



LPSCC Executive Committee Meeting

Summary Minutes for November 2, 2010

I. Introductions, Announcements, and Approval of Minutes

LPSCC Executive Committee

Members In Attendance

Judy Shprack, Mult. Co. Commissioner
District #3, LPSCC Co-Chair
Sam Adams, Mayor of Portland, LPSCC
Co-Chair
Chief Scott Anderson, Troutdale Police
Suzanne Bonamici, State Senator
Lane Borg, Director, Metropolitan Public
Defenders
Karl Brimmer, Director, County Mental
Health Services
Bill Feyerherm, Vice Provost for
Research and Dean of Graduate
Studies, Portland State University
Judge Julie Frantz, Chief Criminal Court
Judge
Joanne Fuller, Director, Department of
County Human Services
Karen Gray, Superintendent, Parkrose
School District
Judy Hadley, Citizen Representative
Suzanne Hayden, Citizens' Crime
Commission
Dwight Holton, Acting U. S. Attorney
Chief Craig Junginger, Gresham Police
Judge Jean Maurer, Presiding Circuit
Court Judge
Diane McKeel, Multnomah County
Commissioner, District #4
Chiquita Rollins, Domestic Violence
Coordinator
Michael Schrunk, District Attorney
Tim Moore for Dan Staton, Multnomah
County Sheriff
Judge Nan Waller, Chief Family Court
Judge

LPSCC Staff

Peter Ozanne, Executive Director
Elizabeth Davies, Analyst
Tom Bode, Research Associate

Other Attendees

Dave Braaksma, MCSO
Drew Brosh, MCSO
Jann Brown, DCJ
Nancy Cozine, Oregon Judicial
Department
Sharon Darcy, Pathfinders Oregon
Markely Drake, MCSO
Antoinette Edwards, Mayor's Office
Keith Falkenberg, District 3 staff
Glenna Hayes, Center for Family
Success
Jason Heilbrun, County IT - Public Safety
Dara Iamsongserm, PSU Grad Student
Neal Japport, Oregon Judicial
Department
Barry Jennings, Oregon Judicial
Department
Gary Kirby, Fairview Police Department
Rosa Klein, County Health Dept
Matthew Lashua, Commissioner
Shprack's Office
Kate Lieber, Mayor's Office
Debra Lindberg, PSU Restorative Justice
Steve March, County Auditor's Office
Shea Marshman, County Auditor's Office
Gail McKeel, County IT
Roberta Phillip, Chair's Office
Peter Pincetl, ROAR Alliance
Erika Preuitt, DCJ
Kathy Sevov, Volunteers of America
Michael Shelts, MCSO
Allyson Spencer, District #3 staff
Corie Wiren, Commissioner McKeel's
Office

Questions, comments or suggestions?
Contact Elizabeth Davies at elizabeth.davies@co.multnomah.or.us or 503.988.5002

Serving
Public
Safety
Agencies in
Multnomah
County

Announcements

There is no regular LPSCC meeting in December. LPSCC members are invited to the December 10 “What Works” conference to be held at the Convention Center. Space is limited; please register by contacting Allyson Spencer in Commissioner Shiprack’s office.

Dwight Holton announced that on November 22, he and Governor Kulongoski will convene the Oregon Summit on Prescription Drug Abuse. LPSCC members interested in attending should contact the US Attorney’s office.

Commissioner McKeel spoke about a new policy that will channel the assets seized from pimps and johns to prostitution and child sex trafficking prevention and interdiction efforts.

The minutes were approved without objection.

II. Discussion and Approval of LPSCC Gang Action Plan

Materials: “Proposed Action Plan to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence: Ensuring Effective Coordination, Oversight, Community Engagement & Measurable Outcomes”

Peter Ozanne presented the “Proposed Action Plan to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence.” Ozanne referred to his experience with anti-gang efforts around the country and emphasized the importance of having an effective body to oversee and direct on-the-ground anti-gang operations. As such, the action plan is more of an “organizational plan” that lays out steps to ensure a robust and sustainable oversight function. The plan would create an interdisciplinary workgroup of about 15 people to oversee the coordination of current youth and gang violence reduction strategies and the development of new evidence-based strategies. The proposal also names the Director of the Office of Youth Violence Prevention as chair of the workgroup and calls for further coordination between this office and LPSCC by recommending the collocation of staff for both bodies. Other recommendations included in the plan were not discussed at the meeting.

Commissioner Shiprack asked LPSCC members if they had changes or amendments to the plan. Judy Hadley suggested that the workgroup take a regional approach to the issue and actively coordinate with neighboring counties regarding their gang plans.

