



LPSCC

Executive Committee Meeting

Summary Minutes for February 1, 2011

I. Introductions, Announcements, and Approval of Minutes

LPSCC Executive Committee

Members In Attendance

Sam Adams, LPSCC Co-chair, Mayor of Portland
Judy Shiprack, LPSCC Co-chair, Multnomah County Commissioner, District #3
Lane Borg, Director, Metropolitan Public Defenders
Karl Brimner, 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, Chief Operating Officer
Karen Gray, Superintendent, Parkrose School District
Judy Hadley, Citizen Representative
Deborah Hansen, Regional Director, Oregon Youth Authority
Suzanne Hayden, Citizens' Crime Commission
Dwight Holton, Acting U. S. Attorney
Judge Jean Maurer, Presiding Circuit Court Judge
Chief Mike Reese, Portland Police Bureau
Chiquita Rollins, Domestic Violence Coordinator
Michael Schrunck, District Attorney
Scott Taylor, Director, Department of Community Justice

LPSCC Staff

Peter Ozanne, Executive Director
Matt O'Keefe, Analyst
Tom Bode, Research Associate
Ryan Pelkey, PSU Systems Science

Other Attendees

Joslyn Baker, CSEC - Collaboration Specialist, DCJ
Dave Braaksma, MCSO
Doug Bray, Circuit Court Administrator
Drew Brosh, MCSO
Jann Brown, DCJ
Nancy Cozine, Oregon Judicial Department
Rachel Hardesty, PSU-Restorative Justice
Glenna Hayes, Center for Family Success
Jason Heilbrun, County IT - Public Safety
Pam Hiller, MCHD
Rob Ingram, Office of Youth Violence Prevention
Neal Japport, Oregon Judicial Department
Barry Jennings, Oregon Judicial Department
Matt Jones, PSU
Matthew Lashua, Commissioner Shiprack's Office
Kate Lieber, Mayor's Office
Shea Marshman, County Auditor's Office
William Nunley, Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Charlene Rhyne, DCJ
Wayne Wakeland, PSU
Mary Zinkin, Citizen

Questions, comments or suggestions?
Contact Matt O'Keefe at matthew.g.okeefe@multco.us or 503.988.5002

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County

I. Introductions, Approval of Minutes and Announcements

Upon motion and second, the Executive Committee approved the minutes of its January 4, 2011 meeting.

Peter Ozanne announced that Elizabeth Davies has left the County and is now living in Washington DC and working with the Urban Institute. The position of LPSCC System Analyst has been filled by Matt O'Keefe, who previously held a position with the County as an analyst for DCJ.

II. LPSCC Retreat¹

Judy Shiprack opened the meeting. Peter Ozanne introduced Dana Brown, a professional facilitator retained to guide the discussions of the Executive Committee and assist in identifying the issues and outcomes of the Retreat. She recently worked in the county as Chief of Staff to Commissioner Barbara Willer.

The traditional purpose of LPSCC's retreats has been to identify the Council's priorities and activities for the coming year. However, this year, based upon the comments of Executive Committee members at previous meetings and their conversations with staff, this Retreat explored ways to take greater advantage of the collective authority and expertise of the Committee and to increase the effectiveness of the Committee as amine the process of LPSCC meetings and attempt to improve on it. Issues considered at the Retreat included Council membership, meeting processes, level of inter-agency coordination, and use of data.

Introductory Questions

Dana Brown outlined the agenda and expectations about the Retreat's process. She posed three questions aimed at identifying the core values of LPSCC:

- How does LPSCC currently benefit you and your organization?
- How does LPSCC currently benefit the wider community?
- What are LPSCC's greatest strengths?

Executive Committee members responded to the first question as follows:

- LPSCC provides the opportunity to interact with other people;
- The Council's monthly meetings provide an opportunity to make contact with fellow policy makers and address ongoing issues;
- LPSCC's deliberations offer context to issues of mental health and their importance to public safety;
- Council meetings and materials provide information on important public safety issues;
- LPSCC is a great source of information about critical operational issues and problems, which can be specifically addressed and resolved by Criminal Justice Advisory Council, a problem-solving group convened by the Circuit Court and made up of LPSCC members and its participating agencies.

¹ The notes of the Retreat facilitator, summarizing the Executive Committee's discussions, are attached as Appendix A.

