



Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Report January 2023 – December 2024

Released April 2025



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Letter from LPSCC Chair Jessica Vega Pederson

Providing a thoughtful overview of the exceptional work of the Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) is not only a good practice but a priority of mine: to communicate the value of this collaborative space to engage the bigger and longer-term questions, concerns, considerations and opportunities that developing public safety best practices and resources gives us.

LPSCC has played a key role in our community for almost 30 years. By regularly convening a wide range of stakeholders, the Council has helped establish a vision that recognizes public safety is more than just a criminal justice response but one that requires engagement with diverse resources and supports in the areas of mental health, addictions, educational, shelter, housing and community justice.

Expanding connections between our public safety systems and several other upstream and downstream systems of care is our way forward as a community. This is the space LPSCC occupies and what LPSCC has helped us develop in our efforts to stay connected to our most pressing needs. We consistently hear from those we serve that it doesn't matter which jurisdiction is considering a solution or solving a problem as long as those discussions are happening and those solutions are being developed. I believe we need more spaces like LPSCC — tables where every critical partner can bring the thorniest issue for consideration and be assured that we will capitalize on trusted relationships to truly talk, consider and move towards action.

This entire annual report is a reflection of what it looks like to design and build better, more proactive bridges between public safety policy efforts, public safety community partners and the broader community. Our ability to manage gun violence reduction collaboration with partners, provide liaisons to schools and justice partners, lead reimagining justice efforts in community spaces, and respond to the emerging needs around public safety investments is critical to our ability to build a safer, more sustainable place for each member of our community to live and thrive. We aspire to this on behalf of our residents and appreciate every opportunity to engage directly with the people most impacted by the choices this Council makes.

Before signing off, I want to be sure to acknowledge and thank longtime Executive Director Abbey Stamp for her ability to bring people together around a shared table. It has been impactful to my own leadership journey to watch you at work throughout my tenure as County Commissioner for District 3 and Chair. Thanks also to Sarah Mullen for stepping in as interim with Abbey's departure and I look forward to the next chapter of LPSCC's work under new permanent leadership in 2025. Thanks also to each justice fellow, community partner, justice partner and Multnomah County resident who has connected with this work and helped move it forward. Your efforts breathe life into ideas and make public safety a place of shared endeavor, which strengthens both the work and its potential to succeed.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica Vega Pederson".

Jessica Vega Pederson
Multnomah County Chair



Letter from LPSCC Executive Director Abbey Stamp

In graduate school I learned that true collaboration happens only when resources and power are shared. If not, it's just a meeting.

After 11 years as the Executive Director of LPSCC, I have learned how hard it is to achieve true collaboration. LPSCC members have different levels of power, authority, and influence, which makes power sharing particularly challenging. Even so, I have watched trusted relationships develop between the different public safety leaders and when one person's title is "Your Honor" and another person uses only their first name. Partnerships across this hierarchy are possible.

Each day, public safety leaders manage multiple crises. Partnership requires time to connect to span the power differences. Investing in working relationships between LPSCC members is required in order to work together. When LPSCC members work together, hard problems can be tackled.

I was honored to be joined by the seven key criminal justice system leaders (Sheriff, District Attorney, Portland Police Chief, Gresham Police Chief, Presiding Judge, lead public defender, and community corrections director) on May 1, 2024 in a half-day work session that focused on teamwork, trust, and improving ways of working together. That day was such a success, I included guidelines for future work sessions in the LPSCC bylaws for future leaders. I have learned that these seven positions are the central nervous system of the larger criminal justice and public safety systems across the community. When the people in these positions retire or leave, I am glad their successors will make sure they briefly step away from their daily work to ensure focus on their relationships and teamwork.

Through trusted relationship collaboration, amazing work has happened in both the LPSCC office and between LPSCC partners. A couple of highlights from this year include:

1. Efforts to eliminate silos between the Sheriff's Office and County Corrections Health Division with the goal of increasing trust and collaboration that result in better, safer jails. The Sheriff and her team receive and care for some of our most ill and vulnerable community members. Corrections and Health must work together in partnership to save lives and keep those vulnerable community members healthy and safe.
2. The Justice Fellowship, supported by LPSCC team member Enrique Rivera and the MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge grant, provided leadership training for 10 justice-impacted community members. Please read the Justice Fellowship section in this report for more information.

