

FSN MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 24, 2019
HOSTED BY WASCO COUNTY

ATTENDEES

Summer Smallwood, Benton County; Janet Leep, Coos County; Patty Gaskins, Douglas County; Angie Brown, Josephine County; Victoria Horlacher, Lake County; Bev Mills, Linn County; Kimi Hulke, Tri-County; Ana Mendoza, Umatilla County; Chelsea Perritt, Wasco County; Christy Elven, Washington County; Vicki Wood, Yamhill County; Judy Bell, DOC and Nikki Bennett, DOR.

OPENING AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kimberly Losada could not make it today so Christy Elven agreed to Chair the meeting. We went around the table and introduced ourselves.

REVIEW/ADDITIONS/CORRECTIONS TO APRIL MINUTES

October's minutes were recorded by Yamhill County but their recorder was not picking up people's voices very well. Because of this, the minutes did were not completed in time to be emailed out to the group. They were handed out at our meeting and review with no corrections.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE – NIKKI BENNETT

- Derrick is no longer in the same position so you can just email Nikki directly or email Oaa.technicalhelp@oregon.gov. Derrick was not using the distribution list that Nikki created so if you are not getting the monthly email with the Excel spreadsheet on the transfers, let Nikki know.
- Everyone wanted to hear about Senate Bill 1067 that went into effect on 7/1/18. Douglas and Linn County are bound by this because they are under the State umbrella. The system changed the way the reports look. The process flow is when the debt comes in, it looks at many of different background scorings, and if it has a high score, the agents will see that first and pull it in. If it is below a certain number, it automatically is sent to a private collection firm. Nikki verified

with Todd that he is going to open the doors if other agencies want to opt in to this. Nikki will resend the form if you want to opt in. She explained that after six months with DOR, the debt would go to a private collection firm. If there is no luck there after a year, it goes to the second collection agency. DOR will be working with three (3) collection agencies. They are Premier Credit Services, ACT (Account Control Technologies) and Professional Credit Services. Once the second firm cannot collect, the debt remains at DOR. At that point, you will see on the Aging report the status changes to 'Recommend Write Off.' You do not HAVE to write it off though. The report is just telling you the debt has gone through all the steps. The debt will remain at DOR even after this point. They will not send the write-offs to another collections agency. Even after 2 ½ years of trying to collect, you can either write it off or keep the amount on and if the offender comes back on and whether you write off the debt or not, you can add it back in. Judy said that write-offs do not forgive debts. It just takes it off your books as collectible debt. The liability for the debt remains. If you choose to write off debt that has been deemed uncollectible, please use the WAVR code with 'WRITE OFF' in the number line. If DOR still has the debt and a tax refund is owed the offender, the system will notice the refund and grab it. If opting in and you want to pass on the fee, it is 19.8%. Douglas and Linn do not pass on the collection fee because they do not want to make the fee any larger for the offender. Check with DOR if you want to know the exact fee being charge by which collection agency. If you choose to pass the fee onto the offender and are doing so under the opt-in, the fee is automatically calculated by DOR and added to the debt; therefore, you will not need to calculate and add the debt yourself to the balance at the time you send the assignment. If you are opting in and not passing the collection fee onto the debtor, the existing program code can be used. If you are opting in and passing the collection fee onto the debtor, a new program code will be created by Nikki. This process normally takes a couple of weeks, but she would like to coordinate with Judy and IT to be sure there are no issues with incoming files from IT. Projected starting this option around July 1, 2019. Nikki will give you and Judy the new program code. The new program will not be visible through Gen Tax until it is active for use. If a debt goes to a private collection firm, the county can bargain with the offender to get some of the debt paid off. For example if Coos has a collection debt of \$500, they can tell the debtor if he pays \$250.00, Coos will cancel the other half..

- Nikki will be sending out an email regarding the update that happened January 11, 2019, that affected the Recommend Write Off report. This report automatically generates on **any** amount under \$25.00 even when someone has been paying their debt regularly. Even if you are notified, the collection will continue. This drop below \$25 is generally due to a debtor making payments and if so, the debt should be paid in full by the next reporting month. It is just a notification trigger because of the dollar amount. Judy recommends we use the WAVR code to zero out the DOR line and put "write off" on the number line, and anything else you want on the transaction comment line. She said if we all do it this way, it will be all the same though-out the counties and easier to understand.

DOC UPDATES – JUDY BELL FOR LEE CUMMINS

Lee wanted to remind everyone that the emails are coming out with the reports on the sanctions that are in a status other than complete. She was wondering if anyone wanted them to come any more than on a quarterly basis.

Lee is working on a service request adding on the long descriptions to the conditions. She will get those approved by SOON and FAUG and then she will enter all those in the systems.

DOC UPDATES – JUDY BELL

Someone had asked at the last FSN meeting if offenders who are on temporary leave are required to pay supervision fees and the answer according to Tracey Coffman is yes, your county can charge the offender fees during a period of Leave. There is a general condition (GC01) that orders offenders to pay fees and fines ordered by the court, which covers supervision fees. There is also OAR 63 that states conditions of supervision will be imposed to enhance public safety as stated in ORS 144.102 and that condition will replicate the Boards as much as possible. It is still a county-by-county decision but it is allowed.

The workgroup got together to discuss needing a new fee system. Someone thought Nikki said there might be a consideration that an email to the offender, notifying them how much money they owe, is sufficient. Nikki said email is not used by DOR as notification because when sending an email, you do not know who is opening that email. They do not consider an email as a notification of a debt. Nikki was not sure if this was due to an ORS reason or another legal reason, but Judy said if we can send email as a way to notify offenders, they might consider it. Judy will ask this question and verify if it is even a possibility.

POTENTIAL NEW FEE SYSTEM - ELITE – JUDY BELL

Judy thanked the counties who attended the workgroup and bringing their thoughts about what we need in a fee system.

The Fee Group reviewed its desires for a new fee system and Judy made note of the group's decisions regarding wants and needs.

Round Table

No one had any issues

Next meeting: April 25, 2019 at Clatsop County

Chair: Kimberly Losada, Clatsop County

Co-Chair: Christy Elven, Washington County

Secretary:

Co-Secretary: Jeannie Olson-Shelby, Lane County

FSN Manual: Janet Leep, Coos County

Membership: Bev Mills, Linn County