

Washington County Sheriff's Office Latino Advisory Commission
April 6, 2022
Meeting Minutes

Commission Members Present: Olga Acuña, Maria Caballero-Rubio, Pat Garrett, Joann Hoffman, Fernando Lira, Nansi Lopez, Ricardo Moreno, Pablo Valenzuela

Commission Members Absent: James Mitch Coley, Daniel Guzman-Catarina, Fernanda Pantoja

Guest Speaker: Lieutenant Chad Lotman

Guests attending: Chief Deputy Al Roque

Held via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Acuña called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Introductions

Approval Meeting Minutes

The members present constituted a quorum. Commissioner Moreno made a motion to the approve the March 2, 2022 minutes. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

No public comments

Reflection of STOP Report

Following Chief Deputy Roque's presentation of STOP data during the LAC's March meeting, he returned as Commission members discussed the information. He addressed the question, "are all stops equitable?". As we know from the Criminal Justice Commission's report, WCSO stops are equitable for all racial groups. However, the report shows a disparity in "Predictive Disposition" for Latino drivers. The data also shows that the number one reason for stops across all races is speed. Regarding post-stop outcomes, our data shows Latino drivers were more likely to have no valid driver's license than other groups.

The WCSO is working with ODOT and Centro Cultural to provide Driver's Training for our Latino community. The WCSO has continued working with the Justice Court Judge to continue the diversion program known as the Vehicle Compliance program. Also, recent legislation has changed, making stops for single headlight, single taillight, or single plate light secondary offenses.

Based on recent audits, the issuance of citations matches the demographics within the geographical area the cite was issued.

Commissioner Rubio-Caballero asked if this data would be provided annually. Sheriff Garret said the recent report was from data analyzed for a 2-year period (July 2019 – June 2021). The initial reports released were based on one-years' worth of data. Future reports will be released annually, based on two-years' of data so the Criminal Justice Commission is more likely to have sufficient data to analyze stops for all racial groups.

It's important to acknowledge that Latinos and other immigrants have a hard time obtaining a driver's license. This challenge is not factored into the STOP data. The pandemic did impact driver's license data, as there were fewer stops made during this time frame. Also, lapses in driver's license expirations and vehicle registrations were given grace periods under guidance from the state during the pandemic. Next year should reflect more accurate data as pandemic restrictions are lifted.

Chief Deputy Roque also thanked Commissioner Valenzuela for bringing to our attention the fact that the data for the City of Cornelius (and other contract cities) was not separated in the state report. This is due to the fact that the City of Cornelius contracts police services from the Sheriff's Office, so their numbers would appear under that of the Sheriff's Office.

Commission members voiced consensus to review the STOP data reports as they are released yearly. The next report is scheduled to be released in early December.

Drugs Presentation

Lt. Lotman has oversight over the Westside Interagency Narcotics Team (WIN). The WIN Team consists of the WCSO, Hillsboro PD, Beaverton PD, and the FBI. The WIN Team also collaborates with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Homeland Security- Homeland Security Investigations. The WIN Team has been in service since 1993, now with six full time Investigators, two Sergeants and one Lieutenant.

The WIN Team is also part of the High Intensity Drug Tracking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, a designation by the Office of National Drug Control Policy. There are 33 regional HIDTA's in the United States. The WIN Team is part of the Oregon-Idaho HIDTA which consists of 12 counties in Oregon and four in Idaho.

The main goal of the WIN Team is to identify and disrupt or dismantle Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO's). In partnership with HIDTA they are responsible for identifying DTO's and Money Laundering Organizations. This HIDTA collaboration makes it easier to communicate, share, and receive information with other task forces. HIDTA compiles data received from task forces and creates an annual threat assessment.

For Oregon, the most common course of drug travel comes up I-5 from Mexico. Current intelligence indicates that DTOs in Mexico are attempting to increase their distribution of the drug, Fentanyl. Most bulk Fentanyl currently comes from Mexico and China. Mexican DTO's are manufacturing Fentanyl and creating pills for distribution. WIN attempts to stop shipments while they are in transit before they reach our county or better, our state. In Washington county It is common for Fentanyl and other drugs to be sold online and passed through pre-arranged

meets instead of the typical “corner dealer” which is more likely seen in larger cities. They can also be purchased online and mailed.