The criminal justice executives work session and the facilitated trust-building work between the Sheriff's Office and Corrections Health illustrate my key value as LPSCC Executive Director: transformation. The Transforming Justice project launched in 2020. Through several years of work, a vision for the future of local justice policy was developed; it is a true North Star. Core strategies were also developed to launch implementation of the vision. Due to capacity and change, the strategies have yet to be implemented across the County. However, a pilot project, Reimagining Justice in Cully, is underway; read on to find out more.

If and when future leaders are ready to move further toward justice, there are articulated values, strategies, and tools available. Justice happens when housing, behavioral health, medical, and criminal justice systems work together to improve the wellness and safety of our community without reliance on incarceration and prosecution.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

With peace and justice,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Abbey Stamp', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Abbey Stamp, LCSW
Executive Director of Multnomah County LPSCC

Improvements to LPSCC's Structure

The Multnomah County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) was established in 1995 through a County resolution after Senate Bill 1145 (1994) codified such councils into state law. Multnomah County's LPSCC initially focused on a small Executive Committee and a few workgroups. Since 2001 however, LPSCC participation has grown in size and scope, leading to a broader Executive Committee and the formation of additional subcommittees.

Bylaws were first drafted in 2021. In 2023, the National Institute of Corrections released [national standards](#) for criminal justice coordinating councils like LPSCC. Those standards led to the following changes:

- The larger Coordinating Council is now called "The Council." This group has statute-mandated [membership](#), meets monthly, votes on grant applications, and fulfills the duties outlined in statute.
- Several members of the Council now participate in a smaller Executive Committee. This group creates the Council agendas and manages the work of the subcommittees.
- LPSCC staff, the County Chair, and the County attorney are working together to ensure bylaws adhere to national standards, increase protocols, and support LPSCC's scope of work. New bylaws will be complete in early 2025.

Visit [LPSCC's website](#) for more information about its structure and mission.



Reimagining Justice in Cully and Transforming Justice

The Reimagining Justice in Cully pilot project is a partnership between Multnomah County's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC), Multnomah County's District 2, the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), residents and service providers in the Cully neighborhood, the City of Portland, and the Portland Police Bureau. Cully was chosen based on its demographics, crime rates, and core group of residents and activists with a vision for inclusive change. The goal is to empower residents to design a community-driven alternative to conventional law enforcement approaches for minor offenses. This community-led approach will enhance community safety, simplify access to essential services, and foster trust among residents, government and law enforcement.

Multnomah County received a \$2 million federal Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to fund the three-year Reimagining Justice in Cully (RJC) pilot.

The project serves as an implementation pilot of LPSCC's [Transforming Justice project](#), a three-year, human-centered effort involving justice and health system leaders, elected officials, providers, victims and survivors of crime, and individuals with lived experience. This project brings these parties together to develop a long-term vision of a transformed public safety system.

The Transforming Justice process identified 18 core strategies to achieve a fully transformed justice system, four of which are directly related to the work of the Reimagining Justice in Cully pilot project:

- Across everything we do, use human-centered, community-led design.
- Allocate funds to the community to create place-based solutions to public safety.
- Deploy interventions that reduce harm and use the criminal legal system in a more limited way.
- Prioritize community-building between law enforcement officers and the neighborhoods they patrol.

The first year of RJC was devoted to the planning phase, during which the project engaged with the Cully community to share information about the grant and to collect feedback about the perception of low-level crime in Cully. Project representatives connected with residents, attended community events and celebrations, partnered with the City of Portland's [Safe Blocks program](#), and held facilitated focus groups. Through these opportunities, RJC partners listened to concerns and documented strategies identified by the community for preventing low-level crime from taking place in Cully. These interactions created dialogue about low-level crime and helped RJC identify "hot spots" in the community for potential interventions.

