



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/3/2014)

## Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 2/3/15  
Agenda Item #: B.2  
Est. Start Time: 11:00 am  
Date Submitted: 1/28/15

**Agenda Title:** Board Briefing on Commissioner Shiprack's FY15 Budget Note: Feasibility Assessment for Mental Health Jail Diversion

*Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.*

**Requested Meeting Date:** February 3, 2015 **Time Needed:** 60 minutes  
**Department:** Non departmental **Division:** LPSCC  
**Contact(s):** Abbey Stamp, Executive Director, Local Public Safety Coordinating Council  
**Phone:** 503.988.5777 **Ext.** 85777 **I/O Address:** 503/600  
**Presenter Name(s) & Title(s):** Abbey Stamp, Executive Director, Local Public Safety Coordinating Council. Lore Joplin, Principal, Lore Joplin Consulting

## General Information

### 1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

On February 3, 2015, Abbey Stamp and Lore Joplin will brief the Board on the completed Feasibility Assessment for Mental Health Jail Diversion. The feasibility assessment was requested in a budget note by Commissioner Judy Shiprack in the FY15 budget.

### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

The Board of County Commissioners is concerned about the number of people with mental health issues being housed in the county's jails. It remains a questionable and expensive way to address individuals with mental illness who come in contact with the public safety system.

Jail diversion programs focused on stabilization, integration of health care, and the public safety system's ability to direct people with mental illness away from jails and into appropriate treatment have been successful around the Country. In places like Bexar County, Texas, thousands of people have been diverted from jail into more appropriate treatment facilities, saving millions of dollars annually in jail and emergency room costs.

Multnomah County leadership and staff are engaged in strategic conversations on how to best grow and enhance housing and treatment options for individuals with mental illness who contact the criminal justice system but would be better served outside jail. The conversations have created momentum and a desire to improve appropriate diversion options.

### 3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

In FY 2015, the Board of Commissioners earmarked \$100,000 in General Fund

Contingency to be used to evaluate current efforts and further investigate opportunities for Mental Health Jail Diversion efforts in Multnomah County.

The request was documented in a Budget Note adopted by the Board. The Budget Note stipulated that the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) will provide the Board with an assessment of the feasibility of increasing jail diversion programs in Multnomah County. LPSCC will coordinate with a facilitator to convene stakeholders and produce the assessment, which shall include:

- Evaluation of current jail diversion pilot programs;
- Findings and recommendations from successful jail diversion programs in other municipalities, including elements central to a successful jail diversion program;
- An estimate of the number of people currently in Multnomah County jails or on community supervision in need of such services;
- Existing community capacity to implement and sustain a holistic jail diversion program, including identification of any new infrastructure that would be required by government or non-government service providers;
- Estimated savings from reduced use of the jails

In order to respond to the above and thoroughly inform the Board, Ms. Joplin completed a feasibility study. This briefing is to inform the Board of the findings.

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

This study will help guide the Board of County Commissioners (as well as LPSCC and other County leaders) on the best way to move forward with a robust continuum of jail diversion opportunities.

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

LPSCC is made up of a variety of County, City and community members and leaders. The consultant will work closely with LPSCC leadership in addition to community behavioral health and medical treatment providers and housing agencies that have been engaged in criminal justice and correctional alternatives.

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**Required Signature**

**Elected Official**

**or Department/**

**Agency Director:**

Abbey Stamp /s/

**Date:** 1/28/15

*Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved."*