

2012-2013 Year in Review & 2013-2014 Workplan

*Promoting a “fair, effective, and coordinated”
criminal justice system in Benton County
through expansion of “cooperation and collaboration”*



For additional information contact the:
Willamette Criminal Justice Council
120 NW 4th Street, Room 404
Corvallis, OR 97330
541.766.6647

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

■ WCJC Year in Review 2012-2013 ■

During the previous year, the idea of revitalizing the WCJC was brought forward by the Executive Committee. Many on the Executive Committee felt that the WCJC no longer had a clear mission within our community and we were no longer considered relevant. The past year we acted upon changing the role of the WCJC within our community. We spoke with Gloria Sica, owner of Fulcrum Drive, and told her of our desire to develop a strategic plan that would guide the WCJC for the next five years. Our goal was to hire Ms. Sica as our facilitator. We also spoke with Pete Sandrock, former District Attorney and an original member of the WCJC, and asked him to help as an advisor. Both agreed to help our cause.

As a result, we developed the WCJC 2013 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan outlines several strategies to deal with the major issues currently facing the community and the local criminal justice system:

- Mental Health
- School Safety
- The need for a new Benton County Jail

Additionally, we would work to identify the criminal justice needs within our community and identify the effects of drugs and alcohol on our community and the criminal justice system. Work has already begun on the strategies dealing with Mental Health and School Safety with reports due back to the Full Council prior to the end of 2013.

It is our goal to make the WCJC an effective, persuasive and influential Council as it was intended to be. A special thank you goes out to both Pete Sandrock and Gloria Sica. Without their professionalism and guidance this project would not have been completed. Thank you to all the WCJC members who participated in this important process.

This document is a summary of the Willamette Criminal Justice Council's 2012-2013 activities and accomplishments. The WCJC is a policy-oriented council comprised of concerned citizens, elected officials, criminal justice service providers, and providers of juvenile, health and social services. The WCJC was formalized by an inter-governmental agreement between Benton County, its five cities (Adair Village, Albany, Corvallis, Monroe and Philomath), and Oregon State University. The WCJC is intended to continually review the status of priority strategic actions and define new priorities to meet the evolving needs of the community.

Membership

The membership of the WCJC balances representation between citizens and criminal justice system professionals and related agencies. This broad representation creates a governing structure that can collaboratively address the WCJC's goals and implement long-term solutions.

Mission

The mission of the Willamette Criminal Justice Council is to:

- Promote and facilitate fair, efficient, effective and coordinated criminal justice services in Benton County;
- Provide long-range planning for the delivery of criminal justice services in Benton County;
- Provide timely information to governmental agencies and to the public on criminal justice matters of local concern.

Role of the WCJC

Within the Criminal Justice System in Benton County

There are four key roles to be performed by the WCJC in order to achieve its objectives:

Role #1: Forum/Facilitator

The WCJC will act as a forum for long range planning and coordination of a fair, efficient and effective criminal justice system. In its role as a forum, the WCJC will act as an arena for policy deliberations, problem-solving, and coordination of collaborative initiatives. Within this role, the WCJC will enable agencies to overview and link with the plans and initiatives of others.

Role #2: Communicator

The WCJC can function as a hub of communication for criminal justice agencies, and a source of information and education on criminal justice issues for elected officials and others within government and participating organizations. The WCJC may at times have a limited role in communicating with the general public.

Role #3: Analyzer

The WCJC will strive to better understand the nature of crime and criminals in Benton County for the purpose of improving collaboration among agencies. Within this role, the WCJC will support and promote the standardization of data.

Role #4: Catalyst/Sponsor

The WCJC will, for high priority issues, initiate and sponsor specific programs that further the WCJC mission.

■ **WCJC Workplan** ■ Areas of Focus ■ 2013-2014

The Workplan for 2013-2014 was developed by the WCJC Executive Committee. The goal is to find those activities that bring credibility to the Council as well as continuing to pursue activities that will bring better services and efficiencies to Benton County's criminal justice system.