More than 2,000 community members have been contacted about RJC to date, while 45 people have participated in two-hour focus groups and approximately 100 people have expressed interest in ongoing participation.

RJC established a leadership committee representing eight organizations, including community-based groups, the City of Portland, and Multnomah County. The Leadership Group has met monthly since December 2023 to provide oversight and guidance.

Implementation of the Reimagining Justice in Cully project is slated to begin in 2025.



HB 4002 Planning and Implementation

Providing pre-arrest options to our community following the re-introduction of misdemeanor charges for personal drug possession through the passage of House Bill 4002 has been, and will continue to be, a priority for Multnomah County. Advising the County Chair, law enforcement leaders, and many other system partners, LPSCC members came together to develop further pathways between law enforcement and our behavioral health system.

Intended for people who are stopped by law enforcement for suspected possession of small amounts of illegal substances, this continuum seeks to connect community members to life-saving recovery services and other stabilizing resources instead of arresting them.

The resources that comprise this continuum include mobile deflection units and the Coordinated Care Pathway Center, a new center in Southeast Portland that opened Oct. 14, 2024. People who are determined eligible for deflection by law enforcement partners are escorted to the Pathway Center to initiate their participation. While the Pathway Center connects people to recovery and other services, it does not provide direct services. Support specialists at the Pathways Center work with deflection participants to establish a customized care plan that may include referrals to in-patient or outpatient treatment, sobering and detox services, housing, transportation, medications, health insurance, medical and dental services, food access, and other stabilizing services. The participant has to act on at least one of the referrals in the care plan within 30 days.

An individual completes deflection successfully when they access the referral provided by Pathway Center peer support specialists or another mobile outreach team within 30 days. If the individual does not complete the steps to successfully complete the deflection process, they will be ineligible for further deflection for 30 days after the day it is determined the deflection was unsuccessful. If they are stopped for the same offense in that timeframe, they may be arrested instead.

Tuerk House is the service provider for the Pathway Center. Community-based providers 4D Recovery and Volunteers of America (VOA), along with the County's PATH (Promoting Access to Hope) program, provide field-based deflection services throughout the county. The Pathway Center will soon expand services by opening a 24-hour Sobering and Crisis Stabilization Center, with 16 sobering beds, in 2025 to increase the successful engagement between law enforcement and our behavioral health continuum of care.

Safety and Justice Challenge

Since 2015, Multnomah County has been an active member of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's Safety and Justice Challenge (SJC). The County has received \$2 million every two years since 2017 to implement strategies that address the main drivers of the local jail population, including unfair and ineffective practices that take a particularly heavy toll on people of color, low-income communities, and people with mental health and substance abuse issues. And since 2019, the County's SJC focus has been on improving the local pretrial justice system. A final \$500,000 capstone grant was awarded to Multnomah County in 2024 to evaluate the completed pretrial system reforms, as well as to build upon the success of its Justice Fellowship pilot program.

Pretrial Reform

In June 2023, Multnomah County implemented the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), an evidence-based pretrial risk assessment tool. The PSA is administered using a mostly automated IT system, developed using MacArthur Foundation funding, which allows for more accurate and efficient assessment of all individuals booked into custody on new charges. The County also implemented policies to better align two pretrial monitoring programs: Close Street (run by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office) and Pretrial Services Program (or PSP, run by the Department of Community Justice). The purpose of alignment is to ensure defendants are monitored by the appropriate program and that the intensity of monitoring is properly aligned with their respective risk levels.

During this final grant period, Justice System Partners (JSP), our technical assistance provider, will conduct a local validation of the PSA. Past validation studies of the PSA from other jurisdictions have shown it to be effective in predicting an individual's risk to commit a new criminal activity, a new violent criminal activity, or fail to appear in court. Outside experts will evaluate the other MacArthur-funded system changes and pretrial changes as a result of Oregon's Senate Bill 48 (2021).

