



Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
Christina McMahan, Chair
Richard Swift, Vice-Chair

Local Public Safety Coordinating Council Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2020

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Development Services Building Room 301

Members present: Chief John Schmerber, Emily Brault, Korene Mather, Ken Humberston, Seth Lyon, Christina McMahan, Malcolm McDonald, Judge Ann Lininger, Mary Rumbaugh, Richard Swift, Bruce Tarbox, Eric Barerra, Melissa Erlbaum

Guests present: Simon Fulford, Valerie Adrian, Kimberlee DeSantis, John Wentworth, Elizabeth White

Welcome/Introductions

Chair Christina McMahan welcomed members and guests and called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. Chair McMahan noted guest speaker Sonji Moore was driving from Salem and would arrive late to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed Chief John Schmerber as a new LPSCC member representing police chiefs and thanked the Chief for joining the group.

Consent Agenda – approval of minutes from September 24, 2019

Chair McMahan asked members to review September meeting minutes before calling for a motion to approve. Malcolm McDonald indicated that he reviewed the minutes prior to the meeting and moved to approve the minutes as written. Ken Humberston seconded the motion. Judge Ann Lininger abstained from voting stating she didn't attend the September meeting. The other members present voted to approve the minutes and the motion passed.

Action Item – Approval of 2019-2021 Clackamas County Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Semi-annual Report July – December 2019

Malcolm McDonald provided a recap of the 2019 – 2021 Justice Reinvestment Progress Report for July – December 2019. Malcolm said he found an error on the bottom of page 2 in the electronic version sent to members. He stated the percentage of cases released to the Pretrial program was 46%, not 28%. Malcolm provided revised copies of the report to members.

John Wentworth requested clarification regarding the 91.4% appearance rate on page 3. Last week, Portland State University (PSU) professor, Dr. Renauer, delivered a presentation on pretrial data and indicated a failure to appear rate of 32%. Dr. Renauer had conducted a validation study of the risk assessment tool used when screening for pretrial supervision levels and included a failure to appear rate in his report. John asked for additional information to gain a better understanding of the large discrepancy between the appearance rates noted in these reports.

Members discussed reasons for this discrepancy. Several members inquired if the denominator reflected different sections of the pretrial population instead of the entire population. Members engaged in a discussion about the impact of population differences on appearance rates.

Dr. Valerie Adrian stated her evaluation team used the Automon system to pull data for the appearance rate. Valerie indicated the Automon system calculates the failure to appear (FTA) rate differently than appearance rate. Valerie noted denominator differences resulting from using number of closures verses hearing and all cases, i.e., open and closed cases may cause differences in appearance rates, and she would further investigate the matter before finalizing the report.

Malcolm and his team will revise the report text to explain how appearance rates were calculated. Members agreed to approve the report if Malcolm's team was confident the explanation would provide sufficient clarification. Malcolm agreed to send out a revised version of the report with amended language before the next meeting.

Presentation – Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice: Sonji Moore, Racial and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Team of the Youth Development Division of the Oregon Department of Education

Chair McMahan provided introductory remarks and welcomed Sonji Moore to present an overview of the Youth Development Division's (YDD) R.2 E. D.! (Really REDy to End Disparities) approach to tackling racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system. Sonji showed a short video to members about systemic racism. After the video, she defined terms often used to describe racial and ethnic disparities, such as equity, and gave examples of these terms to improve understanding and frame the conversation.

Sonji discussed implicit bias and its impact on decision-making. Implicit bias refers to attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner. Sonji asked members to consider taking a Harvard University Project Implicit – Implicit Association Test (IAT): <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatest.html>.

Sonji acknowledged efforts across Oregon to address racial and ethnic disparities and commended Clackamas County for launching the Office of Equity and Inclusion. This office will be a part of County Administration and distinct from other county departments.

Sonji noted the Juvenile Justice Reform Act provides funding to help states address the core requirement of identifying and reducing racial and ethnic disparities (RED) among youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Oregon Youth Authority has budgeted funds to elevate equity and inclusion and added a new position to support this work. Sonji discussed data that demonstrate the need in Oregon to make this investment. This includes the disproportionate rate of referrals for African American and Native American youth. Sonji also noted taking action to reduce disparities is important to ensure Title II funding renewal.

Sonji provided a brief overview of YDD's model to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. She noted YDD is focusing on areas where change is possible and continues to listen and learn with Juvenile Justice stakeholders. Sonji concluded her presentation after reviewing a slide of YDD's next steps. Due to time, Sonji was unable to show all the videos in her presentation and asked members to consider reviewing them later using the URLs provided in the handout.

Brief Announcements from Members

Due to time, this agenda item was skipped.

Public Input

Chair McMahan asked if there was any input from the public. No public participants provided any input. Chair McMahan moved to adjourn the meeting and encouraged members to reach out to Sonji to learn more about YDD's efforts and share potential solutions.

Adjourn

Chair McMahan thanked members and guests for their participation and she adjourned the meeting at 1:35pm.