



Department of Community Justice
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
Juvenile Services Division

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TO: House Committee on Human Services and Housing

From: Christina McMahan, Juvenile Services Division Director

RE: HB 2392

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice (DCJ) believes it is critical to ensure that the unique needs of adolescents who are juvenile-justice system involved and are at risk of further penetrating the juvenile or adult corrections systems are incorporated in the alignment and coordination work of the Youth Development Council.

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice supports HB 2392, and specifically the bill's prioritization in several key areas:

- An emphasis on funding for programs that provide prevention and intervention services for youth which target criminogenic risk factors that lead to juvenile delinquency.
- Preserves the original language of HB 4165 which prioritized funding for services related to the prevention of and intervention in gang violence and gang involvement.
- Ensuring that there is Youth Development Council membership that expands and includes county government representation from geographically diverse regions of the state as well as tribal representation.

Multnomah County DCJ also supports future amendments to HB 2392 that preserve the existing statutory funding formula for Juvenile Crime Prevention funding (JCP). The Youth Development Council will have oversight of the JCP funds. The current JCP funding formula consists of a population-based component as well as minimum grants to counties. **Multnomah County DCJ believes it is critical to maintain the existing funding formula to ensure that:**

- Multnomah DCJ, along with other counties, can continue to operate its community-based treatment program that has been successful in reducing juvenile crime and promoting school success.
- Youth of color who are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system in Multnomah County do not lose access to important treatment services.
- JCP funds continue to be utilized to leverage additional funds and build a continuum of services in communities.

Multnomah DCJ utilizes its JCP funds to operate the Assessment and Treatment for Youth and Families program (ATYF) in its Juvenile Services Division. ATYF provides mental health and substance abuse assessments, as well as treatment services for youth and their families. Research shows that youth with untreated substance abuse issues are nearly ten more times likely to become chronic re-offenders. ATYF keeps at-risk youth from reoffending and penetrating deeper into the

justice system by linking them to treatment services that change their delinquent thinking and behaviors. ATYF provides the critical service of ongoing in-home and in-school treatment for youth unable to be served in the community because of delinquent and runaway behaviors. Multnomah County DCJ leverages funding for ATYF through Oregon's Division of Medical Assistance Programs, as well as through Multnomah County Health Department's Federally Qualified Health Center.

ATYF FACTS, DEMOGRAPHICS AND OUTPUT MEASURES:

- ✓ Serves approximately 140 youth and families annually
- ✓ Serves youth who are medium and high risk to reoffend
- ✓ Utilizes an evidenced based assessment instrument (Global Appraisal of Individual Needs) as well as an evidence-based treatment model (Multi-Dimensional Family Therapy)
- ✓ 70% receiving assessment services are youth of color
- ✓ 61% receiving treatment services are youth of color

ATYF OUTCOMES (for July 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012)

- ✓ 76% of youth had not been arrested since the beginning of treatment, for an offense committed during treatment
- ✓ 68% of youth made academic progress and/or improved attendance
- ✓ 73% of youth improved problem-solving, self-management, anger management and/or coping skills.
- ✓ 68% of youth have reduced anti-social cognition, can identify risky thinking and feelings
- ✓ 62% of youth reduced association with criminals and/or enhanced pro-social contacts
- ✓ 71% of youth reduced conflict, built positive relationships and improved communication
- ✓ 71% of caregivers have enhanced monitoring/supervision
- ✓ 69% of youth reduced usage or were not using alcohol or other substances at the end of treatment services
- ✓ 56% of youth increased employment readiness
- ✓ 61% of youth had enhanced involvement in pro-social activities

The ATYF program fits directly in the Youth Development Council's mission, as it promotes educational success by identifying and treating problems that create barriers to academic success for justice-involved youth, including mental health issues, substance abuse and family dysfunction/conflict. **Multnomah DCJ urges the Oregon Legislature to continue its support of the Youth Development Council and the Juvenile Crime Prevention funding so that effective and critical community-based programs such as ATYF can be maintained.**