

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

TUESDAY,
APRIL 24, 2012

11:30

JUSTICE BUILDING –
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM, 2ND FLOOR

MEETING CALLED BY	Shane Hagey
ATTENDEES	Lee Ayers, Christine Bronson, Doug Engle, Tim George, Shane Hagey, Mark Huddleston, Danny Jordan, Bob Kleker, Lorenzo Mejia, Jodi Merritt, Michele Morales, John Stromberg, Eric Guyer.

- Shane Hagey opened the meeting at 11:37 am
- Opening Remarks: Shane welcomed everyone to the April PSCC meeting. Shane introduced Eric Guyer, Deputy Director of the Community Justice Transition Center.

Agenda topics

MINUTES ADOPTION (FEBRUARY)

SHANE HAGEY

DISCUSSION	
No quorum was available to adopt the February meeting minutes. This item will be added to the May agenda.	

OPENING REMARKS

DANNY JORDAN

DISCUSSION	
<p>Danny requested to provide some clarifying information regarding a recent article by the Medford Mail Tribune. The article was specific to the Sheriff's Department in identifying funding and staff reductions. Danny has requested the Mail Tribune write a correction to provide additional and accurate information. The following was provided for clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The article expressed the Sheriff's budget was reduced by 2 million, though this is accurate, what the article did not articulate was the Sheriff's budget was backed by 1.4 million of CCA funds. This reflects a total reduction of approximately \$600,000 to the department which is due to the loss of a variety of grant funding and other outside revenue reductions.• The article also spoke to the reduction of 10 deputy positions and the potential decrease in service levels due to the staffing reduction. The article failed to articulate that the Sheriff's department consistently has approximately 10 vacant deputy positions available at any given time, due to a variety of circumstances. These positions were not eliminated from the Sheriff's department's budget, however the funding was reallocated. Though these positions will not be filled, there is no resulting impact on service level to the community, as these positions were consistently vacant throughout the year anyway. <p>Danny also addressed a separate article in the Mail Tribune regarding jail overcrowding. The article expressed the jail forced released approximately 800 inmates during the first quarter (January – March 2012), which was an increase from previous quarters. The following was provided for clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As of July 1, 2011, the Jackson County Circuit Court was forced to eliminate its pre-trial release program due to State budget reductions. Prior to elimination, this program would release approximately 200 jail inmates a month through a structured release program. The elimination of this program has had an adverse impact on the Sheriff's department in that the Sheriff is now responsible for maintaining jail capacity limits without the assistance of the pre-trial release program.• As suggested by Bob Kleker, Danny reported it is hypothesized that a further consequence of the elimination of the pre-trial release program is that the judges are acting more conservatively in their bail and releasing decisions due to the lack of support by the pre-trial release program. A judge's decision to hold more offenders and/or set bail at a higher level increases the jail population which in turn, requires the Sheriff to make further releasing decisions in order to maintain jail capacity limits. <p>The Sheriff is ultimately suffering from the consequences of State funding reductions handed down to the Courts. This is a systems approach and the elimination of a key program within the system clearly has had an adverse effect on the other partners within the criminal justice system, as identified here.</p>	

DISCUSSION

Eric Guyer from the Community Justice Transition Center provided information on the Transition Center program located in Phoenix. The Transition Center is a 176 bed non-secure facility which provides work restitution, work release, and transitional housing services to a variety of offenders. The program has had 2,874 intakes within the last year with 106 absconds for a successful completion rate of 96.3%. The program has sent out a total of 2,012 work crews over the past year to complete a variety of jobs for local municipalities, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service, among other various contractors.

The Transition Center's population is comprised of local offenders, State offenders being released from prison through a variety of programs, and Federal Pretrial, Probation and Bureau of Prisons inmates.

The Transition Center consists of three divisions: Work Restitution, Work Release and Transitional Housing.

- Work Restitution: This program is for clients within the facility who are serving a jail sentence, a sentence from a local municipality or serving a sanction from their Probation Officer.
 - The Transition Center has approximately 121 beds for work restitution – 25 female and 96 male beds.
- Work Release: This program has been designed to provide the offenders with the opportunity to serve their jail sentence or sanction while having the ability to maintain or obtain employment. These offenders are able to attend their jobs, under a structured program, while residing at the Transition Center to complete their sentence. Clients are required to pay \$25/day for participation in this program. Case Managers are assigned to each individual offender to assist in budgeting and subsequent payment plans, as needed.
- Transitional Housing: Approximately 42 male beds are available within the facility, 9 male beds within the Hagler House and 4 female beds within the Access House. The Hagler and Access houses are located on the property of the Transition Center but are stand alone homes that are not institutional in appearance. The transitional housing beds are available to clients who have no other means of housing and who are in need of assistance with obtaining employment. The clients within this program are required to pay 25% of their gross wages upon obtaining employment.

All clients within the program are assigned a case manager that follows the clients through their sentence or housing duration and are responsible for monitoring the clients within the program and referring them to appropriate resources as needed.

In addition, the Transition Center provides the following programs to assist clients:

- Alcohol and drug treatment services – contracted through OnTrack, Inc.
- Life skills classes
- Parenting classes
- Vocational skills classes
- Job search assistance
- GED assistance
- Food handler's program
- Flagger certification
- Wild land firefighter training

Next Scheduled PSCC Meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 11:30 am

Meeting Adjourned: 1:03 pm