In early 2024, Metropolitan Public Defenders, in partnership with the Sheriff's Office, implemented the Meaningful First Appearance project. This initiative allows defense attorneys access to their in-custody clients to provide representation prior to arraignment to lead to more meaningful engagement between public defenders and their clients at arraignment. A 2023 RAND Corporation¹ study showed that "people represented by a public defender were less likely to receive a financial release condition and less likely to be detained pretrial—all without increasing 'failure to appear' rates at preliminary hearings."

Justice Fellowship

The Multnomah County [Justice Fellowship pilot program](#), also funded by the MacArthur Foundation, concluded its first session in June 2024. The goal of the Justice Fellowship is to train individuals with lived justice experience and expertise in the local justice system so they can meaningfully participate in policy making and program development alongside justice leaders and departments. This initiative establishes a foundation for continued progress toward a more just and equitable system.

¹ Anwar, Shamena, & Bushway, Shawn D., & Engberg, John (2023). The Impact of Defense Counsel at Bail Hearings. *Science Advances*, Volume 9, Issue 18 (May 2023). doi: 10.1126/sciadv.ade3909

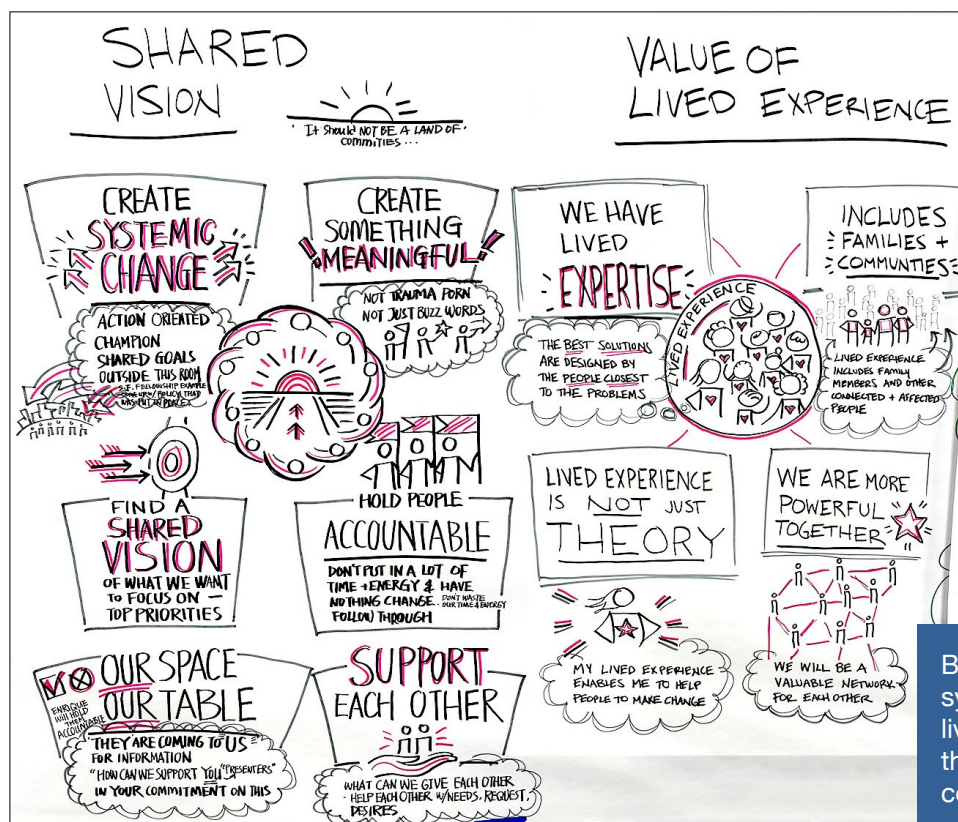
In its first year, the program equipped fellows with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to become advocates for change. The curriculum, led by justice system leaders and elected officials, fostered an understanding of the complexities of the justice system while encouraging dialogue and collaboration. Through this experience, fellows gained insights into the system's challenges and opportunities, positioning them to become active participants in shaping its future.

A key focus of the program is developing a strategic vision of the justice system. Fellows not only engaged in discussions, but also played a role in identifying priorities for ongoing engagement and policy impact — ensuring that the program remains responsive to the community's evolving needs and aligns with the goals of creating a fairer system.