Responses to the second question – How does LPSCC benefit the community? – included:

- Multnomah County benefits from convening a group of key public safety policy makers who can address important issues collaboratively and respectfully. The Council's meetings provide its members with the opportunity to learn about the actions of the members' respective agencies, and the impacts of those actions on other agencies and the public safety system as a whole. Most communities have the benefit of such a group;
- The public should be heartened to know that leaders from different public safety agencies are willing to come together and discuss issues openly and respectfully;
- Dialogue with the community is critical. LPSCC often lacks a broad community perspective and tends to engage in professional dialogues rather than community dialogues. Currently, Council members must initiate their own community dialogues with their agencies. LPSCC should consider filling that gap;
- The Executive Committee's deliberations can avoid unilateral changes in agency policies that cause huge, unanticipated disruptions throughout the public safety system;
- LPSCC's processes force its members and their agencies to communicate on a regular basis.

Committee members answered the third question – What are LPSCC's current strengths? – as follows:

- The authority and expertise of its members and working groups;²
- LPSCC processes of communication and deliberation can avoid unintended consequences in the public safety system;
- Meetings provide an opportunity to solve problems or identify problems and solve them outside of the meeting;
- The collegiality and civility among Executive Committee members;
- Information sharing among the members;
- LPSCC's "What Works" Conferences provide interesting and useful information;
- Because many of the Executive Committee members have been involved in LPSCC for a substantial length of time, the group tends to work together collaboratively and effectively;
- With regard to budgets, which are constructed and evaluated from a perspective of "silos," LPSCC offers a place for the agencies come together;
- One of the strengths of the Executive Committee is the differences of its members; there are a variety of independently elected officials and leaders who come to this table and they come together here because their work and operations affect each other.

A Vision for LPSCC

The Executive Committee next discussed its "vision" for LPSCC. Should LPSCC be a forum for information sharing or should it also be decision and action based? What are the activities should LPSCC focus on?

² A list of LPSCC's committee and working group is attached as Appendix B.

How the group should operate:

System Knowledge

- LPSCC represents a valuable knowledge bank, but that knowledge is frequently stored away in files and past reports that are no longer accessible to our members. LPSCC needs a mechanism or process to provide access to the Council's accumulated knowledge and experience;
- The Council should consider creating a speaker's bureau made up of our membership so that more than one point of view is presented to the public;

Data & Analysis

- LPSCC should create a performance dashboard, using a consistent set of critical data points, which reports on the condition of the entire public safety system and on chronic problems like youth and gang violence. The goal is not necessarily more data, but more insight;
- The Executive Committee must be advised of best practices and the latest research and developments in public safety across the country and should be actively engaged in public communication and education;

Group Dynamics

- The Executive Committee should recognize and acknowledge the different and sometimes conflicting interests and perspectives of its members, rather than attempting to ignore them in the interests of civility and the appearance of collaboration.

Topical Focus

- The interests of victims should be of greater concern to LPSCC.
- The focus of LPSCC should be the local offender population, rather than the felony population that is the responsibility of the state;
- LPSCC should avoid discussions or presentations that do not lead to specific actions or decision;

Functions the group should perform:

Policy Recommendations

- LPSCC should play a greater role in making recommendations to policy makers;
- LPSCC should provide a unified, informed voice on the resolution of issues in criminal justice policy. This voice could be very influential;
- The Council should concentrate on developing recommendations to the county board and city councils;
- The Executive Committee should function like the federal Government Accounting Office, evaluating proposed policies and operations in the public safety system;
- The Executive Committee should identify problems and opportunities and create common understandings of effective public safety policies and practices;

Inter-agency Coordination

- LPSCC should use data and analysis to "right size" the public safety system, to ensure that all the agencies have the resources and capacity to perform their respective function;

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- LPSCC should understand and account for impacts of agency policies and practices on other agencies and the system;
- LPSCC should engage in more joint, interagency planning;

Communication

- LPSCC should be a mutual support system for communicating about public safety policies and practices with the public;
- LPSCC should recognize the significant role of ballot measures and initiatives on public safety policy, and the importance of public communication and education with respect to the differences between the public's perspective and our members' perspectives;
- LPSCC needs to consider who the ultimate decision makers should be; the public or the professionals. Do we bow to public perceptions or attempt to change them?

Prevention & Social Justice

- LPSCC should focus its efforts on community education and prevention strategies, rather than reacting to the latest events or developments;
- LPSCC should address social justice issues and not just criminal justice issues, as well as the interaction between such issues as race, poverty and access to education and the criminal justice system;
- LPSCC should examine the underlying causes of criminal behavior, including social justice issues and system inefficiencies, and implement policies and practices that actually work. (For example, drug abuse drives a lot of property crime, so what are we doing to help prevent people from becoming drug addicts);

Creation of the Agenda

The committee turned to a discussion of the LPSCC agenda, both as a schedule for each meeting and a broader set of topics to be considered by the council. Comments have been edited and grouped.

