase, where clients may continue to use drugs (though not on site) while they prepare for treatment. Treatment occurs during a six-to-eight month residential program. At the end of the program, the SCT helps clients find housing and employment and assists with application for governmental assistance. The program treats about 75 people at a time. An active alumni association provides role models for clients and support for graduates, and conducts its own projects – currently, it is organizing a backpack drive for school kids.

The graduation rate of the program is about 27 percent, a relatively high success rate given the difficulty of treating this population. The national rate of treatment success for cocaine addiction is 33 percent. The graduation rate has continued to increase, probably because of improvements in treatment procedures and assistance from program alumni.

As the SCT continues to take chronic offenders off the streets, its target population is changing. It is now treating more dual-diagnosis clients who suffer from mental health problem, such as bipolar and schizophrenia, in addition to addiction issues. These clients present new challenges to the SCT. The SCT also recently started a women's program with five beds operated by Central City Concern. It is an intensive six to eight month housing and treatment program. The first graduates are expected in September.

The program has sufficient capacity to handle demand. Its doors are open to anyone who is willing to anyone willing to commit to the treatment. It gets many referrals from probation officers and has outreach programs with jails. Judge Frantz commented that the existence of the SCT gives the courts more options for people who break parole and have difficulty with other programs. The court is highly supportive of the program.

Judy Hadley asked about statistics regarding reoffense rates for graduates of the program. Raglioni responded that while there are not statistics directly addressing the issue of

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reoffense, crime in the downtown/old town area has gone down about 32% over the life of the program, along with crime rates in the rest of the city. Results also show a reduction in the criminality of people who spend time in the SCT program, even if they do not graduate.

Scott Taylor commented that this is a wonderful program and hopes that LPSCC and the public safety system appreciate the cost savings that result from a program like this. In his view, this program is highly efficient in addition to being the right thing to do.

#### **IV. Report from the AJA Conference**

Sheriff Dan Staton and Captain Bobbi Luna reported on the American Jail Association's annual conference, which was hosted by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and held in Portland May 23-27. During the course of the conference, Captain Luna was sworn in as the President of the Association. About eleven hundred people attended; there were 45 workshops. This year's theme for the work of the AJA will be on the issue of the mentally ill in jail. Committees this year will work on mental health diversion, curriculum for the National Jail Leadership Academy and the development of the website "discovercorrections.com," which will provide direct access to job opportunities and research.

#### **V. Evidence Based Decision Making Framework**

Peter Ozanne reported on the efforts of LPSCC staff and members to apply for a grant from the National Institute of Corrections. The grant is for technical assistance only; it would help the various parts of the Multnomah County public safety system to work together more closely and align the efforts of its constituent agencies. Ozanne is fairly confident that we can be awarded this grant. The group that would oversee this project would be CJAC members. If the county receives this technical assistance, there's a possibility of advancement to a "phase III," which would offer additional assistance to the county. Some of the technological advances LPSCC is working on are: further use of the DSS-Justice system and the creation of meaningful, impactful reports and a "flow of offenders" model which shows how offenders flow through the system after changes in policy and resource allocation. A PSU graduate student in System Sciences is working on this project.

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