

Governor's Re-entry Council

August 17, 2011

Oregon Corrections Enterprises
3691 STATE STREET
SALEM, OREGON 97301

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Council Members: Patrice Altenhofen, Ginger Martin, Tom McClellan, Jerry Moore, Steve Powers, Mark Royal, for Aaron Felton, Paul Solomon, Max Williams

Steering Committee Members: Cindy Booth, Martin Burrows, Mark Cadotte, Val Conley, Phil Cox, Debra Giard, Pegge McGuire, Jay Scroggin

Interested Observers: Kimberly Allain, Darcey Baker, Brian Boggs, Nichole Brown, Doug Cooper, Doug Cox, Chane Griggs, Shane Hagey, Hank Harris, Garrett Heming, Patty Katz, Connie Kyle, Jeanie Lynn, Karen Muir, Anne O'Malley, Ted Salter

Max Williams: Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Williams welcomed members and guests and self introductions followed.

Review of Meeting Minutes

The minutes were accepted as submitted and were approved.

Public Input

No one from the public requested to speak.

Announcements and Information Sharing

Paul Solomon announced that Sponsors, Inc. (Eugene) now has 10 beds funded for veterans. These are not, however, 10 additional beds. Sponsors is also training to conduct risk assessments on inmates released from prison, as well as obtain those LS/CMI scores from assessments conducted in prison.

Patty Katz, Partnership for Safety & Justice shared news of a new video titled [The Next Right Thing: Removing Employment Barriers](#) (which can be viewed through this link to the Re-entry Wiki: <http://oregonreentry.wikidot.com/partnership-for-safety-justice>). Ms. Katz explained how it illustrates the importance of helping persons successfully re-enter the community.

Max Williams spoke about the governor's process of building a new ten-year plan for performance-based budgeting, working with Michael Jordan, Director for the Department of Administrative Service (DAS). Max is the convener of the Public Safety Subcommittee

which has met 3 times in the past 3 weeks. The subcommittee's charge is to take a very broad view of public safety in Oregon; identifying the big picture outcomes, indicators and strategies. Max explained his proposal for a long-term re-entry strategy that includes specific recommendations for re-entry investments, linking back to work of the Re-entry Council, and directing the council to operationalize strategies. Steve Powers remarked on the importance of investing in services not unique to a corrections silo. Max agreed, stating further investments in alcohol and drug treatment, and mental health treatment; particularly at the local level, are critical supports for an effective public safety agenda.

- **Re-entry Related Budget and Legislation Updates**
Each Council Member Agency

Ginger Martin – Two laws from 2011 Session:

HB 3309 – Relating to on-the-job training. The bill allows DOC or county community corrections agencies to enter into agreements with public or private employers to provide training if funding is available/appropriated. The bill was sponsored by the Marion County Re-entry Initiative. This bill was initiated at this time so a plan can be developed for when funding is appropriated.

HB 3536 – Relating to transitions from jail (not prison); suspends vs. terminates the medical assistance of a person who becomes an inmate of a local correctional facility for no more than 12 months.

SB 420 – Transfers jurisdiction over a person found guilty except for insanity to Oregon Health Authority while the person is committed to the Oregon State Hospital. Formerly, they were under the authority of the Psychiatric Security Review Board (PSRB).

Max Williams – Measure 57:

The Legislature chose to allow the sunset on M-57 to expire. Effective January 1, 2012, all provisions that were suspended are reactivated. Initially, it will not have a huge financial impact on DOC's budget i.e. the 2011-13 biennium). It is expected to have a dramatic impact on the 2013-15 biennium as bed need is projected to increase by 2,000 over the next decade.

Commission on Public Safety:

The governor signed an executive order establishing a Commission on Public Safety charged with reviewing Oregon's sentencing policies. The commission report is due December 15, 2011.

