

MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 25, 2011 – 11:30 am
Justice Building – Jury Assembly Room, 2nd Floor

Members and Guests Present: Lee Ayers, Jodi Merritt, Mark Orndoff, Chief Schoen, Mark Huddleston, Shane Hagey, Undersheriff Rod Countryman, Doug Engle, Angie Curtis, Bob Kleker, Judge Arnold, Danny Jordan, Judge Mejia, Brad Hicks, Michele Morales, Tim George, John Stromberg, Sheriff Winters.

Lee Ayers opened meeting at 11:36 am

Opening Remarks: Lee welcomed everyone and directed the discussion to Chief Schoen and Sheriff Winters to discuss the Medical Marijuana RVTV show.

RVTV show - Medical Marijuana: Randy discussed the concept of the Medical Marijuana RVTV show. The show was designed as an educational piece for the community in response to citizen questions and concerns, as well as to the impact on law enforcement. It was noted that approximately 3.2 million dollars worth of marijuana has been seized in 20 counties in Oregon within the past year. Currently there are 38,269 individuals in Oregon who possess a medical marijuana card and approximately 10,569 applications pending. In Jackson County alone, there are 4,898 individuals who possess a card. Jackson County is second in the State, with Multnomah County being first with 6,626 card holders. When comparing county size and population to the reported number of card holders per county, there is further concern regarding the impact of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act on our community.

It was essential in this discussion to note, that those individuals who have a serious ailment of which Medical Marijuana is essential for their quality of life and pain management, that they should have access to Medical Marijuana as prescribed by their physician. The underlying concerns regarding this issue are: the lack of collaborative communication between the Medical Marijuana Program and Law Enforcement, to include a lack of law enforcement and drug addiction personnel representation on the Medical Marijuana Advisory Committee; the amount available for growth and possession per cardholder is more than what may be needed; and there is a lack of regulation for growers, care givers and medical marijuana card holders. The RVTV show provides detailed discussion regarding the concerns law enforcement and local Alcohol and Drug Treatment providers have in regards to the current Medical Marijuana Act.

Danny expressed that he drafted a legislative concept at the direction of the Board of Commissioners and that it is currently being sponsored by Sal Esquivel. This legislative concept requests modifications to the current Oregon Medical Marijuana Act (draft available upon request). The draft was forwarded to all law enforcement associations for feedback while compiling the bill. It is important to note that the RVTV show is a product of the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council and was not compiled as a method to promote or oppose the draft legislative bill.

A portion of the Medical Marijuana R/TV show was viewed by the Council. The full show can be accessed through the Jackson County in the Video & TV / Studio TV Programs / Jackson County Close-Up. The link is identified as 'Jackson County Close-up (Medical Marijuana) January 19, 2011'.

<http://www.co.jackson.or.us/Page.asp?NavID=2392>

Announcements / Other Business:

Judge Arnold introduced Judge Lorenzo Mejia as the new assigned Judge to the PSCC committee.

Chief Schoen expressed that his department will be swearing in five (5) new officers.

Danny expressed some brief information regarding the County's current budget process and the shortfalls that various departments are facing. Danny expressed he will be working closely with the budget committee to prioritize services in determining budget decisions.

Next Scheduled PSCC Meeting: Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at 11:30am.

Meeting adjourned 1:00 hrs

Reports Prepared By: Jodi Merritt, Community Justice (Adult Division)
Minutes Approved By: Lee Ayers, PSCC Chair