

**Thursday, December 10, 2015, Public Meeting To Explain “Study Design”  
To Josephine County Board of County Commissioners (BCC)**

Keith Heck, Chair  
Cherryl Walker, Vice Chair  
Simon Hare, Commissioner

***Justice System & Public Safety Services (JS&PSS) Study Design: 2015 (Study Design)***

Hugo JS&PSS Exploratory Committee (Committee)

Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (HNA&HS)

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

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**Meeting**

**Purpose:** **Explain Idea For Listening To The Public: Study Design**  
**Date:** Thursday, December 10, 2015  
**Time:** 2:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Josephine County Courthouse  
**Participants:** Josephine County BCC: Keith Heck, Cherryl Walker, & Simon Hare; and  
Co-Authors Of *Study Design*, Mike Walker and Jon Whalen

***Study Design: Public Outreach Handouts* for meeting are identified in “bold.”**

- Outreach 1.1 **What’s the Problem?**
- Outreach 1.2 Arguments For Supporting Study Design
- Outreach 1.3 **Summary Highlights: Arguments For Supporting Study Design**
- Outreach 1.4 **Introduction To Justice System Exploratory Committee’s Web Page**
- Outreach 2. Interested In Becoming Involved?
- Outreach 3.1 Publicly Identified Problems/Issues
- Outreach 3.2 **Summary Highlights: Publicly Identified Problems/Issues**
- Outreach 4.1 Publicly Identified Range of Alternative Solutions
- Outreach 4.2 **Summary Highlights: Publicly Identified Range of Alternative Solutions**
- Outreach 5.1 Vetted Public Safety Facts
- Outreach 5.2 Summary Highlights: Vetted Public Safety Facts
- Outreach 6.1 Study Design’s Planning Horizon Is Flexible
- Outreach 6.2 Summary Highlights: Study Design’s Planning Horizon Is Flexible
- Outreach 7. Table Talk Discussion Script
- Outreach 8. How To Communicate In Plain Language
- Outreach 9. JS&PSS Issue Overview Educational Brochure
- Outreach 10. Aspiration Letter From Authors Of Study Design
- Outreach 11. Enquiry Stakeholder Letters/Emails

***Study Design: Press Releases***

- Press Release **JS&PSS Press Release 2015-1. What Do Josephine County Citizens Really Think About Public Safety?**

**Highlights** After four failed public safety levies and one sales tax, in as many years, the public could be excused if it feels exhausted. What does the public really think about public safety? The Committee’s approach to explaining *Study Design* for this meeting is to share some public safety highlights, and then consider two of the six handouts: 1. *Outreach 1.1, What’s the Problem?*, and 2. *Outreach 1.3, Summary Highlights: Arguments For Supporting Study Design.*

The Committee was established by the HNA&HS in 2013 to research the public safety problem/issue. The Committee asked the question, “*What can we do to shed some light on the public safety problem/issue?*”

In 2015, two of its members, Mike Walker and Jon Whalen, decided to document “listening” which wouldn’t be scientific in the sense of random sample public opinion surveys, and targeted populations; it was just listening to fellow citizens. The Committee’s core value is neutrality toward the public safety problem/issue; its goal is a more informed public.

- All Citizens, Voters, Votes, & Values Are Legitimate, Pro & Con.
- Fair Representation of All Values.
- Neutral Point of View.
- Public Is Decision Maker.

*What is the JO CO’s JS&PSS Problem/Issue?* First, what are the public safety services, and, second, what is the problem/issue? Or, is there a problem, and if so, judged by what standards?

**Public Safety Services:** 1. Adult Jail Beds, 2. Juvenile Justice Center, 3. District Attorney’s Office, 4. Court Services, 5. Rural Patrol Deputies, 6. Criminal Investigations & Related Sheriff’s Office Support Services, and 7. Animal Protection.

“Why support or sponsor a socio-economic impact “*Study*” that purports to represent the citizens of JO CO, Oregon in their efforts to address the county’s public safety problem/issue?” The Committee has three summary responses.

Response 1: In a nut shell *Study Design* proposed an impact *Study*, which will be based on formal vetted inventories and an impact methodology model which promotes informed decision-making through a unique decision process, where the citizens identify the problems and potential solutions, and are the decision-makers. A key concept is *how to demonstrate trust and enhance communication between neighbors with different values, and JO CO government*. The approach primarily relies on citizens to provide insight about how to identify problems, and formulate their own goals and solutions for the future (e.g., voting, writing letters to the editor and guest opinions in *The Grants Pass Daily Courier*, writing arguments in voters’ pamphlets, etc.).

Response 2: Vetted *Study* Baseline Facts/Inventories. Understanding is made more difficult with all those noisy facts when truth isn’t always something as clear and unquestionable as desired. It is believed that a step in the right direction is for different publics, that don’t trust each other to share vetted, or checked, information. This is one of the purposes – for citizens to speak a common language, to solve problems, not to spend valuable time and energy discussing potential conflicting facts. For that purpose, a web page of “*listening*” to baseline information, vetted facts, and disputed facts, has been started for consideration in *Study*: letters-to-the-editor (over 800); guest opinions (10 and adding), media articles (over 650), voters pamphlets (5), and studies & information (24 - e.g., declining federal payments to counties, demographic & population, health, OR reports of criminal offenses and arrests, local crime information, budget, etc.).

Response 3: Key Outcomes Of *Study*. It is difficult when JO CO citizens are polarized over the public safety problem/issue and have not yet found a consensus definition of either the public safety problem, or the solution; and its compelling that a significant number of city and county citizens fear for their family’s and community’s safety because of a decreased number of jail beds, lack of 911 call responses, JO CO rural patrol, etc. How will *Study Design* change the way people live? At this stage the public outreach strategy is to explain *Study Design* with the goal of moving toward a consensus definition of the problem/issue: Taxes versus Safety?