



# Crook County

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February 13, 2013

I am here today representing Crook County in support for proposed amendments to HB 2392 as sponsored by Representative Clem.

Crook County is a rural county located in the geographic center of the state. The area has experienced economic diversity and an increase in issues of alcohol and other drug use/abuse and crime while facing reduced resource levels.

In 1999 our Juvenile arrests for property crimes were 24.7 per 1,000 population, the highest in the state. And our recidivism rates were reported at 52.2%. As a community we began the process of determining who these kids were and what the contributing issues that caused our relatively quiet county to continue to see these high rates of arrest. With no services available to youth who showed distinct risk factors indicating probability of juvenile system involvement, we began to look at strategies that had worked for other rural communities across the nation in helping stem the flow of juvenile crime. The overarching goals are to reduce the number of juveniles entering the formal juvenile justice system, promote school retention and educational success and develop young adults who have a vision and plan for a productive future.

As a community that included school, business, juvenile justice, law enforcement, parents, health and behavioral health representatives, we have adopted a panel of programs to help youth and their parents when criminogenic risk factors are present as a youth is identified and referred for assistance. The panel of services includes research based, intensive parent/youth education through Staying Connected to Your Teen, Girls Circle and Boys Council groups, individual case management and service to community interventions. Through success of these programs, Crook County was able to report a rate of 11.4 per 1,000 population rate of Juvenile property arrests in 2010, less than half the 1999 rate, decreased entrance into the adult corrections system, and increased school attendance and completion for youth identified and

participating in programs. Most recently we have aligned with our Education Council through Open Campus to add the Backpack to Briefcase program, providing additional educational supports to youth in the program, aspiring to address the 40-40-20 goals established through education reform efforts.


To continue to see effective outcomes in reducing Juvenile Crime and ultimately stemming the flow into the adult corrections system, Crook County supports:

- 1) Continuance of an equitable formula for the distribution of funding across all geographic areas of the state to address their diverse needs;
- 2) The inclusion of representatives county departments and boards of county commissioners across the state to the Youth Development Council to give broad perspective to their work; and,
- 3) Continued emphasis on services that address the prevention of and intervention in criminogenic risk factors that lead to juvenile delinquency, inclusive of, but not exclusive to gang violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration on behalf of the youth of Central Oregon and Crook County.



***Ken Fahlgren,  
County Commissioner***



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Crook CCF Director***

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