

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

MINUTES

TUESDAY,
October 27, 2020

11:30

ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING CALLED BY	Eric Guyer
ATTENDEES	Joshua Aldrich, Pamela Ames, Lee Ayers, Stacy Brubaker, Dave Carter, Joe Charter, Travis Christian, Scott Clauson, Andrew Davis, Doug Engle, Joe Ferguson, Eric Guyer, Beth Heckert, Tyler Lee, Jennifer Lind, Judge Mejia, Gilda Montenegro-Fix, Robert Mountain, Tina Qualls, Jazmin Ramirez, Mark Reagles, Sheriff Sickler, John Stromberg, Rita Sullivan, A. John Watson, Brittany Whitmire

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

Agenda Topics

MINUTE ADOPTION – AUGUST

ERIC GUYER, CHAIR

DISCUSSION	
No suggested revisions were identified for the August minutes, Lee Ayers provided a motion to adopt, seconded by Sheriff Sickler. A roll-call vote was requested, all were in favor, and none were opposed. The August minutes were officially adopted.	

JACKSON COUNTY AGENCY COVID-19 RESPONSE

DISCUSSION	
<i>Eric Guyer, Director—Jackson County Community Justice</i>	
<u>Juvenile Department</u>	
PO's are having to rely on other tools, not the full array of services that are commonly used to engage people. There is a higher reliance on virtual connections, which juveniles are very comfortable with. There are texting services and Zoom services that allow skill-building and role-playing in real time. Despite the difficulties that COVID-19 presents, there are different ways of interacting and engaging youth, despite that we will plan on carrying out even with office access.	
<u>Transition Center</u>	
Last year we were averaged 120 clients any one time, people who are residing in different parts of the program. Prior to the fires, we were averaging about 60 during COVID-19 and we did that so we might be able to space adequately and so we would not have as much traffic coming in and out the door. And we did it so we could effectively work with the people we have and cohort the groups. There are ten adults to a cohort and the idea is that these ten adults in our program will not connect with any other people so if there is an infection we may be able to limit the extent of it without infecting everybody.	
<u>Adult Parole and Probation</u>	
The court is not moving as many folks through due to COVID-19, so there are fewer probation cases. We have also seen more prison releases, as the Governor has commuted a number of folks, in an attempt to ensure that adults-in-custody, are healthy where they can be. Most of them are coming out of endemic Oregon facilities where there is a prevalence of COVID-19, therefore they must then isolate for fourteen days. We have been working with the Health and Human Services department to get that person a room at a hotel, and receive meals. This is tough for these folks and it is difficult to get them to abide by these rules since we are not utilizing jail and are trying to keep them out of jail. PO's and health department staff have used a lot of creativity to keep people there for fourteen days for their safety and the community's safety.	
In an effort to decrease circulation in the lobby, there has been an increase in the work conducted through Zoom. Use of jail has reduced by over 50 percent, which is difficult because we try to provide short-term sanctions who otherwise would be looking at a prison sentence. Fewer UA's are conducted, so we have had to be creative in how we identify when a person is struggling.	
A report from the Oregon Health Authority stated that they have seen a 70 percent increase in Oregon opioid deaths during April and May. There are concerns about the people that we supervise right now in terms of the overall of effects of COVID-19 due to the isolation and reduced contact with parts of the system.	

Lorenzo Mejia, Presiding Judge – Jackson County Circuit Court

- Chief Justice issued formal order March 16th, No. 20-006, stating no trials were to be had from March 19th-March 27th
- Her directive was 3-foot social distancing, later that changed
- One of the most open courts throughout the State

Response during COVID

- Front entrance- One person at a time
- Six feet social distancing in the lobby
- Civil until with social distancing
 - Present rule, staff stays in their cubicle and 6 feet apart and may remove their mask. Rule may change as COVID develops.
- Small claims via Webex
- Court support unit masked
- Court Services Social Distances in the unit and at the window
- Elevator capacity two people only
- Jury Assembly Room-Regular Capacity 125, during COVID-19 capacity 35
- Jury Orientation
- Plexiglass for Jury Clerks
- Courtrooms
 - Not a lot of space in the courtroom, people need to wait in the lobby and are brought in.
 - Mobile advice of rights
 - Extra-help: Usher and cleaning after sessions

Beth Heckert, District Attorney – Jackson County District Attorneys Office

- In March, half of staff worked in the building and the other half worked from home
- After 60 days, staff returned to the building which is spacious and allowed for social distancing
 - Court was starting to have extra sessions, which led to the need of returning to the office
 - Not many clients visiting the office, any appointments could be done by phone
 - Many functions could be done remotely, except grand jury and court appearances
- Grand Jury
 - Moved into the large conference room with adequate social distancing
 - All witnesses appeared remotely, by facetime
 - Usually three Grand Jury groups a week-- cancelled Wednesday group and only did Measure 11 and serious crimes on Tuesdays and Thursday groups
 - Court extended Grand Jury terms, members served two terms
 - All jurors wear masks, there was some resistance but Judge expressed need of wearing masks and spoke to jurors
- Court
 - Court appearances and trials pushed out
 - Done a few jury trials, jurors are spread out through entire court room
 - Co-defendant cases raise issues for the court
 - If attorney or public wants to attend a trial, court sets up another court room where they can watch remotely
- Petitions for clemency have increased
- List of COVID releases
 - File objections on about 7 or 8
 - Taking up resources and time
 - Worked with Eric on commutations
- Staff is required to wear mask around the office, unless alone in their office
- Utilizing Zoom to contact victims and witnesses

