

# PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

TUESDAY,  
September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

11:30

JUSTICE BUILDING -  
JURY ASSEMBLY ROOM,

2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR

<b>MEETING CALLED BY</b>	Eric Guyer
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Josh Aldrich, Lee Ayers, Dave Carter, Joe Charter, Scott Clausen, Marie Curren, Rick Dyer, Doug Engle, Joe Ferguson, Amber Freitas, Eric Guyer, Barbara Johnson, Danny Jordan, Tyler Lee, Jennifer Lind, Judge Mejia, Mark Orndoff, Tina Qualls, Nate Sickler, John Stromberg, Rita Sullivan.

- Eric Guyer opened the meeting at 11:30
- Opening Remarks: Eric Guyer welcomed everyone to the September PSCC meeting.

## Agenda Topics

### MINUTE ADOPTION –MARCH & APRIL

ERIC GUYER, CHAIR

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
No minute adoption.	

### HOMELESSNESS IN JACKSON COUNTY

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
<p><b>Introduction - Eric Guyer, Jackson County Community Justice</b></p> <p>Eric Guyer presented Part 1 of "Homelessness in Jackson County". We will try to be person-centered with our terminology as we continue talking about this concern within our community, such as "Unhoused" and "People who lack stable housing".</p> <p>September 24, 2019 - Initial Contact: How we are addressing different needs, and strategies to address these needs. October 22, 2019 – Support and wraparound services for those experiencing homelessness in Jackson County.</p> <p><b>Definition and Statistics - Connie Wilkerson, Continuum of Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homelessness is a comprehensive issue that affects all of us</li> <li>• Jackson County allocated over \$3 million to help individuals who are experiencing homelessness</li> </ul> <p><u>Types of Investments:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental Health: \$509,914</li> <li>• Human Service Grants: \$95,505</li> <li>• Jackson County Parks: \$60,688</li> <li>• Community Justice: \$2,399,152</li> <li>• Total County: \$3,065,259</li> </ul> <p><u>Categories of Homelessness</u></p> <p><i>Sheltered</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotel with Voucher</li> <li>• Emergency or Seasonal Shelter</li> <li>• Transitional Housing</li> </ul> <p><i>Unsheltered</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tents</li> <li>• Car Camping</li> <li>• Hope Village</li> </ul> <p><i>Precariously Housed (not included in PIT Count)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Couch Surfing</li> <li>• Staying with Family and Friends (Doubling Up)</li> </ul> <p>The definition of homeless is having no home or permanent place of residence.</p> <p><u>Federal Definitions of Homelessness: It's Complicated</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simplified HUD Version: People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.</li> </ul>	

- HUD Definition for Special Subpopulations (DV): People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.
- McKinney-Vento defines homeless youth as “children or youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including children and youth: sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; or living in emergency or transitional shelters, or are abandoned in hospitals.”

Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness in Jackson County

- 2019 PIT Count – 712
- Current number of Household in Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) – 1,783
- 2019 McKinney- Vento Jackson County – 2,252

Disabling Conditions of the Chronically Homeless in Jackson County

*Chronically Homeless:*

- Experiencing homelessness for 12 consecutive months with a disabling condition OR
- Experiencing four episodes in three years with a disabling condition.

*Disabling Conditions include:*

- A diagnosable substance use disorder
- A serious mental illness
- Developmental disability
- Chronic physical illness or disability, including the co-occurrence of two or more of the above conditions

*Three Year Stats*

- In 2019, 27.5% of the Homeless Resident of Jackson County were Chronically Homeless.
- In 2018, 33.8% of the Homeless Residents of Jackson County were Chronically Homeless.
- In 2017, 26.8% of the Homeless Residents of Jackson County were Chronically Homeless.

*Disabling Conditions Self-Reported by 2019 Unsheltered Population*

- 62% of Unsheltered Population report one or more disabling conditions - 202
- 38% of Unsheltered Population report no disabling conditions - 128

*Top 4 Self-reported Disabling Conditions:*

- Mental Health Disability- 107
- Physical Disability - 100
- Chronic Health Condition- 81
- Chronic Drug Abuse - 70

*Disabilities Reported by Those Experiencing Homelessness (in HMIS) - Data Current as of 09/17/19*

- Heads of Household in HMIS - 1783
- Report Instances of Disabilities - 1042
- Categories use “HUD language”

*2019 Root Causes of Homelessness in Jackson County*

- Job loss
- Family discord/breakdown of relationships
- Finances/economic hardships
- Evictions
- Divorce
- Can't afford rent/earnings do not keep up with rent increases
- Drug/alcohol use
- Domestic violence
- Death of a family member
- Abuse (type unspecified)

According to a 2019 PIT survey 74% reside in Medford, 11.66% reside in Ashland, and 3% or less reside in the other Jackson County cities.

