



# Willamette Criminal Justice Council

## Juvenile Drug Treatment Court

The Juvenile DRUG (Determined Recovery Under Guidance) Treatment Court program has admitted 31 participants in its first three years. The program's staffing team consists of multiple members of the criminal justice community and is tailored to address the needs of juvenile substance abusing offenders and their families by providing individually tailored and comprehensive treatment plans. The participants report marijuana as their primary drug of choice although alcohol is secondary in many cases and methamphetamine is also used.

The JDTC is a four phase program that requires participants to have a specific amount of clean time while meeting certain treatment goals before advancing through the phases. The average participant is 16 years old and needs 17 months to complete the program.

Family is actively involved as



participants go through the intensive, court-managed, integrated treatment program that breaks the cycle of addiction and transitions youth back into the community. Nine youth have graduated from the program, eight have gained employment, five have earned their GEDs and two have graduated from high school.

A new addition to the program is the Independent Living Program, mandatory for graduation, and conducted at the Jackson Street Youth Shelter. The program includes topics for life skills such as money management and negotiating housing arrangements.

To promote progress in the

program, incentives are given and pro-social activities are organized. In 2007, participants attended a Trail Blazers game and in 2008, participants visited the Oregon Coast and toured the aquarium. For many, it was the first time they visited the aquarium. These outings and incentives were funded through generous donations and grants from Good Samaritan Social Accountability funds, Zonta, and the Criminal Justice Commission.

"DRUG Court is a program that cares more about character development, life skills, and sobriety than anything else. Through a great amount of trial and error, the program has helped to make me a sober, responsible and wise individual.

Thank you DRUG Court."

- Male participant entering Phase 4

## The Street Crimes Unit

The new Street Crimes Unit (SCU) Investigative Team is a collaborative effort of the Benton County Sheriff's Office and the Corvallis Police Department. The team was created after being recommended in the Willamette Criminal Justice Council's Strategic Plan. The unit combats methamphetamine related crimes in Benton County such as drug sales and

possession, assault, theft, and vandalism. The SCU is staffed with detectives from both agencies and is supervised by the Corvallis Police Department Investigations Division.

This year, the SCU has been involved in a major drug trafficking investigation resulting in the arrest of a Corvallis resident for a large marijuana grow. Approximately 250 growing

marijuana plants and five pounds of dried marijuana were seized. Several additional drug search warrants, arrests, robbery investigations, a homicide investigation, and vehicle theft investigations also took place this year.

The SCU uses crime analysis and intelligence information to identify patterns, modus operandi, and suspects.

The WCJC brings people together to explore and discuss issues of importance in the criminal justice area and works to implement best practices for Benton County to enhance the livability of our community. - JoAnne Trow, WCJC Member & Former WCJC Chair

# The Willamette Criminal Justice Council

## What is the WCJC?

The Willamette Criminal Justice Council (WCJC) coordinates criminal justice plans for Benton County. It provides the structure to ease communication among agencies and creates opportunities for more efficient service delivery. The WCJC continually reviews its priority strategies and defines new ones to meet evolving community needs. The WCJC was first brought together in 1993 to take a closer look at criminal justice planning. It was designed to promote and facilitate fair, efficient and coordinated criminal justice services in Benton County; provide long-range planning for delivering criminal justice services in the county; and to provide timely information about important criminal justice matters to government agencies and to the local public.

## Why should we have a WCJC?

The WCJC is a unique forum where law enforcement, justice, city officials, interested parties, and citizen representatives come together to discuss local public safety issues. These types of councils also remain unique in their willingness and ability to take on significant projects that improve public safety services.

## What does the WCJC do for you?

WCJC efforts have saved money, improved accuracy, and increased efficiency in the delivery of criminal justice services in Benton County and Oregon. Recent projects include promoting restorative justice through the Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) Victim Impact Panel of Benton County; encouraging coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies; supporting the adult and juvenile Benton County Drug Treatment Court; enhancing relationships between OSU students, law enforcement

and the community; and providing Methamphetamine Education Presentations.