The Mayor cautioned against “making perfection the enemy of good” and suggested that the implementation of Action 7b, which establishes a single phone number that gang-involved or gang-affected individuals can call to be connected to social services, would demonstrate the ability of the workgroup to move things forward.

Commissioner McKeel asked for clarification of the membership of the workgroup. Shiprack emphasized that the goal is to integrate and coordinate the efforts of all the agencies of the county. She identified several LPSCC member agencies as possible participants in the workgroup, including the schools, the Chair’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office, the United States Attorneys’ Offices, the Department of Community Justice, East County law enforcement, the Portland Police Bureau, and the Citizens’ Crime Commission. Peter Ozanne noted that the composition of the workgroup should include agency representatives at the operational level and added that community representatives and providers are important to include on the workgroup as well.

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Mayor Adams urged council members to submit their comments on the plan by Friday, November 5; the plan will then go before the Portland City Council and the Board of County Commissioners.

LPSCC members did not vote to approve the plan. This item will come before the council at the January 4 meeting.

III. Domestic Violence in Multnomah County¹

Materials: handouts, powerpoint presentations

Overview

Chiquita Rollins opened the presentation with a summary of the state of domestic violence in Multnomah County. Domestic violence² comprises forty or fifty percent of all violent crimes reported to the Portland Police and a quarter of felony violent crimes. To date, there have been 16 domestic violence deaths in 2010, which represents the second-highest number of domestic violence deaths in the last 15 years. This is part of a statewide increase in domestic violence deaths. Responding to domestic violence incidents costs the county criminal justice system more than \$11 million a year. Addressing the needs of victims of domestic violence is made more difficult by complicating factors that are often present, like homelessness, impoverishment, gang involvement, or children.

Restraining orders are an effective legal tool to control domestic violence. They frequently stop or reduce the violence and allow law enforcement to get involved before a severe assault occurs. Around fifty percent of restraining orders are contested, which result in a contested restraining order hearing.

Peter Ozanne asked how trends in domestic violence incidents compare to the overall decline in crime witnessed over the last fifteen years across the nation. Rollins responded that while domestic violence has declined slightly over the years, it has not had experienced as steep of a decline as overall crime rates. Ozanne asked if any research existed that might illuminate why domestic violence has not followed the same pattern as other types of crime; Rollins indicated that she knew of none.

Findings & Recommendations from the Domestic Violence Fatality Review

Judge Maurer, one of the co-chairs of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, spoke about improvements that could be made to the domestic violence services system. The team reviews one or two cases each year by carefully examining the details of the events leading up to the death. The team focuses on instances when services in the community could have intervened with the perpetrator or the victim and potentially prevented the death. This intensive focus on a handful of cases leads to key insights and recommendations that are applicable to other domestic violence fatalities and to domestic violence incidents in general.

¹ The presenters' powerpoint presentations are available on the www.lpscc.org website and contain more detail on their presentations.

² Domestic Violence is a broad term that encompasses violence against parents, children, and siblings. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) refers to the more specific case of violence between intimately involved people.

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Judge Maurer stressed the importance of changing cultural perception of domestic violence, similar to how the Mothers Against Drunk Driving movement reversed public tolerance of drinking and driving. She urged community leaders to continue to raise public awareness of domestic violence.

Increased education is an essential tool for improving the community's response to domestic violence. People who see domestic violence or know a victim need to be educated about how to help someone else or themselves. Students need to be included in this education effort, which could involve public service announcement on TV, educational materials in schools, and a better web presence. Education efforts should include how to recognizing the types of domestic violence and how to make a safety plan. Education programs must be sensitive to language, cultural, and shame barriers in order to be effective. In addition, service providers and public employees, such as teachers, health care workers, and criminal justice employees, need to be cross-trained to better recognize domestic violence, especially non-physical violence. One step towards this objective could be including questions about domestic violence on County Health screening questionnaires.

Finally, Judge Mauer said that services need to be expanded and improved to better the public safety system's response to domestic violence. Domestic violence is acceptable and even encouraged in gang and prison culture, so programs should specifically target those cultural institutions. Programs need to be developed that can allow a victim to safely remain in relationship with a perpetrator of domestic violence. These types of programs should help entire families, including children, rather than just the immediate victims of abuse. Chiquita Rollins noted that there is not a single solution to domestic violence; rather, a constellation of programs, strategies, and interventions work together to reduce incidents of violence and recidivism.