WIN responds to calls if patrol believes the case involves a fatal overdose. Due immediate concerns to public health, WIN conducts investigations that intend to locate the substance(s) responsible for the overdose, the source of that substance and attempts to mitigate any further danger to public.

Oregon ranks 2nd for having the most identified substance use disorders in the country. Unfortunately, it also ranks as the 50th state for needing but not receiving treatment. Fentanyl was responsible for 47% of overdose deaths in Washington County, as opposed to the state average of 26%. Methamphetamines and Heroin along with Fentanyl are the top three drugs responsible for overdose deaths in Washington county.

The jump in Fentanyl seizures from 2018 to 2020 is cause for concern. Methamphetamine is still the biggest drug problem. However, the ease of obtaining and use of Fentanyl makes it a serious problem, especially among youth. Fentanyl is most often sold in pill form which may be viewed by the public as less “scary” than using a needle, and therefore could be seen as more appealing or socially acceptable.

Naloxone (Narcan) is a life-saving drug administered to those experiencing an overdose due to Opioids, such as Heroin, Fentanyl and Oxycodone. The Washington County Sheriff’s Office is the distribution center of Narcan for law enforcement agencies within Washington County. Law enforcement use of Narcan has increased over the past few years. Some factors related to that increase are the rising number of overdose calls and the proficiency of law enforcement recognizing an overdose and understanding when to use Narcan.

Measure 110, effective February 1, 2021, decriminalized user amounts of many narcotics within the state of Oregon. There has been a dramatic drop in drug offense arrests, which may be related to the reduction of police authority when investigating a violation versus the investigation of a crime. Commissioner Rubio-Caballero asked which drugs were decriminalized in measure 110. Lt. Lotman explained that the list was long, however “user amounts” of Heroin, Methamphetamines, Ecstasy, Cocaine, and Oxycodone were some that were on the list. For example, a user amount of heroin would be equivalent to a packet of artificial sweetener (<1gram), methamphetamine (<2 grams), oxycodone is <40 pills, but a user amount of Fentanyl would be approximately 50 pills (<5 grams). This does not pertain to a person in possession of a drug prescribed to them.

Commissioner Caballero-Rubio asked about the reduction in drug-arrests, such as the typical “Corner Dealer” and the number of overdose deaths. Lt. Lotman explained that in Washington County, we don’t typically see corner dealers, but we do see “drug houses”. complaints will come from neighbors stating that “this house is selling drugs”. This is a type of lead the WIN Team will follow. Lt. Lotman also said that due to Measure 110, Oregon has been referred to as a “drug vacation state” also called “drug tourism”, where users from other states will come to Oregon to use narcotics that would be a crime in other states.

Commissioner Valenzuela asked about the map of drugs coming up from the south. Are the pipelines the same for all drugs? Lt. Lotman says many drugs do originate from Mexico, but the route can vary depending on the DTO. Due to the fact buying in bulk can be profitable, End Customers are occasionally becoming dealers and may end up traveling to California (or other states) to get product.

Commissioner Hoffman asked how much Fentanyl pills cost. Lt. Lotman said depending on whether the pills are sold in bulk or single, the price can be \$3 to \$10 per pill. These prices can fluctuate greatly depending on the region. This could be a factor why End Customers may decide to become dealers and traffickers.

Sheriff's Updates

After our last LAC meeting, Sheriff Garrett met with Lindsay Baker of ODOT. It was recently revealed those who identify as Latino do not pass the Oregon Driver's Knowledge test at twice the rate as Caucasians. Latinos have said the Knowledge test and the Oregon Driver's Manual were poorly translated. DMV has since then updated the translations for both. The over-all goal is to have culturally specific drivers' training and training materials to enhance to ability of Latinos to obtain an Oregon Driver's License.

Sheriff Garrett updated the Commission that the court has not set a new date for the Alden trial. The court backlog created by the pandemic continues to delay many trials.

Next steps

Continue drug conversation next month with time for Q&A.

The term limits discussion on the agenda will be moved to next month.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM