

2011-2012 Year in Review & 2012-2013 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 2011-2012 ■

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Willamette Criminal Justice Council. The idea to establish a county wide committee that could collaboratively work on issues affecting the local criminal justice system was developed by then District Attorney, Peter Sandroock, and then Sheriff, David Cook. The idea was also inspired and supported with the help of Lt. Paul Steele who was the Oregon State Police Station Commander at the time and local business owner Jay Dixon who went on to become a Benton County Commissioner. At the time there were various new state initiatives and mandates that required a more proactive approach by local officials, and Benton County was ready to jump at the opportunities. The enthusiasm for a coordinated council that would support, develop, and implement new initiatives led to the beginning of the Willamette Criminal Justice Council. The early success of the WCJC proved to be the inspiration for the creation of Local Public Safety Coordinating Councils (LPSCC), now mandated for every Oregon County. Following passage of the LPSCC legislation in 1995, the Benton County Board of Commissioners designated the WCJC as Benton County's Local Public Safety Coordinating Council.

In reviewing what WCJC has accomplished this last year, efforts were made to provide education on a number of topics related to services in the Benton County criminal justice system. However, it also became clear that the Council had begun to sense that it was not as energetic and productive as it once had been. In an effort to motivate and inspire the Council, the founder and visionary of the WCJC, former District Attorney Peter Sandroock was invited to share with the Council what his original vision was and what his opinion was of the current council's efforts. Based on his remarks, the Executive Committee has committed to become re-energized and dedicated to cultivating the WCJC back to the effective, persuasive and influential Council it was intended to be.

This document is a summary of the Willamette Criminal Justice Council's 2011-2012 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 ■ 2012-2013

The Workplan for 2012-2013 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.

Based on information provided by consultants, the lay committee identified the next steps that should be taken to support the new jail project.

- Hire consultant to conduct a predesign / needs assessment evaluating the local criminal justice system identifying, needs, missed opportunities, and potential efficiencies.
- The Lay committee 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.
- Solicit community members to form a marketing and public education team to assist with building support and political momentum.
- 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.

Steps for 2012-2013- The new jail project will continue to be developed, and pursued with a tentative objective of having a measure on the November 2013 ballot. Efforts in the next year will include:

- Jail predesign and needs assessment
- New inmate communications system which will enhance efficiency and security.
- New use of force reporting writing program allowing the capture of statistical information that will facilitate planning and reduce liability.
- New Jail Management System enhancing capabilities and efficiency.

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

2. Public Information About WCJC- 20th Anniversary

The WCJC first convened in 1992 and was considered a pioneer in coordinating comprehensive ways to improve local criminal justice systems. In fact, WCJC was the model for the current statutorily described "Local Public Safety Coordinating Council" (LPSCC).

Steps for 2012-2013- WCJC will submit a media release describing the history, accomplishments, and goals to local media in an effort to once again develop the recognition necessary for the Council to be a credible and influential group.

3. Strategic Planning

After 20 years, changes in systems, local agencies, state mandates, and the economy would seem to suggest that the Council take a step back and evaluate the effectiveness of WCJC and what the future holds for the Council. Strategic Planning would allow WCJC to review or set net overall goals and to develop the plan to achieve them. This would involve really evaluating where WCJC has been, where we are now, and what our priorities should be for the future.

Steps for 2012-2013- Seek out a consultant to facilitate strategic planning with the Council members before the end of the fiscal year.

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

In the final meeting of the year, 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 2012-2013- Coordinate with Oregon State 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 2011 - 2013 Community Corrections Plan was developed by a work group from 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 budget documents reflected only the costs for the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year. Fortunately, the statewide Community Corrections allocation was fully funded; therefore, no program cuts or modifications are anticipated for the 2012 – 2013 fiscal year. The Community Corrections Plan has been updated to reflect the 2011 – 2013 budget numbers.

Benton County Community Corrections supervised approximately 460 adult offenders monthly on parole, probation, and post-prison supervision during the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year. Benton County continues to utilize evidence-based supervision practices to enhance public safety through the reformation of offenders and the reduction of criminal conduct.

■ WCJC Organizational Development ■

■ Expanding and continuing strong WCJC leadership

Status: Completed

Nominating Committee: Ken Elwer, John Haroldson, Jon Sassaman, Dan Schwab.