Judge Maurer presented the five priority recommendations of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team:

- 1) Increase knowledge in justice system about domestic violence services and resources;
- 2) Enhance ability to identify and track high risk cases;
- 3) Reduce barriers for victims seeking help;
- 4) Improve victim access and connection to domestic violence services; and
- 5) Educate general public and institutions to recognize and effectively respond to suspected abuse.

Special consideration should be given to the management of high risk domestic violence perpetrators. One county's designation of a "high risk" domestic violence offender is lost if that person moves to another county. Multnomah County needs to share domestic violence data with other counties in the area so that high risk domestic violence offenders can be tracked effectively. These high risk cases need to receive a more targeted response, possibly involving visits from a District Attorney or DCJ. Furthermore, police need better access to domestic violence data in squad cars, which will improve their ability to respond appropriately to domestic violence calls.

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Commissioner Shiprack identified two sides to the domestic violence problem. One is cultural issues, which can be addressed by increased education in school, public service messages, and by ensuring that doctors, teachers, and service providers know how to act when they suspect abuse. The other side of the issue is the prosecution and management of the criminal abusers. Increasing the ability of the criminal system to target abusers while changing cultural perceptions of domestic violence will bring a two sided approach to the problem.

Recommendations from Review of Contested Restraining Order Hearings

Judge Nan Waller and Annie Neal presenting the “Courtwatch” program, which used trained observers to evaluate contested restraining order hearings.

In 1994-1995, about a quarter of restraining orders were contested; during the most recent Courtwatch period, about half were contested. Oregon is one of a few states that does not require a hearing for a restraining order to be issued.

Observation of the hearings in the courthouse revealed that limited space resulted in the crowding of petitioner and respondent and their respective family and friends, with a significant potential for intimidation. In recognition of this risk, a Sheriff’s deputy is always stationed in these courtrooms.

In about a third of hearings, one or more parties fail to appear. About 17 percent of hearings are set over. The short timeline for scheduling hearings may contribute to the high FTA and set over rate. Further, domestic violence victims may not have a safe contact address or phone number to be notified about contestation hearings. Petitioners and respondents are not notified of their hearings through the CANS automated calling system.

In 92 percent of hearings, at least one party does not have legal representation. A party that is represented is significantly more likely to prevail. A free legal aid program is available, but with limited resources, it is not able to provide representation to everyone who desires it.

The implementation of video conferencing from the Gateway Center has smoothed court processing for the initial issuance of restraining orders.

Dwight Holden emphasized his office’s ability to prosecute violations of restraining order because federal law prohibits the subject of a restraining order from possessing a firearm.

Children Exposed to Violence³

Dr. Jennifer Connor-Smith, a clinical psychologist and researcher specializing in children, spoke about children’s exposure to violence. A national survey revealed that 15 percent of youth in this country have been assaulted with a weapon, 13 percent have been bullied, 19 percent have witnessed an assault, and six percent have been victimized sexually in the last year. In Oregon, five percent of students have skipped at least one day of school because they are afraid of what might happen at or on the way to school. About ten percent of children are exposed to child abuse each year, meaning that for lifetime, 31 percent of males and 21 percent of females have been physically abused. Sex abuse rates are about four percent for males and 13 percent for females. Children who are exposed to violence are

³ Due to time constraints, Dr. Jennifer Connor-Smith was unable to give her full presentation to the council. She may be added to the agenda of the January LPSCC agenda.

likely to be exposed to multiple types of violence and repeat incidents of violence. In a national survey, ten percent of children had experienced at least five violent incidents in the last year. Twenty-two percent of children in this county have witnessed a shooting, but for low-income African American youth, that rate is 43 percent.

A 2000 report indicated that 15 percent of children in Multnomah County have witnessed domestic violence. Of children who have domestic violence in their home, 45 percent have been physically or sexually abused. Domestic violence can have a more profound impact on youth than more severe violence, such as gun or gang activity, because domestic violence often is chronic, represents a betrayal of trust, is more difficult to escape from, and is accompanied by emotional abuse. Children often play an active role in domestic violence incidents, by calling 911 or intervening physically.

Exposure to violence is associated with increased risk for teen pregnancy, academic failure, PTSD, anxiety, depression, perpetration, and victimization. The cost to society is estimated at \$70,000 per child for children with conduct disorder from the ages of seven to 13. About \$104 billion is spent each year on the impacts of child abuse.

IV. Public Safety Model Update

This agenda item was reset to a future meeting.

Next LPSCC Meeting: January 4, 2011.

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