Scott Clauson, Chief of Police— Medford Police Department

- In March there was a dramatic reduction in calls for service
 - Dispatch calls were reduced by 30%
 - Captures the thefts, traffic crashes, and traffic crimes that were not occurring due to people not being out as much
 - As things have opened, these numbers have increased but overall crime is trending downward
- Directive was to self-release as many people as possible in lieu of custody arrests
 - Exception of a few Measure 11 folks
- All staff wears masks
- Custodial staff cleans three times a day
- Very flexible with staff due to the stresses of COVID-19, Alameda fires, and the protests

- There were layoffs within the city leading to reduction in staff
- Online reporting has increased and cases have doubled
 - Reduces contact with Officers
 - Staffed the online reporting system to get back to people more efficiently
- Due to the limitations on housing around the community, the Urban campground was created to provide transitional housing for people who are on the Greenway

Lt. Joshua Aldrich, Jail Commander— Jackson County Jail

Pre-COVID Population

- Jail population – 300 capacity (315 overnight)
 - Average daily population – 349
- Approximately 40 intakes per day
- Average 10-20 releases per day due to overcrowding

Initial Threat – March 2020

- Discussion with Local and Regional Authorities
 - Jackson County Health
 - Oregon Health Authority
 - Oregon Jail Command Council
 - “Plan for Phased Response”
- Initial 3-Part approach
 - Cleaning
 - Screening
 - Quarantine

3-Part Plan – Cleaning

- Enhanced Cleaning of all spaces
 - County Maintenance – Public lobby and spaces
 - Availability of hydrostatic cleaner
 - Sheriff’s Office Employees – Office and secure areas
 - Volunteer inmate workers – housing units/tiers/kitchen
- Access to additional person hygiene
 - Newly installed hand sanitizers throughout jail
 - Additional hand soap access

3-Part Plan – Screening

- During Intake
 - All Jail intakes questions for symptoms
 - Deputy observations
 - Screened for temperatures at intake
- Employees requires to self-report symptoms
- Evaluation of potential high-risk AIC

3-Part Plan – Quarantine

- All intakes housed in observation units
 - 14-day period – small groups
 - Monitored by corrections and medical staff for symptoms
 - After 14 days – moved to general population
- General population
 - Movement from one unit to another restricted to necessity only
- Created a need for major population reduction
 - Reduction through attrition – Goal 230 capacity
 - No refusal of lodgings – “Arrest if needed”
- Plan for symptomatic adults-in-custody
 - Isolation in negative-air-flow cells
 - Only two available in facility
 - Arrangements for immediate testing
 - Potential transport to local medical facility
 - A couple incidents early – Negative test results

Phase 2 – Further restrictions

- Eliminate or reduce all non-essential personnel
 - Suspension of personal visitation
 - Provided with free phone calls and video visits

- Reduction of professional visit
 - Essential only
 - Alternative visiting options (phone, video)
- Suspension of jail programming
 - Medication Assisted treatment
 - Religious services
- Work from home
 - Very limited opportunity – Jail administrative personnel
- Implementation of facial covering requirements
- Reduction of court procedures
 - Resulting in stagnant jail population
- Elimination of certain transport lines
 - Interstate shuttle system
 - Drastic increase in staff extraditions

Current population issues

- Reduction of services has resulted in increased risk
 - Current jail population – See today's I-list Email
 - Total records – 262

○ MEASURE 11	87 (33.2%)
○ STATE PRETRIAL	88 (33.6%)
○ PV	42 (16.0%)
○ FEDERAL	34 (13.0%)
○ FUGITIVE	7 (2.7%)
○ PRISON HOLD	2

Year-to-date

- 2019
 - Total lodgings: 10958
 - Total releases: 10943
 - Due to overcrowding: 3783 (34.6%)
- 2020
 - Total lodgings: 7595
 - Total releases: 7667
 - Due to overcrowding: 3153 (41.1%)

Planning for phase 3 – outbreak

None of these currently in place

- Drastic reduction of jail population
 - 180 capacity maximizes social distancing
 - Highest level charges only
 - Refusal of certain lodgings
 - Supervision of those who are released
- Plan for mass testing
 - Help from county health
 - Additional staffing required
- Group Housing s. Isolation
 - Discussion/debate regarding best approach
- Infected and/or exposed staff
 - Where to find potential help if needed

Helping the Community

- Food preparation for those in need
 - Cooperation with local support groups
 - Up to 120 daily meals for unhoused population
 - Daily meals for those housed in community quarantine
- Seamless transition for quarantine housing
 - Ability for direct transition to community quarantine
- Jail design is ideal for group quarantine
 - Maximizes housing potential while reducing cross-contamination

Continued Assessment

- Best practice
 - Regular changed from both medical and correctional authorities
- Population testing

- Contract with in-state lab for quick results
- Potential for reduced quarantine period
- Population increase – Currently 230-240
 - Balancing increased need of the criminal justice system with on-going safety need of facility

Questions/Discussion

Gilda Montenegro-Fix asked Lt. Aldrich if they are also testing staff as well as the inmates. Lt. Aldrich clarified that inmates are not being tested at this point and staff can get tested whenever they feel any need or symptoms.

JUSTICE REINVESTMENT INITIATIVE (JRI) AMENDMENTS

ERIC GUYER, CHAIR

DISCUSSION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We moved \$234.60 from Administrative to Supplies (Resource Center) ● We moved \$528.45 from Personnel to Supplies (Resource Center) <p>Jennifer Lind provided a motion to adopt, seconded by Dave Carter. A roll-call vote was requested, all were in favor, and none were opposed. The JRI amendments were approved.</p>

Next Scheduled PSCC Meeting: November 24, 2020
Meeting Adjourned: 12:53pm