
Josephine (JO) County (CO) Justice System (JS) & Public Safety Services (PSS)

JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services

The 2012 expiration of federal funding for services resulted in two JO CO proposed levies as a solution. Both levies failed. *“Is JO CO providing a minimally adequate level of public safety services?”*¹⁻⁴

MISSION, VISION, GOALS, BUDGET⁵ JO CO “Your Sheriff’s Office”

<http://jocosheriff.us/component/content/>

Oregon Sheriff’s Jail Command Council (OSJCC)⁶

<http://www.osjcc.org/> JO CO’s jail is designed for 262 beds. It operational capacity from 2006 - 2012 was 140 beds. OR law requires the Sheriff of each CO in OR to operate a jail to lodge adult pre-trial and sentenced offenders. Jails do much more than simply house prisoners. In most OR COs jail staff are also responsible for inmate admissions court security, transports, rehabilitative programs, and other additional support unit work groups. Many OR sheriff’s also run work camps, work crews, work release centers, home detention and in some COs, parole and probation services.

Jail Beds, Admissions, Prison Commitments, Total Crime per 1,000 Population: 2006 - 2012⁶ (See OSJCC’s web site).

1. Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS). July 9, 2013. *Justice System Exploratory Committee*. Hugo, OR.

2. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society’s Mission*. Hugo, OR.

3. HNA&HS. July 9, 2013. *All Voters & Votes Are Legitimate*. Hugo, OR.

4. HNA&HS. July 24, 2013. *Government Needs Support*. Hugo, OR.

5. Transcribed by the Hugo Justice System (HJS) Exploratory Committee, HNA&HS Downloaded August 26, 2013. *Josephine County Sheriff’s Office Overview*. <http://jocosheriff.us/component/content/>. Hugo, OR.

OR Sheriff’s Jail Command Council

Jail vs. Prison - Is there a difference?⁶ Operating a jail is much different than operating a prison. Admission numbers tell a lot of the story.

An average 200-300 bed jail in OR will process between 6,000 and 10,000 inmates throughout the course of a year. A 500-600 bed jail in Oregon will process up to 20,000 inmates per year. With the downsizing and closure of state mental hospitals, many people who would have been treated in a medical setting now inhabit OR jails facing a variety of misdemeanor or felony charges. It is a fact that about 20% of all jail inmates suffer from significant mental illness. Additionally, 85% of jail inmates have drug and alcohol addictions or abuse problems and are often initially arrested while under the influence of at least one substance. This makes them a highly volatile group.

Prisons are under the jurisdiction of the OR Department of Corrections, a state agency, and provide a different and unique service to the state’s citizens. Prisons house long term sentenced felons. A 500-bed prison will likely see a 200 to 300 inmate turnover during the year, or a total of around 750 inmates. Not only are all of these prisoners sentenced, they arrive from jails or other state agencies, and are generally free from substance use.

Want more information? Contact a member of the *Exploratory Committee*.

6. Transcribed by the HJS Exploratory Committee, HNA&HS Downloaded August 28, 2013. *Oregon Sheriff’s Jail Command Council*. <http://jocosheriff.us/component/content/>. Hugo, OR.

JO CO Sheriff’s Office

Jail Operations⁶ OR Sheriff’s operate 31 jail facilities. On one hand, Multnomah and Lane COs operate multiple facilities. On the other hand, several of the smaller COs east of the Cascade Mountains share a single jail facility run by NORCOR, a regional jail in The Dalles that serves Wasco, Hood River, Gilliam and Sherman COs. The Warm Springs Tribe participates in OSJCC although their jail facility is not run by a sheriff. Wallowa and Wheeler COs do not operate jails.

OR jail managers have created a cooperative statewide prisoner shuttle system for efficiency in transporting prisoners among the many facilities. Many jails also staff a transport unit with a handful of deputies to facilitate inmate movement. In many cases, inmates must also be shuttled to the local courthouse, and with the thousands of inmates booked each year, this can become a formidable task. Jails across the state also work cooperatively when dealing with problem inmates, or medical issues, and facilities share discipline information when appropriate.

Rehabilitation⁶ Inmate programs that provide basic life skills, mental health care, and those geared for rehabilitation have grown tremendously in the states’ jails. These programs provide some of the most encouraging statistics relating to jails. A recent jail study was conducted regarding change in criminal behavior based on participation in inmate programs. The study revealed a 50% decrease in the average number of arrests, the average number of felony charges, and the average number of person to person crime convictions. OR jails are on the right track.

Exploratory Committee's Mission

Mission An independent Justice System and Public Safety Services Exploratory Committee (*Exploratory Committee*) to investigate the JO CO Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) issue was formed under the leadership of the Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society (HNA&HS).

Big picture ideas for the exploratory effort include the following.

1. Identifying the JS&PSS issue.
2. Identifying the JS&PSS sub-issues for research and analysis.
3. Identifying a range in level of services
4. Identifying a range of costs for services.
5. Identifying revenues for services.

The ultimate goal is an adequate justice system and public safety services. Is it possible to have a higher level of service for a lower cost? The purpose of the *Exploratory Committee* is to gather information adequate enough to understand the JS&PSS issues. This includes educational outreach efforts.

The *Exploratory Committee's* purpose is limited to investigating and researching the JS&PSS issues. It will not make evaluations of right or wrong, nor make recommendations on how to vote.

The contents of this brochure are expressions of the opinions and beliefs of those that contribute based on their thoughts and experiences. Hopefully, their efforts will assist the public toward informed decision-making.

- Donations Are Not Tax Deductible -

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Justice System Exploratory Committee

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/justicesystemexploratorycommittee.htm>

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

<http://www.hugoneighborhood.org/>

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OR SHERIFF'S JAIL COMMAND COUNCIL

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Hugo Justice System Exploratory Committee