

## March 7, 2016 “Study Design” Explained To Josephine County Management Team

### *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>

**Purpose:** **Explain Idea For Listening To The Public: Study Design**

Date/Time: Monday, March 7, 2016, 1:30 p.m.

Place/Room: Josephine County Courthouse, Room 157

Participants: Josephine County Management Team; and Co-Authors Of *Study Design*, Jon Whalen and Mike Walker.

### **Agenda:**

- Agenda 1. Five (5) minutes for Mike Walker and Jon Whalen to get Management Team back up to speed.  
Agenda 2. Management Team brainstorms for a bit to figure out the most effective way to get information to *Study Design*, without it being redundant, superfluous, etc.

**Study Design: Information** suggested for meeting preparation are available on *Study Design* web site (10 information elements).

1. Justice System & Public Safety Services Study Design: 2015
2. Public Outreach
3. Appendices to Study Design
4. Press Releases
5. Letters-To-The-Editor
6. Guest Opinions
7. Media Articles
8. Voters Pamphlets
9. Studies & Information
10. Public Meeting Presentations

### **Meeting Preparation Materials**

- Outreach 1.1 What’s the Problem? (Element 2)
- Outreach 1.3 Summary Highlights: Arguments For Supporting Study Design (Element 2)
- Outreach 1.4 Intro. To Justice System Exploratory Committee’s Study Design Web Page (Element 2)
- Outreach 5.5 Summary Highlights: JO CO’s MALPSS Research Project (Element 2)
- Outreach 9.1 JS&PSS Issue Overview Educational Brochure (Element 2)
- Press JS&PSS Press Release 2015-1. What Do Josephine County Citizens Really Think About Public Safety? (Element 4)

### **Extra Applicable Meeting Preparation Reading**

- Outreach 5.6. Executive Summary Of Minimally Adequate Level Of Public Safety Services (Element 2)
- Appendix B4. Minimally Adequate Level of Public Safety Services Standards (Elements 3 & 9)
- Standards For Public Safety (Element 9)

**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 from the referenced handouts, especially: 1. *What’s the Problem?*, 2. *Summary Highlights: JO CO’s MALPSS Research Project*, and 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.

***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?

A scientific study of the standards used to proclaim a public safety fiscal emergency when fiscal conditions compromise JO CO’s ability to provide a *minimally adequate level of public safety services* would help answer the “*Is there a problem.*” question. When is a county in a state of fiscal distress that compromises the county’s ability to provide a MALPSS? Locally professional opinions have been offered, but the public has not been provided a scientific vetted documented study of the MALPSS standards.

***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 easily available 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 (27 and adding), media articles (over 650), voters pamphlets; and (5) studies & information (over 70 and adding - e.g., declining federal payments to counties, demographic & population, health, criminal offenses and arrests, local crime information, county budgets, JO CO Local Public Safety Coordinating Council, *Study Design*, JO CO Sheriff, minimally acceptable level of public safety services (MALPSS), OR Sheriff Jail Command Council, jail, Oregon State Police, Oregon Uniform Crime reporting, standards for PSS, etc.).

**Response 3: Key Outcomes Of *Study Design/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* to interested citizens with the goal of moving toward a public consensus safety definition of the problem/issue, and the key outcomes (see Public Outreach 1.3 Arguments for Supporting Study Design for a list of outcomes).