



Local Public Safety Coordinating Council  
Director Malcolm McDonald, Chair  
Vacant, Vice-Chair

## Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Development Services Building, Rm 119/120, 150 Beavercreek Rd, Oregon City, OR 97045

**Members present:** Malcolm McDonald, Mary Rumbaugh, Bruce Tarbox, Adam Freer, Sheriff Angela Brandenburg, Christina McMahan, District Attorney John Wentworth, Judge Ann Lininger, Rod Cook, and Emily Brault.

**Guests present:** Elizabeth White, Bill Stewart, Trent Wilson, Kristin Gibson, Undersheriff Jenna Morrison and Apryl Herron.

### Welcome and Introduction

- Chair Malcolm McDonald welcomed attendees and announced the meeting's focus on deflection and noted there would be an opportunity for public testimony after the discussion.
- The Chair introduced Deputy District Attorney Bill Stewart, who provided an update on the deflection work group's progress and outlined their decision-making needs.

### Deflection Workgroup Update, Overview of Deflection Model, Proposed Budget

- Bill distributed two documents: a two-sided form titled "Deflection Overview" and a one-page spreadsheet detailing the proposed program budget. He mentioned the work group had held a number of meetings over the past two and a half months, and the documents were working drafts subject to further revisions.
- Bill said the deflection program is expected to launch on September 1, aligning with the effective date of new possession of controlled substances (PCS) laws. Under the program, law enforcement officers will issue citations, directing individuals to Community Court (held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month) instead of taking them into custody, provided they have probable cause to believe an unclassified misdemeanor has been committed.
- Bill noted the District Attorney's Office, along with the program navigator, will assess eligibility based on an individual's case, criminal history, and connections to county and nonprofit partners. Officers and partners can also make social referrals without issuing citations. Deflection will not be offered to individuals on formal probation or with prior convictions for serious crimes.
- Bill said decisions made by the DA's Office regarding deflection will be documented, accessible to partners, and reported to the Criminal Justice Commission. Deflection will be offered as a one-time opportunity, though this policy may be revisited later.

- Participants will have multiple opportunities to engage with services through the program navigator, who will act as a liaison between service providers and the criminal justice system. The goal is to engage participants before their citation deadlines, giving them a chance to begin treatment and avoid court appearances.
- Bill stated program participation will include a 180-day engagement period, which was determined to be more effective than the initially proposed 90 days. He noted the program will incorporate successful elements from the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program.
- The deflection program will collaborate with the local Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN), which comprises 16 organizations funded through Measure 110, to enhance engagement with substance use services, such as peer support. The program aims to build trust by reducing barriers to foster engagement.
- Bill Discussed the importance of aligning the deflection program with existing community services. He and Mary Rumbaugh discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen collaboration with BHRN providers.
- Undersheriff Jenna Morrison raised concerns about the availability of outpatient services to meet anticipated needs, citing comments from Judge Steele at the previous LPSCC meeting about the shortage of residential treatment options.
- Sheriff Angela Brandenburg acknowledged the lack of residential beds, while Mary added that outpatient services are generally accessible within a few days. However, drug court participants may still require residential or detox services.
- Undersheriff Morrison noted that participants in the local justice system have reported positive outcomes from the Clackamas Substance Abuse Program (CSAP).
- Attendees acknowledged that peers and outreach workers play a key role in helping participants navigate multiple services, thereby improving engagement and outcomes.
- Undersheriff Morrison clarified the distinction between conditional discharge and formal probation: conditional discharge provides supportive services before sentencing, while formal probation follows a conviction. Conditional discharge includes structured expectations to help participants understand their responsibilities and support available to them.
- Bill outlined the upcoming Operational Management Group (OMG) meetings, which will occur monthly to share data and identify areas for improvement, with the possibility of more frequent meetings if needed. Health, Housing, and Human Services will oversee hiring the program navigator to ensure cross-sector coordination.
- A deflection workshop with OHSU is scheduled for July 22, with OHSU leading data management for the program. Counties across the state are pursuing different deflection strategies, with no uniform approach.
- Law enforcement training will be introduced during roll calls, with materials ready for distribution.
- Trent Wilson presented the communication plan for the program's September 1 rollout, which includes:

- **Web Pages:** Dedicated pages on the county website with program details, FAQs, and guidance, optimized for search engines.
- **Educational Materials:** Videos and infographics shared on social media to explain the program's purpose. A social media campaign will accompany the launch, providing guidance for those seeking assistance.
- Trent noted the importance of involving law enforcement and community partners in communication efforts to ensure effective implementation.
- Bill discussed the importance of robust data collection to track program effectiveness, including demographics, referrals, and outcomes.
- Sheriff Brandenburg noted the challenges law enforcement faces when initial contacts with individuals in crisis do not result in immediate connections to services. Mary and the Sheriff discussed the need for 24/7 response capability, though current funding limits availability. Both agreed that additional funding and partnerships are essential to expand immediate assistance.
- Bill talked about the importance of building trust with law enforcement, ensuring officers feel confident that referrals and citations will lead to meaningful outcomes. Mary proposed creating a resource card for officers to offer immediate support, even outside regular hours.
- Bill and Undersheriff Morrison discussed the value of tracking interactions, including cases where individuals are jailed instead of receiving citations, to guide future program adjustments.
- Bill discussed preparations for public communication and legislative meetings. A meeting with key elected officials is scheduled for August 15 to address emerging challenges. The goal is to have a comprehensive report on the program's effectiveness by February 2025 to support future funding and improvements.

## LPSCC Discussion

- Christina McMahan raised concerns about subjectivity in assessing engagement. Bill responded there would be a written deflection offer to ensure consistency.
- Judge Ann Lininger inquired if current data collection methods are adequate for a population of Clackamas County's size.
- Trent recommended communicating with legislators and community leaders to address funding needs proactively.
- The Sheriff inquired about the program's capacity for compliance. Bill indicated the plan is to start small with the program to understand its capacity and determine how to build it out. He noted the importance of developing partnerships with BRHN providers and engaging both established and new outreach partners. The strategy involves starting with a narrow scope to manage initial cases effectively and assess capacity for broader engagement.
- The Sheriff and Bill discussed how law enforcement partners will manage citations and direct cases towards community court to support current jail system capacity while building trust with individuals in the community.

- Undersheriff Morrison asked about how to manage individuals who fail to appear. Bill explained that outreach efforts will target these individuals, offering opportunities to clear warrants through community courts.
- The focus shifted to budget considerations. Clackamas County received just over \$950,000 in funding through June 30, 2025, primarily to hire a program coordinator and an additional support role. A flexible fund will address immediate needs, such as temporary stabilization.
- Bruce Tarbox inquired about hiring an additional Deputy District Attorney (DDA). Bill clarified a dedicated DDA is needed to manage the increased workload and ensure effective program oversight.
- Mary suggested using unallocated funds to hire a 0.5 FTE supervisor to provide backup and overflow support, ensuring continuity during staff absences.
- Christina talked about the 180-day participation requirement and suggested more flexibility to accommodate those who may need additional time to engage with services. Bill acknowledged the concern, noting that the program will regularly review timelines and adjust them as necessary to align with participants' progress.
- Bruce expressed concern about participants that lack adequate support, noting the importance of improving outcomes and reducing barriers. Judge Lininger agreed, underscoring the aim is to engage participants more fully and identify positive pathways to success. She noted that while documenting progress is important, the priority should be on finding effective solutions and providing ongoing support.
- The group discussed the importance of coordination with the court system and Bill confirmed his office is working closely with court staff to streamline processes.
- Mary talked about the importance of understanding the full continuum of services when recruiting a program navigator. The navigator must have a comprehensive knowledge of the different levels of care to make informed recommendations and ensure clients access the appropriate services at the right time.
- Bill concurred, noting navigators must be well-integrated within both systems to effectively support clients.

## **Public Comment**

- Apryl Herron, speaking on behalf of Project Hope, inquired about how the program fits into the referral process for previously engaged individuals. Bill confirmed integrating existing programs, such as Project Hope, into the system is a priority, stressing the importance of consolidating resources and connecting services to streamline assistance for individuals.
- Apryl also mentioned a new recovery support worker is being hired by Public Health and Sheriff's Office, with partial funding from Care Oregon. This worker will support individuals engaged with the justice system, assisting CSAP, the Transition Center, and the Jail, while contributing to peer support and case management efforts.