AREAS OF FOCUS

1. Adult Corrections Facility in Benton County

The WCJC continues to support and advocate for the construction of a new adult correctional facility in Benton County. The WCJC lay committee formally adopted the new jail endeavor as a project and began working toward that goal. Initial actions taken include framing WCJC's message to the community to obtain both financial and political support for the new jail endeavor. Information was sought, collected, and categorized based on community member's responses when asked what they would need to hear in order to support a new jail in Benton County.

In 2013, a needs assessment evaluating the local criminal justice systems needs, missed opportunities, and potential efficiencies was conducted. After a thorough RFP process DLR architectural was selected to conduct a jail needs assessment. The final report was received in August 2013. Included in the final report is the dire need for a new jail, possible site locations, and efficient building designs which enhance efficiency through strategic staffing initiatives.

The Lay committee originally brought a motion before the WCJC board to recommend to the Benton County Commissioners that a jail measure be introduced, with a tentative date of November 2013. In March 2012 WCJC formally submitted a recommendation to the Benton County Board of Commissioners that a new jail measure be planned for the November 2013 ballot. After reviewing time lines and potential competing efforts in November 2013, it was recommended to consider November 2014 as a target date.

Once a jail measure is confirmed a committee will be formed to assist in the process of community education and support building.

Steps for 2013-2014- The new jail project will continue to be developed, and pursued with a tentative objective of having a measure on the November 2014 ballot. Efforts in the next year will include:

- New use of force report writing program allowing the capture of statistical information that will facilitate planning and reduce liability is currently being field tested prior to going live.
- A group from Benton County plans to tour the SCORE jail in Seattle to identify the design methods used to maintain cost and enhance staffing ratios in September.

WCJC will continue to support jail efficient and effective operation as it is recognized as the backbone of the local criminal justice system.

2. **Strategic Goals**

During the Strategic planning process it was decided the WCJC mission statement was still relevant and included what we still strive to accomplish today.

The WCJC 2013 Strategic Plan

WCJC Mission Statement:

The mission of WCJC is to (1) promote and facilitate fair, efficient, and coordinated criminal justice services; (2) provide long range planning for the delivery of criminal justice services; and (3) provide timely information to governmental agencies and to the public on criminal justice matters of concern.

Strategy One: To improve the communication and relationship between law enforcement and the mental health department to become more efficient serving the mental health community.

The first goal set by the WCJC at the planning session will focus on mentally ill offenders in our community. Law enforcement members of the WCJC agree that an increasing amount of their time and resources are being devoted to responding to people who are mentally ill and in crisis. It was discussed and agreed that there is a genuine lack of resources available in our community to appropriately deal with this mental health issue. Sharon Konopa stated that she felt our current system is only reacting to the problem and is not being proactive. Jeanne Nelson pointed out there is a lack of collaboration and connective processes between law enforcement and the health department concerning this issue, not because of will but caused by the current system in place. Housing is a big issue pertaining to the mentally ill in our community, as many of these individuals are living on the streets. The jail is not an appropriate place for mentally ill offenders who are in crisis. It was noted that the WCJC must be mindful of the public vs. law enforcements perception. Focus on compassion, safety and care.

The intent of this goal is to research and inform. The WCJC will work to define this mental health issue. The WCJC will look at the best practices and see if/how we could apply them. The WCJC will conduct research focused on mental health issues involving law enforcement and then make recommendations. Research will also be conducted to see how local law enforcement and the health department are currently handling situations when they arise, including any policies currently in place. Once the recommendations have been shared the WCJC can decide how to share the information collected with the public. Diana Simpson expressed interest in using OSU graduate students to conduct the research.

Strategy Two: To promote school safety in order to protect our children and provide a safe learning environment.