Overview This Committee was charged with recommending a slate of candidates to hold leadership positions during FYE 2012-2013.

Work to Date WCJC officers were approved by the WCJC membership on June 20, 2012.

FYE 2012-2013 Officers and Executive Committee: Ken Elwer – Chair, Rick Hein – Lay Committee Chair, Jon Sassaman – Chair-Elect, Diana Simpson – Past Chair, Jack Rogers - Treasurer, Dan Schwab - Director, John Haroldson – Director, Gail Newman – Director, Ed Boyd - Director and Deb Williams – Director.

■ Developing the WCJC 2011-2013 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 2011-2013. 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 2011-2013 Biennial Budget includes funding for administrative staffing and WCJC Strategic Priorities.

Work to Date The budget was approved by WCJC membership in April 2011.

■ 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 2011-2012:

- **Benton County Drug Treatment Court (DTC)**
Judge Janet Holcomb
- **Benton County Circuit Court Budget Cuts**
Linda Hukari, Trial Court Administrator
- **Corvallis Partnership Coalition – Reducing Underage Drinking**
Kelly Locey, Benton County Health Department
- **Corvallis School District Gang Task Force**
Alicia Ward-Satey, Corvallis School District
- **LEDS Mental Health Database**
Mitch Anderson, Benton County Mental Health
- **The Benton County Emergency Services/Search and Rescue**
Mary King, Benton County Sheriff's Office
- **Linn-Benton Medical Detox Committee**
Kristin Osborne, Committee Chair
- **Safe Routes to Schools**
Gigi Sims, Program Coordinator
- **Center Against Rape and Domestic Violence**
Toni Ryan, Executive Director
- **Adult Services Team- Housing Assistance for Homeless**
Gail Newman, Director of Community Corrections
- **Legislative Updates**
Senator Morse, Representative Olson, Representative Gelser

Membership

As of June 2012

WCJC Positions (39 total) • Indicates Lay Position (22 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.	
• Philomath City Councilor	6. Baca,	Angie
• Corvallis City Councilor	7. Beilstein,	Mike
District Manager: DHS (Dept of Human Services)	8. Benavides,	Marco
• School District Representative	9. Bogatin,	Kevin
Albany Police Chief	10. Boyd,	Ed
• Albany City Councilor	11. Collins,	Floyd
• Adair Village Mayor/City Manager Representative	12. Currier,	Bill
• Benton County Commissioner	13. Dixon,	Jay
• ASOSU Representative	14. Dubie,	Joseph
Philomath Police Chief	15. Elwer,	Ken
• Albany Citizen Representative	16. Frederick,	Max
Benton County District Attorney	17. Haroldson,	John
• Governor's Citizen Representative	18. Hein,	Richard
911 Emergency Communications Director	19. Hendrickson,	Dan
Trial Court Administrator	20. Hukari,	Linda
• Albany Mayor/City Manager	21. Konopa,	Sharon
Benton County Juvenile Department Director	22. Krug,	Al
Oregon State Police Representative	23. Mazour,	Dave
Oregon State Police @ Oregon State University (OSU)	24. Mitchell,	Steve
• Benton County Health Department Administrative Rep	25. Nelson,	Jeanne
Benton County Director of Community Corrections	26. Newman,	Gail
• Corvallis Mayor/City Manager	27. Patterson,	Jim
Adair Village Police Chief	28. Riffle,	Rich
• OSU Senior Administrator	29. Rogers,	Jack
Corvallis Police Chief	30. Sassaman,	Jon
• OSU Citizen Representative	31. Schwab,	Dan
Benton County Sheriff	32. Simpson,	Diana
• Benton County Commission on Children & Families	33. Stambuk,	Angie
• Corvallis Citizen Representative	34. Wershow,	Stewart
• Philomath Citizen Representative	35. Williams,	Deborah
Benton County Circuit Court Judge	36. Williams,	Locke
Oregon Youth Authority	37. Williams,	Tara
• Benton County Citizen Representative	38. York,	Penny
Public Defender/Defense Attorney	39. Zorn,	Karen
WCJC Coordinator	Robin,	Jodi

For additional information regarding WCJC activities:
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