*Many Have Income & Cannot Afford Local Rents*

- Less than 1% Vacancy Rate of Available Housing
- Average Monthly Rental Costs Exceed What Wages Can Support 50% AMI in Jackson County for HH of 1 = \$18,800
- Average Rent for 1 Bedroom in Jackson County = \$950
- Yearly Rent = \$11,400
- So at 50% AMI = 61% of income for rent (not including utilities)
- HUD Fair Market Rent is \$676 (including all utilities)

- On May 1, 2018, 556 rentals were available on Craigslist; Only 4 were close to Fair Market Rent
- Recent Rent Stabilization Bill – Senate Bill 608: No Cause Evictions and Rent Stabilization

Sherriff Sickler asked Connie, if co-occurring data could be calculated out of the four contributing factors of homelessness.

Connie stated she could pull this data out of the larger data set, but she did not cover any co-occurring data in her presentation. She explained homelessness in Jackson County is a long term situation, in those 1783 households there are individuals that have reported 28 continual years of being homeless, 681 households (38 %) saying they have been homeless for one or more years. Risk factors increase, and the need for wraparound services becomes greater and greater. It is very hard to stop the patterns that are established during a homeless period if one does not have the wraparound services.

Jennifer Lind asked about the average ages, and where the clusters are.

Connie explained they captured data of two 77 year olds this year living outside in tents. The majority are in their late 40s. Predominantly seen, across the data, are white, non-Hispanic males over the age of 24.

**Greenway Partnerships - Andy Austill, JC Roads & Parks  
Greenway Response Team - Sgt. Steve Furst, Medford Police Dept.**

*Joint Powers Agreement*

- Jackson County partners with all 5 cities to maintain the Bear Creek Greenway
- Partnership has been in place for several years for major maintenance
- Funds were recently added by all 6 partners for us of coordinated Community Justice crews

*Community Justice Crews*

- CJ crew budget \$57,600 per fiscal year
- Meet with crew weekly to prioritize projects
- Crew schedule varies seasonally
- Three days/week in Spring to brush when vegetation is growing fast/complete before fire restrictions
- Less in off-season
- Extra crew days for major storm events for cleanup and hazard assessments
- Consistent crew leader

*CJ Crew Priorities*

1. Vegetation management to maintain 10' safety zone
  - a. Increases visibility/safety & comfort
  - b. Creates fire break
2. Maintain trail surface
  - a. Keep path clear of debris and other hazards
3. Transient cleanups
  - a. Working with law enforcement to remove garbage from camps/under bridges
4. Graffiti removal/vandalism repairs
5. Special projects as requested by cities

Transient camp garbage removal deals with trash, human waste, and environmental hazards.

*Garbage Removal*

- 1-2 times per month coordinated cleanups
- Jackson County Parks assists with garbage expense
- CJ crews assist with cleanups using routine maintenance funds (2-3 crews/month)
- February once/week cleanups with MPD
  - Removed roughly 220 cubic yards of garbage in Feb. alone
- Community Justice crew: \$450 /crew/day
- Rogue Sanitary dumpster: \$717 (40 yd.)

*Routine Trail Maintenance*

- Leaf blowing
- Vandalism repairs
- Litter/garbage removal
- Gravel and debris removal
- Bridge cleanups

*Volunteer Program*

- Recently added a Volunteer Coordinator
- Community want to help!
  - Eagle Scouts

- Senior Projects
- Faith-Based Community
  - Businesses
  - Rogue Valley Manor
- SOLV Cleanup

Greenway Health and Safety Operations

*Health and Safety*

- Crime Reduction
- Service Connections
- Environmental Impact

*Greenway Engagement Team*

- Medford Police
- JCSO Patrol & Corrections
- JC Parole & Probation
- JC Mental Health Crisis Team
- Veterans Administration Social Workers
- Access Veterans Outreach
- RVVCO

*Safety*

- Intelligence Gathering
- Reduction in Crime
- Sex Offender Compliance
- Reduce Illegal Burning

*Enforcement Action (Jan - Sept 2019)*

- 82 Warrant Arrests (18 PV's)
- 325 Prohibited Camping Citations
- 58 Trespass Arrests
- 16 Drug Offenses
- 12 Other Crimes

*Clean Up Phase*

- MPD Officers and CSO's
- Jackson County Parks
- Community Justice Work Crew

So far this year they have collected over 800 cubic yards of trash.

Sherriff Sickler asked for the amount of people who are repeatedly in contact on the Greenway.

Sgt. Furst said about 60 % are repeat offenders. He said they are going to start tracking those numbers and identifying those people, to see what can be done to help them get off the Greenway.

Sherriff Sickler asked how many of those people take advantage of the services offered.

Sgt. Furst said one person out of every operation, if they're lucky, but is expected to change with the new services they're going to be doing.