This goal was brought forward from WCJC member Penny York pertaining to school shootings and proactive involvement in school safety. WCJC law enforcement members assured the Council that all local law enforcement agencies have practiced and are prepared for these types of tragedies. Penny York stated that the Corvallis School District would like to have a school resource officer in every school within Corvallis, but currently there are no funds to make this happen. This issue is on the minds of the public and people want to know what can be done locally. Two goals the WCJC could address in regards to school safety are: 1). Reassure the public that law enforcement is proactive and ready. 2). Stress the need for additional resources in schools.

Diana Simpson stated that the WCJC could support the need to supply school resource officers by sharing the information we collect with the city councils and commissioners. Penny York pondered what are the models out there already being used? What would best fit our community? How are dollars being spent wisely? Are there federal funds available? The WCJC could investigate practices elsewhere, the pros and cons, alternative models, and best practices and provide models in the report that all local jurisdictions could implement. Starting with looking at what we currently have in place in our community.

It was proposed that the Lay Committee would spearhead looking into this issue and then make recommendations. Pete Sandrock stressed the point of focusing on schools, instead of mass shootings in general. Mr. Sandrock also said it's important for the council to not ask for more money or resources as our first contact with the public. Many members agreed that it's important to not promise we can prevent these types of tragedies from occurring. The WCJC members made a list of the types of violence to include in the research pertaining to school safety to include: catastrophic events, bullying, sexual assault, drugs and alcohol, building safety, and physical assaults.

The WCJC Lay Committee will conduct research into school safety and the preparedness of law enforcement to handle the situations that may arise and report findings. The WCJC will start by requesting department heads to write up their current protocols. The Law Committee will work to engage the school districts in these discussions. The following school districts will be contacted: Corvallis, Philomath, North Albany (GAPS), rural schools and private schools. Sharon Konopa reminded the council that this issue really falls under the school administrations territory. Mike Beilstein brought up the point that we should ask the school administrators what they perceive as safety needs within the schools. The WCJC will research what is currently happening between the local criminal justice agencies and school administrators. Jodi Robin and Ken Elwer were elected to write up the information collected to be shared within the WCJC. The WCJC will then decide who to share the information with externally and how to influence change.

Strategy Three: Research and communicate the criminal justice needs in our community.

By conducting a criminal justice survey the WCJC hopes to find out if the perceptions of the public are the same as the council. Pete Sandrock stated a good starting point would be to use current surveys already conducted as a guide for what questions to ask in our survey. Jeanne Nelson said a similar survey was recently done by the Health Department and may be available to read on the Bentranet. It was also pointed out that United Way may have conducted a similar study in our community. It was agreed that law enforcement staff would possess more knowledge than the community at large as to giving guidance on how to best deploy resources. Pete Sandrock stressed the importance of including the voice of interested parties, disadvantaged citizens, minority populations, students and the elderly.

The goal of the WCJC is not to create the survey but to give guidance and a list of interested parties to the OSU Graduate students who hopefully will be performing the survey. The Benton County Sheriff's Office also conducted a survey in 2005 that can be used as a good example for this survey. One good approach to the survey may include asking what citizens are willing to pay for certain services. The survey results will be used to find out what the community's priorities are regarding public safety. The proposed outcome will be a list of priorities that will give us guidance on how to deploy resources.

Benton County Jail.

See information listed above in the Year in Review under Adult Correction Facility in Benton County.

Steps for 2013-2014- The WCJC is currently undergoing several steps to accomplish the goals set forth in the Strategic Plan. There is a research team of graduate students from Oregon State University currently conducting research regarding the law enforcement response to people with mental illnesses in Benton County. A final report will be presented to the WCJC Full Council before the end of 2013. A report is being compiled by the WCJC Lay committee regarding school safety in our community and should also be completed before the end of 2013.

3. Focus on Systems Issues that Affect Costs, Effectiveness and Justice

WCJC Founder, Peter Sandrock, pointed out the need for looking at not only what we do well, but what areas can we improve on. More specifically, really take a hard look at difficult areas that should be transparent information to citizens such as Citizen Complaints, Use of Force incidents, Jail Bookings, Misconduct complaints and processes.