## Who sits on the WCJC?

The WCJC was formed by a group of criminal justice providers, led by the Benton County District Attorney. It is a policy-oriented council composed of concerned citizens, elected officials, criminal justice service providers, and providers of juvenile, health and social services. The WCJC was created by an intergovernmental agreement between Benton County, Adair, North Albany, Corvallis, Monroe, Philomath, and Oregon State University.

## Are there any other Criminal Justice Councils in Oregon?

When it was formed, the Willamette Criminal Justice Council was unique in Oregon. In 1995, the WCJC served as the model when the Oregon Legislature created Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils (LPSCCs) in every county. Following passage of the LPSCC legislation in 1995, the Benton County Board of Commissioners designated the WCJC as Benton County's LPSCC.

## As Benton County's LPSCC, is the WCJC required to do anything?

In addition to coordinating local criminal justice policies, LPSCCs are required to develop and recommend plans for using state funds for treatment of the local adult offender population (Community Corrections Plan), as well as those who are between ages 15 and 18 (Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan). The Plans must provide for coordination of community-wide services involving prevention, treatment, education, employment resources, and intervention strategies. The Plans also seek to maximize the effectiveness of limited community

corrections funding through alternatives to incarceration. Cognitive programming, alcohol and drug treatment, Jobs Class for unemployed offenders, and work crews are examples of those alternatives.

Benton County continues to prioritize funding, jail space and rehabilitative programming for those offenders who pose the greatest risk to the community. The allocation of limited resources is based on how effective these programs are at changing offender behavior and reducing repeat offenses.

***What is impressive is the breadth of the membership of the organization, their dedication to making our criminal justice system work better, and their willingness to take on tasks that, if they had been easy, would have already been accomplished.***

***We are so fortunate that the vision of a few more than a decade ago continues today.***

***- Jay Dixon  
WCJC Member,  
Benton County Commissioner***

## Community Policing in a College Town

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Nestled within the City of Corvallis you find Oregon State University, the only Oregon university recognized as having a very high level of unique research activity. OSU is known for its excellent programs offered in the fields of Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Forestry Research, Pharmacy, Veterinarian Medicine and as well as a wide variety of nationally acclaimed fields of study. Established in 1858 as a private academy, OSU went on to develop and offer college-level courses. Today, Oregon State University is internationally recognized as being a comprehensive Land, Sea, Space and Sun Grant Institution, one of two universities in the country with this distinct classification.

As the law enforcement service provider for Oregon State University since 1989, the Oregon State Police work collaboratively with the OSU Department of Public Safety, Corvallis Police Department and Benton County Sheriff's Office to provide professional law enforcement services to the students, staff, faculty and visitors to campus. The Oregon State Police provide 24-hour patrols on campus by vehicle, bicycle and foot. The Department of Public Safety maintains the 24/7 Dispatch Center and provides full scale physical

security services to the campus. Both departments work diligently to provide educational programs and presentations that address students concerns regarding personal safety, underage drinking, substance abuse, sexual assaults, and property thefts. The state police maintain a very successful liaison program that assigns troopers to work with specific housing and student groups.

Open and honest communication lines are maintained between the Oregon State Police and local law enforcement as they work together to support the concepts of community policing. Community forums are held regularly on campus to address topics ranging from diversity to livability. It remains the goal of law enforcement and public safety entities within Benton County to insure the success of OSU students through the fair and impartial provision of law enforcement services.

Oregon State University maintains a myriad of services to assist students and citizens with concerns. Among those re-



sources are the Office of Student Conduct, Dean of Students, Student Health Services, University Counseling and Psychological Services, and University Housing and Dining Services. Information on these and other University services and resources can be found at <http://oregonstate.edu/>.

Representatives from both the Oregon State Police and the OSU Department of Public Safety regularly attend WCJC meetings and are available to discuss issues and concerns associated with Oregon State University community members.

The OSU Public Safety Dispatch can be reached at 541.737.3010.

## Methamphetamine Awareness

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In response to the tremendous impact methamphetamine addiction has on our community, the Willamette Criminal Justice Council launched a major effort to provide methamphetamine awareness education in Benton County this year.