**Livability Team - Chief Scott Clauson, Medford Police Dept.**

*History*

- October 5th, 2017-Council made a motion to direct staff to present an action plan to enforce City Code:
  - Downtown
  - Bear Creek Greenway
  - Recommend Funding Options
- April 5th, 2018- Police presented Livability Team concept:
  - 3 Police Officers
  - 1 Code Enforcement Officer
  - 1 Records Specialist

*Livability Team*

- Funding granted for 2019-2021 biennium

- Two Main Objectives:
  - Enforcement Activities
    - Exclusion Ordinance
    - Criminal Behavior
  - Outreach
    - Focus on connecting homeless to resources in our community
    - Building rapport
- September 17<sup>th</sup> three LVT Officers started along with Code Enforcement and Records

*Innovations*

- Community Engagement Division
- Case Management
- Community Court
- Educating Faith Based Organizations and Nonprofits
- 

**Responding to Those Experiencing Mental Illness - Rick Rawlins, JC Mental Health**

*JCMH Crisis Services*

- 24/7 Crisis Line
  - Staffed by Masters & PhD level clinicians
- Walk-in Crisis Counseling
  - Available 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday
  - Available regardless of insurance coverage
- Living Room Services
  - Peer Support Counseling & Meals Provided
  - Sleeping Room
  - Shower
- Mobile Crisis Response
  - Mobile Crisis Services: mobile mental health services for people having a mental health crisis, responding in the community where the crisis is occurring.
  - Goal: to resolve crises in the community in order to prevent unnecessary hospitalization or jail.
  - Availability: 24/7 by contacting Crisis Team

*Law Enforcement Partnerships*

- "Law Enforcement Only" Backline
- Neighborhood Livability Program & Greenway Operations
- CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) Training
  - Since 2013, JCMH has sponsored 12 CIT Academies with approximately 200 officers trained
  - The 13th Academy will be April 13-17, 2020
  - Also hosting the first Community Treatment Services Conference, November 4-6, 2019

*Appearances Can Be Deceiving*

- Not all who appear "mentally ill" are struggling with mental illness
- We all have our "bad days"
- Alcohol or drug intoxication can mimic someone being "mentally ill"
- Personality disorders are a "rule out" for involuntary services
- Being homeless is not synonymous with being mentally ill

*Limitations in Responding to Mental Illness in the Community*

- System Limitations
  - Hospitalization or Residential Placement
    - Limited availability
    - High threshold admission criteria
    - Short term duration of "long term" hospitalization
      - Oregon State Hospital median stays
        - Guilty Except for Insanity = 2.5 years
        - Civil Commitment = 4 months
        - Aid & Assist = 2.5 months
- Treatment Limitations
  - Voluntary nature of behavioral change
    - You can lead a person to therapy
  - Personality disorders
    - Often mimic mental illness, but do not respond to mental health treatment
  - Limited efficacy of medications
    - Clients must take medications consistently
    - Many medications have lower efficacy than typically expected

- Legal Limitations
  - Oregon's definition of mental illness: An "alleged mentally ill person" is someone who, because of a mental disorder meets one or more of the following criteria:
    1. Poses imminent danger to self
    2. Poses imminent danger to others
    3. Unable to provide basic personal needs to avoid serious physical harm

*Custody vs Hold vs Commitment*

- Custody: probably cause for law enforcement to take to hospital
- Hold: doctor at hospital (RRMC) can determine to involuntarily detain for up to 5 days if person is an immediate danger to self or others, or inability to care due to mental illness
- Commitment: no longer clinical/medical decision, but now a legal determination via court hearing
  - Commitment is for 180 days, but does not ensure placement in State Hospital

Need More Information?

- Contact: Jackson County Mental Health
- Crisis Team Monday - Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
140 S. Holly Street  
Medford OR 97501
- 24/7 Crisis Line: 541-774-8201

**Questions/Discussions**

John Stromberg asked for distinction between those who are living in buses vs. those that are "homeless". Those who are living on the road, but behaving as if they were "homeless".

Eric Guyer deferred this to Connie.

Connie responded that individuals living in a bus, if there is no cooking or restroom facilities, is still considered unsheltered. Regardless if a family is able to move from community to community, they still meet the definition of being unsheltered. Connie was concerned that the term "transient" could have a derogatory connotation.

Barbara Johnson asked how many people were already living in Jackson County before experiencing homelessness.

10% were already experiencing homeless before coming here, and 90% were already living in Jackson County.

Eric asked Connie if this number was different in Ashland vs. Medford.

Connie responded that they did not breakdown where they were living in the county.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER BUSINESS**

**ERIC GUYER, CHAIR**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	
-------------------	--

**Next Scheduled PSCC Meeting: November 26, 2019**

**Meeting Adjourned: 12:50 pm**