

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-009**

Directing the Multnomah County Mental Health Director to Propose an Information Sharing Policy for Individuals with Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System

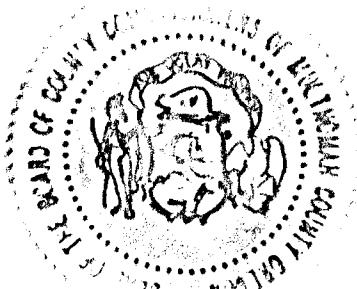
**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) committee, *Persons with Mental Illness in the Criminal Justice System Work Group*, Co-Chaired by Commissioner Lisa Naito and Judge Julie Frantz, has worked to coordinate the mental health and criminal justice systems to create a service delivery continuum for persons with mental illness within the criminal justice system, including alternatives to incarceration for low-level and non-violent offenders. The goal is to increase successful transition back to the community with access to a full range of community based supports, such as mental health, drug and alcohol treatment and stable housing.
- b. Under the leadership of Sheriff Dan Noelle, and with data from the Decision Support System, the *Frequently Booked Pilot Project* provided the county with the ability to identify the most frequently booked inmates over the last five years. Through this research it was determined that many of the frequently booked population are also involved in other publicly funded systems or treatment plans and that each part of the system is often unaware of the other system's involvement. This frequent user population is costly to the county and other publicly funded systems. There are often multiple contacts with police, jails, community supervision and agencies that provide health, mental health, alcohol and drug treatment.
- c. Through the leadership of District Attorney Mike Schrunk, LPSCC also participated in the *Ensuring Equitable Treatment Project*, which identified a disproportional participation of racial and ethnic groups in the frequent user population.
- d. On May 15, 2002, LPSCC released a report with recommendations to improve coordination and information sharing between various service delivery systems. A day-long conference was convened to bring personnel from the criminal justice and mental health systems together to gain knowledge of collaborative efforts in other jurisdictions.
- e. The Department of County Human Services, under the leadership of Dr. Peter Davidson, has made considerable improvements in coordination with the jails and community justice to successful transition persons with mental illness back to the community. The Department has increased access to outreach services, including "no appointment necessary" walk-in clinics and mobile crisis response units. Access to transitional housing has improved through the use of emergency housing vouchers for those leaving jail. Community Courts also serves some mentally ill misdemeanants through their Mental Health Program.

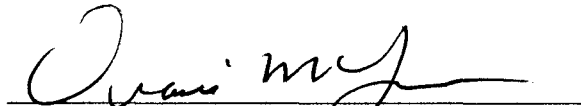
**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. Successful community transition for mentally ill offenders can be increased by coordinating resources within county departments and other publicly-funded agencies. More effective coordinated service delivery is needed, including individual service planning for persons with mental illness involving all levels of the criminal justice continuum and related health and human services. It is both cost effective and responsible to identify the frequent user population, determine what other agencies are also serving that population, and coordinate treatment plans. In order for agencies to effectively collaborate, a process must be created to efficiently and sensitively share relevant treatment data and information. Sharing information is necessary for data based policy development and program planning as well as decreasing systems costs and increasing individual success.
2. The County Mental Health Director is directed to convene a series of meetings with existing criminal justice working groups, the County Health Department, and the LPSCC Director to propose an information sharing procedure that protects individual confidentiality while enhancing coordination of service delivery throughout the criminal justice system.
3. The County Mental Health Director will report back to the Board by the summer of 2003.

ADOPTED this 9th day of January, 2003.



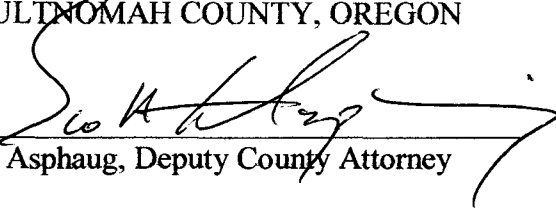
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

  
Scott Asphaug, Deputy County Attorney