Positive feedback from both fellows and presenters highlighted the program's effectiveness. The fellows expressed a sense of empowerment and a commitment to advocating for change. Presenters also praised the program's ability to bridge the gap between those impacted by the system and those responsible for its operation, which fostered a sense of shared responsibility and a commitment to reform.

The second Justice Fellowship cohort will begin in the fall of 2025 and will build upon [the program's initial success](#). Streamlined project proposals and more opportunities for collaboration with community partners will ensure that the voices and expertise of the fellows are integrated into policy discussions. By amplifying these perspectives, the program will continue to drive change within the criminal justice system.

The Justice Fellowship pilot program demonstrates the power of lived experience in shaping a more equitable and just society. Investing in community-led initiatives will create a system that reflects the needs and aspirations for everyone. The program's success serves as a step toward a brighter future for Multnomah County and beyond.



Building a shared vision of the justice system and the invaluable power of lived experience: graphic notes from the inaugural 2024 Justice Fellowship cohort's first session.

Gun Violence Prevention

Multnomah County invested \$3.1 million of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding into services that build the resilience of individuals, families and communities who have been most impacted by the violence in our community.

Prevention and intervention strategies supported by these resources included the Gun Violence Impacted Families Behavioral Health Response Team that provides direct mental health services to youth ages 10 to 25 and their families who have been impacted by gun violence, specifically focusing on the African American, Latinx and African Refugee communities. ARP funds also supported expanding capacity in the District Attorney's Office to effectively address homicides by reducing the gun violence backlog and positively impact time to disposition.

The Department of Community Justice's ARP dollars funded community violence prevention initiatives through the County's General Fund budget in recognition of the need to provide more permanent funding for this evolving and deepening issue.

Gun Violence Impacted Families Behavioral Health Response Team

The Gun Violence Impacted Families Behavioral Health Response Team (GVIF-BHRT) program has demonstrated sustained growth and community impact over the reporting period from Jan. 1, 2023, to Dec. 31, 2024. During that time, the team received 203 total referrals, with a steady increase across fiscal years: 64 in FY23, 83 in FY24, and a projected 112 for FY25.

The program focused intensively on building partnerships within systems that serve similar populations — with a primary focus on culturally specific community-based organizations, the Department of Community Justice (DCJ), the City of Portland's Office of Violence Prevention, and City of Gresham's youth violence prevention programs — to ensure those with the highest needs have direct access to services. Every referral made to the program receives services in the form of individual, family or group counseling, case management, and care coordination; those who are out of the 10-25 service age range are directly connected to an outside mental health provider.

The team served a diverse population of youth during this period: 56.16% of clients identified as African American, 2.46% as African immigrant/refugee, and 31.53% as Latino/Spanish-speaking. The program remains deeply engaged in the community through outreach initiatives, training and education for the community, and providing funding to culturally specific community-based organizations to employ credible messengers.

Portland State University's School of Social Work conducted a [program evaluation and analysis](#) that validated the program's current model, affirming its effectiveness while also offering new recommendations for practical implementation and potential growth. These insights have guided Gun Violence Impacted Families Behavioral Health Response Team in further strengthening its approach and enhancing its clinical acumen. The team has been formally trained in multiple evidence-based practices based on culturally responsive recommendations from the results. The team has also implemented recommended client scales and continues to partner with key stakeholders in this work.

Department of Community Justice

The Multnomah County Department of Community Justice redesigned its adult culturally responsive caseloads to create the Culturally Responsive Supervision team, which now includes the longstanding African American Program (AAP) and a newer Latino caseload. AAP utilizes the Habilitation, Empowerment, Accountability, and Therapy (H.E.A.T.) curriculum, a culturally responsive cognitive behavioral intervention program designed to reflect and address the unique experiences and needs of Black/African American men and women. Preliminary outcomes include reductions in violence and increased participation. The current cohort consists of groups that are facilitated in-person and include members of rival gangs. For the Latino caseload, DCJ partnered with Latino Network to offer wraparound services for this population.

