

Minutes LPSCC/LCJAC

CORRECTED 3/18/26

December 9, 2025

Attendance: Matt Scarfo; Tina Routt; Jim Schaeffer; John O'Brien; Gary Bell; Ken Woodward; Emily Moody; Dave Aydelotte; Kim MacDonald; Kelsie McDaniel; Odin Miller; Michelle Leonard; Daisy Duren; Barb Seatter; Judge Boyd; Carrie Brogoitti

- 1) Last Meeting Minutes 03/12/25 – Chief Bell moves to approve. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. No opposition or discussion – minutes approved.
- 2) End of year report - Chief Bell moves to approve. Commissioner Scarfo seconded. No opposition or discussion – End of year report approved in tandem with minutes.
- 3) Corrections budget – support letter; approved 10/10/25 via an email vote. No further questions or discussion. Approval stands.
- 4) Deflection/Diversion program update, McDaniel/Joseph: District Attorney McDaniel highlights that our program differs from other counties' deflection initiatives by including a member of the defense bar and adopting a broader scope. This expanded approach allows the program to address a wider range of offenses beyond drug-related charges. The involvement of a defense attorney has strengthened the process, and the program is currently administered by an intern in the DA's office.

Chief Bell indicates that out of 50 arrests since 9-1-24 only 6 were drug only charges.

Question by Tina - does this program reach the population struggling with mental health issues? DA indicates, generally no, as the population in this category are not in a good place at the time of arrest to make decisions to enter program thereby not making them eligible given the requisite timeline. A program called Jail Diversion more likely suites that population.

DA indicates this program is more suited to first time offenders. DA indicates that we didn't receive enough funding to match programs such as what is being rolled out in Marion County, we simply do not have the resources that our larger counterparts received. CHD will conduct assessments if recommended following the DA's review.

- 5) Vacancies / Welcome of New members: We are still in need of a Lay Member. The vacancy continues to be posted on the County's website. If you have any recommendations, please let us know. Local Bar Association member is also still vacant, Court will make an announcement at an upcoming meeting with bar members about filling the vacancy.

Welcome City of La Grande's ~~Mayer~~ City Manager - John Obrien

- 6) Department Updates
 - o **La Grande PD** – Chief Bell, question from Judge Boyd on the perception that fentanyl use is decreasing. Chief indicates that most people are more aware of how dangerous fentanyl by itself can be, but reminded this group that meth and other drugs have fentanyl mixed in, but fentanyl only users are not as prevalent.

Officers are using a tool called Narc Ranger which detects many types of drugs while in their packaging.

- 911 is almost fully staffed and when the last vacancy is filled they will increase their hours.
- Officer vacancies are also actively being recruited. Hiring pools have been scarce, but they are currently vetting some candidates for hire.
- Chief Bell retiring in March, new chief to be announced in near future.
- **UCSO** – No Report
- **OSP** – Expanding their hours soon. Going to 22-hour coverage, 5a.m. – 3a.m. Always trying to get to a 24/7 patrol schedule, but resources are such that they aren't there yet.
- **DA** – Down two attorneys. Looking at bringing on an FPP candidate later in 2026, but will still be needing to fill another vacancy.
- **Court** – Judge Boyd – We are no longer in a defense attorney crisis situation. With the new contracts beginning October 1, 2025, our office was able to assign all the backlog of cases. The new contracts so far are working well, and we are happy to say we are back to moving our cases along with timely appointments.
- **Probation** – N/A
- **Bar** - (vacant) – N/A
- **Def Bar** (J. Schaeffer) – Mirrors what Judge Boyd reports that the defense counsel situation improved with the new contracts. Also reports that the attorneys signed individual contracts rather than being part of a consortium. Gained another murder qualified attorney with the new grouping of attorneys.
- **County Commissioners** – Commissioner Scarfo reminds us that short session is upon us in January – Also will be working in DC on some nationwide projects. If anyone has legislative subjects, please send him information. Did not get funding for respite center, so will try find funds in other ways.
- **Juvenile Department** – Odin Miller, things are going well, nothing crazy to report. Referrals are down.
- **CHD** – Barb Seatter reports they are actively negotiating their CFFA with OHA to operate in 2026. Hoping it will be resolved by end of month. CHD depends on the funding to continue with their Local Plan (fkn Biannual Plan).
- **Carrie Brogoitti-Member of the statewide Opioid board.** Board holds their retreat in January and will be talking about interim strategies. Our community may not have received any of the initial funds, but they are looking at regional options in NE Oregon. Please feel free to review the information in this link and reach out to her if you have any questions or other bits of information.
[Oregon Health Authority : Oregon Opioid Settlement Funds : Opioid Overdose and Misuse : State of Oregon](#)
- **Mt. Emily** (K. McDonald) – as per every year, the main offices will be close for a time during the holidays. However, they are still available for urgent matters if they arise.
- **Mayor** – Nothing to report.