



Douglas County Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC)
Temporary Justice Reinvestment (JRI) Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes

Noon, Thursday, March 28, 2019
Room 310, Douglas County Courthouse

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Boice, *Commissioner*; Joe Garcia, *Community Corrections*; Mike Nores, *Douglas CARES*; Rick Wesenberg, *District Attorney*;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frances Burge, *Presiding Judge*;

ALSO PRESENT: Ian Davidson, *Criminal Justice Commission*; Jeff Frieze, *Undersheriff*; Kathleen Johnson, *Judge*; William Marshall, *Judge*; Melissa McRobbie-Toll, *LPSCC Coordinator*; Robert Wilson, *Treatment Court Coordinator*;

GUEST PRESENTATION: Ian Davidson, Criminal Justice Commission

Subcommittee heard a presentation by Ian Davidson, Grant Analyst with the Criminal Justice Commission, on the Justice Reinvestment grant program and Douglas County's data dashboards. Davidson shared several graphs from the CJC's online dashboards, including one that illustrated Douglas County's prison over time compared to our baseline. That graph showed a gradual increase between 2014 and 2018, with a significant dropoff since May 2018. The graphs reflect prison usage for drug, property and a small number of driving crimes, which are the offenses covered by the Justice Reinvestment program.

Davidson explained the dashboards allow the CJC and counties to see long-term trends and gauge how any new programs or policies may be affecting prison usage. Heading into the 2019/21 biennium, the CJC is interested in hearing from counties on local factors driving prison usage. Counties will be reapplying for JRI funding in the coming months.

Justice Reinvestment was funded at \$15 million for the 2013/15 biennium; \$38.7 million for 2015/17; and \$40.1 million + \$7 million in Supplemental JRI funding for 2017/19. The funding level for 2019/21 has not yet been determined, but the Governor has recommended funding JRI and Supplemental JRI at approximately current service levels.

Davidson highlighted two graphs that illustrate Douglas County's prison usage for property crimes. The graphs show roughly the same number of intakes for first-sentence crimes as probation revocations. This is unusual; most counties have significantly fewer revocations than first-sentence intakes. He suggested that Douglas County may want to look at how to bring the revocation rate down.

Another graph showed that the number of cases sentenced for property and drug crimes dropped markedly between 2017 and 2018. This trend corresponds with the overall drop in prison usage.

Group discussion points included the following:

- **High-risk offenders** - Joe Garcia said Douglas County has a disproportionate number of high-risk offenders (based on the Public Safety Checklist). He suggested that the number of first-sentence intakes and revocations may be similar because Douglas County is granting a large number of downward departures, and those individuals are at higher risk of committing probation violations resulting in prison time. Judge Johnson said that if the goal is to revoke fewer people, this appears to be an incentive for counties not to take the risk of granting downward departures.
- **Counties gauged against themselves** – The group asked whether it is possible to make more nuanced county-to-county comparisons that take into account additional factors such as percentage of high-risk offenders. Davidson said the CJC measures counties’ trends/prison usage compared to their own data, and that the CJC understands there are additional factors at play.
- **Desire for specific benchmarks** – Group members expressed a desire for more specific benchmarks and further definition on what counties should be trying to achieve with JRI. Commissioner Boice said Douglas County needs a way to track its progress that factors in the County’s specific circumstances.
- **Baseline determination** – Joe Garcia said Douglas County’s prison-usage data may be skewed by an artificially low baseline; back in 2013, the number of people on supervision was about 30 percent lower than it is now. Between 2013 and 2017, Douglas County had the fastest-growing supervision caseload in Oregon.
- **Short-Term Transitional Leave (STTL)** – Joe Garcia expressed interest in knowing how many STTL cases Douglas County has compared to other counties.
- **Overall concern** – Many of the group’s comments reflected the overall concern that Douglas County’s progress/performance will be measured solely by the CJC’s prison-usage graphs, which don’t tell the whole story. Davidson said he and Ross Caldwell would like as much information as possible from Douglas County in order to provide the grant-review committee with appropriate background information and context.
- **Grant review process** – JRI grant applications submitted by counties are first reviewed by Davidson and Caldwell, who follow up with counties regarding any clarifications or outstanding questions. Davidson and Caldwell then present all 36 counties’ plans to the grant-review committee and the committee makes approval recommendations that go to the full Criminal Justice Commission for a final decision.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **RSAT grant** - Douglas County is currently the only county in Oregon to receive a Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant. This grant process will likely be opening up to additional counties, becoming competitive.

NEXT MEETING: *Noon on Thursday, May 2*