Governor's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission:

This Commission is now permanent. The commission has the ability to address issues across agencies concerning both prevention and treatment, and will be responsible for data collection and research. DOC will provide in-kind services to the commission. A link to their website has been added to the Re-entry Wiki and will also be added to the Re-entry Council website <http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/mentalhealth/tools-policymakers/adpc/main.shtml>

The commission's meeting schedule is available through:
<http://www.oregon.gov/OHA/mentalhealth/tools-policymakers/adpc/documents/ad-comm-2011-meeting-schedule.pdf>

Update on DOC Budget:

Twelve million dollars of a \$16 million cut was restored for alcohol and drug treatment. Funding to counties for M-57 alcohol and drug treatment services was maintained.

Mark Royal – Community Corrections Budget:

Funding for community corrections in Oregon saw a reduction of approximately \$33m this biennium, which is changing the way many community corrections agencies do business. There will be less treatment, fewer re-entry programs, more monitoring and supervision – a more bare-bones approach. During the next legislative session OACCD plans to demonstrate to legislators how community corrections agencies' work can be a cost-savings option for public safety. Paul Solomon shared that Lane County's 10% overall community corrections reduction resulted in 50% to 100% cuts to mental health and alcohol and drug treatment and other support services. Currently, there are no mental health services being funded in Lane County.

Phil Cox – OYA Budget Impacts:

Effective October 1, 2011, there will be an overall reduction of 17% to close custody discretionary beds and a 12% workforce reduction. This translates to 119 layoff notices to staff working in close custody facilities. Diversion funds were held harmless. There is a 17% increase in residential capacity, and a 6% increase to Multnomah County for gang services.

Pegge McGuire – Housing:

The Oregon Food Bank which helps support 900 food pantries got a \$350,000 add-back. There will be no bond sales this biennium, which will trigger an Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) reorganization and will likely result in a large number of layoffs. Anyone relying on federal funds can anticipate cuts including programs that provide services to persons releasing from prison and jails.

Val Conley – Veterans:

Veterans took a small budget hit, but nothing that impacts reach-ins.

Martin Burrows – Employment:

Funds are stable. Community College and Workforce Development will have staff cuts. Special projects funded by the federal Workforce Investment Act have been reduced 5% in discretionary funds.

Jerry Moore – City of Salem Chief of Police:

The counties get hit harder than cities and they are currently holding their own.

Budget Notes from 2011 Session:

Ms. Martin reported the legislature allocated \$1m for Re-entry Pilot Projects. Projects must adhere to evidence-based principles of practice, provide treatment, employment

and work release opportunities such as those formerly operated by Klamath and Umatilla counties.

Nichole Brown, DOC Administrator for Workforce Development, briefed the council on the Oregon Community Colleges and Workforce Development Department's (CCWD) job training budget note. Three million four hundred thousand dollars is available for on-the-job training to help Oregonians get back to work, including those released from prison. The program is designed to serve 663 people statewide. The Re-entry Council's workgroup on Employment and Education is working with CCWD to develop criteria for persons releasing from DOC who might qualify for a number of these OJT opportunities post-release. The council agreed that this workgroup is the appropriate vehicle for this project.

Second Chance Act: Reauthorization Funding:

Mr. Williams reported the SCA reauthorization is currently in the appropriations committee and appears to have broad, bi-partisan support.

Re-entry Challenges: A Case Study

Shane Hagey, Hank Harris, Cindy Booth

Cindy Booth, DOC Administrator for the Transition and Release Unit, provided a brief overview of a case, which is but one example of difficulties often faced by DOC and community corrections staff members working on effective releases from prison to the community. In short, the case is about a person who was in prison for 12 years, has extensive medical issues, is wheelchair dependent, has been designated as a predatory sex offender, and could not be released to his previous home because of his past crimes.

For nearly eight months, DOC staff from release services, medical services and behavioral health services worked to ensure the inmate was pre-qualified for Medicaid benefits upon release, and would receive services through the Social Security Administration. In the search for an appropriate housing option, over 20 care facilities were contacted; all declined to accept him. At every turn, there were barriers.

