January 21, 2011

TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Tim Laue, Chair, Public Safety Coordinating Council
RE: 2011 Criminal Justice System Report Card

Since 2006 the Public Safety Coordinating Council has produced and distributed a Report Card and Report Card Data Book on the Adult and Juvenile Criminal Justice System in Lane County. We have spent several years developing the Report Card and Data Book, utilizing readily available data comparable to both Oregon and the United States. The design enables us to provide consistent, longitudinal system indicators.

In 2011 there are no major changes in grades for either the Adult or Juvenile Criminal Justice System. Improvement in these grades seems unlikely given current and projected levels of system resources and capacity. Next year the federal Secure Rural Schools funding to Lane County is scheduled to sunset. The loss of federal support (coupled with the ongoing reductions of state and local funding) is likely to have a decidedly negative impact on the entire criminal justice system in Lane County. Services at all levels (including prevention, treatment, custody, corrections, supervision, and support) may be significantly compromised and unable to function at even the most minimally acceptable levels. The result may be a crisis of profound proportions in community social and public safety services.

While the grades remain mostly unchanged in 2011, the Report Card does indicate some negative trends in the data for several key indicators for Lane County:

- Reported serious violent crime exceeds Oregon’s rate,
- Juvenile violent crime arrest rate exceeds both Oregon and the US,
- Adult and juvenile drug arrest rates exceed both Oregon and the US,
- Three year re-offense rates for felony offenders on supervision exceeds Oregon’s rate, and
- Child abuse rates are increasing and exceed both Oregon and the US.

There is some positive news:

- Capacity based releases decreased from 35% in 2009 to 23% in 2010—a positive change in a single year, possibly as a result of the restoration of 84 correction beds by the Board of Commissioners.

The full Report Card Data Book is posted on the LCOG website at www.lcog.org/safety.cfm. Follow the link to Community Safety Data/Publications. The Report Card also will be posted there following transmittal to the Board of Commissioners. Both also will be posted on the Lane County PSCC website.
The Lane County Public Safety Coordinating Council has released Report Cards and Report Card Data Books on the Criminal Justice System in Lane County since 2006. This year there are no major changes in grades for the Adult or Juvenile Criminal Justice System Report Cards. Until system capacity issues are addressed, major positive changes are not anticipated. Some key indicators, however, do stand out from the data for the 2011 report:

- The rate of reported serious violent crime in Lane County exceeds that of Oregon.
- The juvenile violent crime arrest rate exceeds Oregon’s rate and is now equal to that of the US.
- Adult and juvenile drug arrest rates remain higher than Oregon and the US.
- The three year reoffense rate for supervised felony offenders remains higher than Oregon’s rate.
- Rates of founded cases of child abuse have been increasing steadily since 2007 and exceed Oregon and the US.
- Restoration of 84 beds at the Lane County Jail resulted in a drop in capacity based releases as a percent of lodgings from 35% in 2009 to 23% in 2010.

The PSCC Criminal Justice System Report Card and Report Card Data Books are available at www.lcog.org/safety.cfm. Follow the link to Community Safety Data/Publications.