Steps for 2013-2014- Coordinate with Oregon Status University Sociology/Political Science/Public Policy departments to arrange for interns to do in depth studies of the various topics through the year.

■ WCJC's LPSCC Responsibilities ■

As the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) for Benton County, WCJC is required, by ORS, to develop and monitor plans that address (1) Juvenile Crime and (2) Community Corrections. WCJC was assigned these responsibilities by Benton County Board of Commissioners in 1996. These plans are developed by a sub-group of the WCJC, approved by the WCJC, and then forwarded to the Benton County Board of Commissioners for final approval. The plans are the mechanism to distribute state funding in Benton County.

■ Juvenile Crime Prevention Plan

Status: Continuous

Overview The Benton County Juvenile Department has developed and implemented a plan regarding the use of state and local resources to serve the needs of that the local offender population who are at least 15 years of age and less than 18 years of age. The plan provides coordination of community-wide services involving prevention, treatment, education, employment resources and intervention strategies. High-risk juvenile offenders are provided intensive supervision and services along a graduated continuum designed to prevent further law-violating behavior.

Upcoming The Juvenile Department reports to the WCJC annually on the plan and its outcomes. This has been a successful program which has remained essentially unchanged since it began. The WCJC continues to monitor and help coordinate juvenile justice activities in Benton County.

■ Community Corrections Plan

Status: In Progress – continuous

Overview ORS 423.560 (3)(a) requires Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils (LPSCC) to develop and recommend a community corrections plan each biennium for the use of state resources that serve the local offender population.

Work to Date: The 2013 - 2015 Community Corrections Plan was developed by the Willamette Criminal Justice Council and Benton County Community Corrections. Due to state budget shortfalls, Community Corrections funding for the second year of the biennium was uncertain at the time the Plan was prepared. As a result, the Community Corrections Plan was developed to address programming and services for the biennium, while the end of the legislative session was anticipated. Fortunately, the statewide Community Corrections allocation was fully funded; therefore, no program cuts or modifications are anticipated for the 2013 – 2015 biennium. The Community Corrections Plan has been updated to reflect the 2013 – 2015 budget numbers.

Benton County Community Corrections supervised approximately 460 adult offenders monthly on parole, probation, and post-prison supervision during the 2011 – 2013 Biennium. Benton County continues to utilize evidence-based supervision practices to enhance public safety through the reformation of offenders and the reduction of criminal conduct.

■ Restorative Justice: Victim Impact Panel

Status: In Progress – continuous

Overview The WCJC Task Force on Restorative Justice designed and implemented a DUII Victim Impact Panel in 2001. The restorative justice model supplements the criminal justice system's response to illegal conduct and attempts to repair the harm caused by DUII offenders by holding defendants accountable for their actions, providing a forum for those affected to be heard and involving the community in the process of justice. Instead of pointing a finger or placing blame, the VIP tries to change the attitude and behavior of the participants so they will make more responsible decisions in the future. In addition to holding offenders accountable, it is the goal of the VIP taskforce to educate the community and to reduce the number of DUII offenders.

Work to Date: The WCJC Coordinator oversees the operation of the DUII Victim Impact Panel which conducts 5 panels per year. More than 260 individuals attended the Benton County Victim Impact Panel last year. Proceeds from the Victim Impact Panel are used to supply grant funds, on a competitive basis, to any agency that would like to use the funds for projects, training or equipment related to reducing the number of DUII offenders in our community.

■ WCJC Organizational Development ■

■ Expanding and continuing strong WCJC leadership

Status: Completed

Nominating Committee: Ed Boyd, Ken Elwer, Richard Hein, and Deb Williams.

Overview This Committee was charged with recommending a slate of candidates to hold leadership positions during FYE 2013-2014.

Work to Date WCJC officers were approved by the WCJC membership on June 19, 2013.