Data & Agenda

- LPSCC's work should be grounded by insight and agenda topics should be selected for the purpose of increasing insight and informing our members of what is important for them to know;
- Our agencies analysts should meet before each Executive Committee meeting to identify issues, trend and developments based upon available data.
- A common set of data, or dashboard, which spans the concerns from law enforcement to rehabilitation and prevention and which is reviewed regularly by the Executive Committee, would ensure that its recommendations are based on data and reality;
- Reserve time at each meeting to address issues arising from the Public Safety Brief;

Agenda Subcommittee

- The Executive Committee should consider establishing an "agenda subcommittee" that will develop the agenda? Membership could be rotated;
- An agenda subcommittee is a typical way to set meeting agendas for a group like this, which should result in focused agendas and avoid presentations that are only marginally related to the work of LPSCC;
- The Executive Committee can serve as the agenda committee;

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- There are two kinds of agenda items: emerging critical issues and ongoing issues that the group has identified as a priority. The Executive Committee should identify the ongoing, priority issues for the year and the agenda subcommittee should be the gatekeeper for the emerging issues. Meeting agendas should be divided between these two types of topics;
- LPSCC should have two agendas: The long-term agenda and the meeting agenda. The long-term agenda should be set by the Executive Committee. The meeting agenda should not be set by the staff, but it should be set by a smaller group of the Executive Committee;
- The agenda should include at the end a preview of coming attractions;

Agenda Topics

- Agenda items should be linked to LPSCC's mission and objectives: create a list of "principle challenges" that form the "curriculum," or the main agenda items, for the next six months;
- Setting a "core curriculum" for the next six months or year would help members determine how to contribute during upcoming meetings. Dividing agenda topics between long-term and immediate issues would help to ensure more effective meetings;
- It is important for the Executive Committee to refer to its enabling statute and its 2008 Public Safety Plan in order to ensure LPSCC's focus and effectiveness and to avoid revisiting issues upon which we've already agreed;

Expectations of the Council

- Agendas should provide notice of any agenda items that the Council will be voting or acting on.
- The agenda should identify items that are merely for members' information and items that will call for members' input and action, and the appropriate follow-up or closure regarding the latter items should be established at the end of each meeting;
- Can the Executive Committee really speak as one group or produce unified recommendations? We come together as a group to exchange information and solve problems solve; but that doesn't mean that we will all agree;

Potential Meeting Topics

Suggested topics for upcoming Executive Committee meetings:

- Public safety budgets;
- Issues of race and ethnicity;
- Issues of social justice, including the impacts of race and poverty;
- Child welfare;
- Drugs and alcohol in schools;
- The sources of arrests;
- Developments in Salem, including prison population forecasts and evaluation of Multnomah County's contributions to that population;
- A review of state legislative changes following the end of the legislation session;
- Reentry and collaboration with the U.S. District Court's reentry program;
- Improving communication with the public;
- Progress reports from LPSCC's working groups;
- Inventory and coordination of LPSCC's current projects and initiatives;

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- Consider establishing a “data dashboard group.” (LPSCC’s Strategic Plan for DSS-J, has already established a Public Safety System Analyst Workgroup made up of analysts from each public safety agency that could support this effort);
- Assure that dashboards are based upon relevant and accurate data;
- How do we learn what all the data means? Analysts should help us understand the immediately, intermediate and long-term consequences of our policies and practices.

Wrap Up:

- Note that LPSCC’s website provides information about the Council’s mission, history, organization, projects and accomplishments: see **www.lpscc.org**
- New members need more orientation about LPSCC;
- The Executive Committee obviously needs to reaffirm its purposes and roles;
- We need to reestablish our connections with the public;
- Staff will produce a document prior to the Executive Committee’s next meeting that will (a) summarize the issues discussed at the Retreat, (b) compile and organize the Executive Committee members’ thoughts about the appropriate role of LPSCC for further consideration at upcoming meetings and (c) propose processes to develop meeting agendas and organize meetings based upon today’s discussions.

Closing comments regarding the effectiveness of the Retreat:

- The Executive Committee will need to follow-up on the Retreat and continue discussions of the issues raised today at subsequent meetings;
- Members agreed that the Retreat provided a valuable opportunity to engage and reflect on critical issues regarding the function and effectiveness of LPSCC and issues that transcend day-to-day concerns in the public safety system.

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