Hank Harris, DOC Release Services Manager, went into detail about how the barriers ran the gamut of possibilities and even though multiple counties were contacted and willing to consider the inmate coming to their county, none of their housing options would consider housing the individual. On the day of release, the inmate was transported to Jackson County Community Corrections to report for supervision. Ultimately, his needs were too great and with no placement option available, he was transported to a local hospital to have his medical needs addressed. The hospital released him and he was taken to the local mission.

Shane Hagey, Jackson County Community Corrections Director, explained how this case ultimately caused many local community members to work together in a manner they had never before been challenged. And through this process, each learned they didn't really know what the other organizations do, or within what restrictions they work. In this person's case, a housing provider was found, but they couldn't provide the inmate with insulin injections, so the hospital agreed to have one of their nursing staff go to the adult

foster home and provide the required injections until the housing provider could be trained and certified to do them. At the time of this council's meeting, Mr. Hagey reported the offender is doing much better and has had a few good conversations with his parole officer.

Mr. Williams remarked on the impact of Measure 11 sentences coming to an end for many long-serving inmates, so we are seeing more elderly people being released. He suspects there are more of these cases than we are currently aware.

Mr. Cox asked how he could be deemed predatory when he is in a wheelchair. Mr. Hagey explained that predatory status is not based in their physical ability to reoffend. Mr. Harris shared that being a sex offender makes release planning more difficult; whether predatory or not. Mr. Williams reminded the council that approximately one-third of the prison population is sex offenders. Mr. Royal commented that every county has stories like these. We have a lot yet to learn about effective re-entry with certain populations.

Mr. Williams added that as the population ages, we may need to have a conversation around developing a facility specific to this population when they release. This would require Medicaid and counties to contribute to funding the operation with the possibility of having Parole and Probation Officers stationed there or being there regularly. It would not be incarceration; it would be a care facility for them at release.

Offender Re-entry Programs: Preliminary Evaluation Report – July 2011 Criminal Justice Commission (CJC)

Devarshi Bajpai, Grant Program Manager, and Kelly Officer, Research Analyst, presented on this preliminary evaluation report published July, 2011. The focus of the evaluation are the offender re-entry programs funded through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, which provides funding for 4 county programs, with Multnomah County's grant being the largest, accounting for 60% of the grant.

The evaluation began the winter of 2010 and CJC will continue to track data on the offenders for a full 36 months post-release. Highlights of the evaluation:

- Four programs were funded in Multnomah, Washington, Jackson and Josephine counties. These programs provided transition services, including addiction and mental health treatment, employment services, housing and mentors to offenders who were transitioning from DOC residential treatment programs.
- The programs generated a 27% decrease in all felony and misdemeanor charges when compared to similar offenders matched on risk. When measured on re-arrest, the decrease was even more pronounced at 33%.
- Each dollar invested in these programs generated \$6.73 in benefits in the form of avoided criminal justice costs to taxpayers and victimization costs.

Mr. Williams observed the evaluation generally confirms there is a better bang for the buck with institutional treatment when there is treatment follow-up in the community.

Devarshi advised these programs will continue to receive funding for a couple years. However, there will be federal budget cuts which will impact available options.

Report available at: http://www.oregon.gov/CJC/docs/Reentry_Eval_Final.pdf

Fast Track Process for Council Support

Request from the Re-entry Steering committee: The Steering Committee requested the council fast track council approval when needed to support a grant request. Mr. Williams recommended using a quick electronic notification with voting buttons to all council members and ask them to respond in a short time. Council members agreed to this process.

Narrowing the Focus: Sex Offender Re-entry Priorities Update on New Goals

Ms. Martin shared the Re-entry Steering Committee's goals for this latest council priority. A subject matter expert workgroup will be convened to explore next steps to address barriers to effective sex offender re-entry, including data on sex offender treatment. The council will be briefed at their November meeting.

Re-entry in the Juvenile System:

Ms. Martin reported on progress made by the workgroup convened to look at juvenile offender re-entry issues – youth adjudicated in juvenile court – using the 'State Framework for Prisoner Reentry', developed by the National Re-entry Policy Council that was shared with the Re-entry Council at the May meeting.