Members of the WCJC provided presentations, often in panel format, which included information on methampheta-

mine addiction, indications a methamphetamine lab is in operation, impacts of methamphetamine on public services, and steps to take if you suspect a problem.

A variety of local groups received the presentation including: the Albany Rotary, City of Corvallis and Benton County employees, the OSU Academy for Lifelong Learning, the Albany Hub Club Rotary,

and the Corvallis City Council. The presentations are also televised on Channel 21 and Channel 29.

If your business or organization could benefit from a Methamphetamine Awareness Presentation, provided at no charge, please contact WCJC Coordinator Michele Spaulding.



**Benton County's  
Local Public Safety  
Coordinating Council**

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**Promoting a "fair, effective, and  
coordinated" criminal justice  
system in Benton County.**

**We're on the web!**

<http://www.co.benton.or.us/da/wcjc/>

## The WCJC Stays Current

The WCJC has made a commitment to stay current with public and private programs and trends in the criminal justice arena. In the last year, the council heard presentations from:

**Benton County Drug Treatment Court (DTC) & D.R.U.G. Court** • Judges Connell & Williams  
*Focus:* Updates on the adult and juvenile programs.

**Street Crimes Unit** • Captain Jon Sassaman, 911 Emergency Communications Director  
*Focus:* Provide updates on the formation of the Street Crimes Team.

**Multi-Agency Active Shooter Debrief** • Lt. Phil Zerzan, Oregon State Police  
*Focus:* Describe outcomes of the multi-agency training exercise at Oregon State University.

**DUII Sentencing Standards** • Judge Connell  
*Focus:* Define new DUII sentencing standards.

**"Bus"** • Deputy Jim Weikel  
*Focus:* Update on "Bus" the patrol and narcotic certified dog.

**ACIST – A Community Integrated Service Team** • Jim Gouveia, Benton Co. Mental Health Dept.  
*Focus:* Inform the council on early intervention programs for children dealing with mental health issues.

**Benton County's 2007-2009 Biennial Implementation Plan for Mental Health Services**  
Mitch Anderson & Marie Laper, Benton County Mental Health *Focus:* Present the 2007-2009 plan.

**Law Enforcement Initiatives** • Sheriff Jim Swinyard, Sheriff Diana Simpson & Chief Gary Boldizar  
*Focus:* Updates on the 8 initiatives.

**Neighborhood Watch Program** • Elizabeth Foster, Realtor  
*Focus:* Updates the council on the Neighborhood Watch Program.

**Vision for the DA's Office** • John Haroldson, Benton County District Attorney  
*Focus:* Share the goals of the DA's office.

**2007-2009 Community Corrections Plan** • Gail Newman, Director of Community Corrections  
*Focus:* The Community Corrections Plan.

WCJC meetings are open to the public. Meeting notifications are printed in the Corvallis Gazette-Times and the Albany Democrat Herald.

## DUII Victim Impact Panels Save Lives

The WCJC recognizes the value of incorporating the principles of restorative justice into the criminal justice system. In 2002, the WCJC designed and implemented Benton County's first DUII Victim Impact Panel.

DUII Victim Impact Panels give crime victims an opportunity to have their experiences heard by offenders in a safe, structured environment. Attendees receive a clear message of how driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol affects judgment and causes drivers to make poor choices which change the lives of those they come in contact with forever.

The program features presentations by a member of law enforcement, a Good Samaritan Hospital trauma unit nurse,

victims of DUIIs, and a Benton County Circuit Court Judge. The victim speakers provide their presentations free of charge as a service to the community.

Annually, seven Benton County Victim Impact Panels are held in the courthouse reaching more than 450 offenders.

This year, four new modular DVDs were created to help tell the stories of victims and DUII crash scene investigators.

In 2007, there were 513 DUII arrests in Benton County.

### Victim Impact Panel Attendees Share...

"It is very encouraging to see these people who have all suffered such loss to give even more of themselves. They are heroes."

"After listening to the speakers today, I would never do this offence again."

"The panel was convincing, passionate, and very thought provoking."

"I was surprised to learn the impact my decision had on so many others."