The department's Juvenile Services Division redesigned its community-based programming model into the Juvenile Restorative Practices Team, which combines existing infrastructure with additional evidence-based and trauma-informed practices. The focus of the team is reducing recidivism and keeping individuals from further system involvement, while also reducing the reliance on juvenile detention and interrupting harm to the community from systemic and institutional inequities. In FY25, the Juvenile Services Division began offering the H.E.A.T. curriculum in-house to youths on juvenile probation.

In addition, DCJ has established a strong partnership with Portland Ceasefire, a focused deterrence strategy aimed at addressing the most high-risk individuals in our community. It operates proactively and holistically, employing a harm reduction approach rooted in data-driven strategies and best practices. DCJ now attends Ceasefire's weekly shooting reviews with the Portland Police Bureau and other law enforcement partners.

Justice Reinvestment

State Justice Reinvestment grants are intended to manage prison growth by resourcing local public safety systems to safely maintain justice-involved individuals in their communities. The Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program (MCJRP) uses these funds to inform sentencing decisions in cases where an individual faces a presumptive prison sentence.

MCJRP entered its 10th year in operation in 2024. As of December 2023, a total of 10,288 cases have been determined eligible for the informed sentencing process, while 8,381 cases have been resolved since the program started in 2014.

The ["Measures and Perspectives on Success"](#) cross-system evaluation of MCJRP was completed in 2023. Evaluators conducted individual interviews and focus groups with prior participants, staff, stakeholders, community treatment providers, crime victims and survivors, and victim service agencies partnering with MCJRP. Participants strongly agreed that MCJRP was reducing prison and using effective evidence-based services and case management plans.

This evaluation will inform future program design and policy making.

LPSCC Members

as of December 2024

Chair Jessica Vega Pederson

Chair, [Multnomah County](#)
LPSCC Chair

Amy Anderson

Community Member

Dr. Kyla Armstrong-Romero

Director, Multnomah County [Department of Community Justice Juvenile Services Division](#)

Mohammad Bader

Director, Multnomah County [Department of County Human Services](#)

Rachael Banks

Director, Multnomah County [Health Department](#)

Brandon Brown

Director of Community Outreach, [Restorative Roots Project](#)

Gunnar Browning

Field Supervisor, [Oregon Youth Authority](#)

Fidel Cassino-DuCloux

Federal Public Defender, [Office of the Federal Public Defender, District of Oregon](#)

Bob Day

Chief, [Portland Police Bureau](#)

Rene Gonzalez

Commissioner, [City of Portland](#)

Honorable Michael Greenlick

[Chief Criminal Court Judge](#)

Travis Gullberg

Chief, [Gresham Police Department](#)

Grant Hartley

Multnomah County Director, [Metropolitan Public Defenders](#)

Terrence Hayes

Community Member

Stephanie Howard

Director of Community Safety, [City of Portland](#)

Patrick Huskey

Lieutenant, [Oregon State Police](#)

Vince Jones-Dixon

Councilor, [City of Gresham](#)

Honorable Judith Matarazzo

[Presiding Circuit Court Judge](#)

Christina McGovney

Director, [Volunteers of America Oregon, Home Free](#)

Honorable Pat McGuire

[Circuit Court Judge](#)

Heather Mirasol

Director, Multnomah County [Health Department Behavioral Health Division](#)

Nicole Morrissey O'Donnell

Sheriff, [Multnomah County Sheriff's Office](#)

Denise Peña

Director, Multnomah County [Department of Community Justice](#)

Brian Renauer

Director, [Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute, Portland State University](#)

Alix Sanchez

Senior Manager, Multnomah County [Department of County Human Services Domestic & Sexual Violence Coordination Office](#)

Mike Schmidt

District Attorney, [Multnomah County District Attorney's Office](#)

Lori Stegmann

Commissioner, Multnomah County District 4

Jeremiah Stromberg

Assistant Director, [Oregon Department of Corrections](#)

Spencer Trumm

Community Member

Jason Wallis

Chief, [Port of Portland Police](#)

Natalie Wight

United States Attorney, [US Attorney's Office](#)