FYE 2013-2014 Officers and Executive Committee: Jon Sassaman – Chair, Rick Hein – Lay Committee Chair, Scott Jackson – Chair-Elect, Ken Elwer – Past Chair, John Haroldson - Treasurer, – Director, Mario Lattanzio – Director, Deb Williams – Director and Charles Yutzie- Director.

■ Developing the WCJC 2013-2015 Biennial Budget

Status: Completed

Budget Committee: The Executive Committee dealt with the responsibilities of the budget committee directly.

Overview The committee was charged with developing a biennial budget for 2013-2015. The WCJC Budget is composed of contributions from the WCJC member jurisdictions that are partners to the Inter-governmental agreement (Benton County, Corvallis, Albany, Adair Village, Philomath, and Oregon State University). The WCJC 2013-2015 Biennial Budget includes funding for administrative staffing and WCJC Strategic Priorities.

Work to Date The budget was approved by WCJC membership in March 2013.

■ Continuing Education

WCJC has made a commitment to stay current with programs (public and private) and trends in the criminal justice arena. Among the presentations during FYE 2012-2013:

- **Benton County Drug Treatment Court (DTC)**
Judge Janet Holcomb/ Coordinator David Clark
- **School Safety Discussion**
Kevin Bogatin, Corvallis School District/Terry Thompson, Juvenile Dept./Ken Elwer, Philomath Police Chief
- **Health and Public Safety Levy**
John Haroldson, Benton County DA
- **Benton County Adult Community Correction Plan 2013-15**
Justin Carley, Captain
- **Benton County New Jail Study**
DLR Group Inc.
- **Strategic Planning**
Gloria Sica, Facilitator/Pete Sandrock

Membership

As of June 2013

WCJC Positions (37 total) • Indicates Lay Position (21 total)	Member Name	
• Adair Village Citizen Representative	1.	
• Adair Village City Councilor	2.	
Department of Public Safety - OSU	3.	
• Philomath Mayor/City Manager Representative	4.	
• Representative of Crime Victims	5.	
• ASOSU Representative	6.	
• OSU Citizen Representative	7.	
• Corvallis City Councilor	8. Beilstein, Mike	
• School District Representative	9. Bogatin, Kevin	
Albany Police Chief	10. Boyd, Ed	
Benton County Director of Community Corrections	11. Carley, Justin	
• Adair Village Mayor/City Manager Representative	12. Currier, Bill	
• Benton County Commissioner	13. Dixon, Jay	
Philomath Police Chief	14. Elwer, Ken	
• Albany Citizen Representative	15. Frederick, Max	
Benton County District Attorney	16. Haroldson, John	
• Governor's Citizen Representative	17. Hein, Richard	
911 Emergency Communications Director	18. Hendrickson, Dan	
Trial Court Administrator	19. Hukari, Linda	
Benton County Sheriff	20. Jackson, Scott	
• Albany City Councilor	21. Johnson, Bessie	
• Philomath City Councilor	22. Koeppe, Charla	
• Albany Mayor/City Manager	23. Konopa, Sharon	
Oregon State Police Representative	24. Mazour, Dave	
Oregon State Police @ Oregon State University (OSU)	25. Mitchell, Steve	
District Manager: DHS (Dept of Human Services)	26. Moller, Mary	
• Benton County Health Department Administrative Rep	27. Nelson, Jeanne	
Public Defender/Defense Attorney	28. Ortiz, Nicolas	
• Corvallis Mayor/City Manager	29. Patterson, Jim	
• OSU Senior Administrator	30. Rogers, Jack	
Corvallis Police Chief	31. Sassaman, Jon	
Benton County Juvenile Department Director	32. Thompson, Terry	
• Corvallis Citizen Representative	33. Wershow, Stewart	
• Philomath Citizen Representative	34. Williams, Deborah	
Benton County Circuit Court Judge	35. Williams, Locke	
Oregon Youth Authority	36. Williams, Tara	
• Benton County Citizen Representative	37. York, Penny	
WCJC Coordinator	Robin, Jodi	