

Justice Reinvestment Workgroup Update

April 2nd, 2013



Justice Reinvestment Workgroup:

Chaired By Suzanne Hayden, Executive Director Citizens Crime Commission

The Justice Reinvestment Workgroup has engaged in discussions about the Governor's proposed public safety budget and reinvestment in local communities

Membership:

Rod Underhill, District Attorney
Ginger Martin, DCJ Deputy Director
Tim Moore, Under Sheriff MCSO
Mike Marshman, Lt. Adjutant PPB
Nan Waller, Presiding Judge
Steve Novick, City Commissioner
Nancy Bennett, Mult. Co. Gov. Affairs

Scott Taylor, DCJ Director
Drew Brosh, Chief Deputy MCSO
Mike Reese, Chief of Police PPB
Lane Borg, E.D. Public Defenders
Julie Frantz, Chief Criminal Judge
Ron Papsdorf, Gresham Gov. Affairs
Peter Ozanne, E.D. LPSCC

Work plan:

Deliberations began in December 2012 with the release of the Governor's recommended balanced budget proposal that includes key upfront investments in community corrections to incent counties to exert their efforts to maintain the prison populations at the 2011-2013 levels. **The Governor's proposal assumes holding the prison population flat saves \$35.6 million in General Fund in the 2013-2015 biennium, eliminates a projected 800 prison beds statewide and forms the basis for the \$32 million reinvestment fund. The work group met 8 times from December 2012 – March 2013.**

The policy options contained in the report by the Commission on Public Safety provide a multipronged approach to alter the projected long term prison growth trajectory, however the immediate efforts to flat line prison growth in the next biennium necessary to lay the foundation for more long term strategies, requires concerted local efforts.

The original intent of the work group was to examine the Governor's public Safety proposal and assumptions contained in his 2013-2015 biennium budget offering, and to evaluate the local system impact of options to decrease the number of Multnomah County offenders sent to prison or the impact of reducing their length of stay once they were there. Much of the initial meeting time was laying the groundwork for the later discussions by examining the projected impacts on the different parts of the system; the jail, the police, the DCJ, DA, Courts, Defense counsel, treatment services, city, county, non governmental agencies and the community.

While there was not consensus on the efficacy of specific policy options contained in the public safety commission's report, we did achieve consensus on several key commitments:

- **To collaboration and remaining at the table for discussions**
- **To work together to achieve the greatest possible public safety outcomes**
- **To continuous improvement of our system**
- **To using data to guide our discussion**

Summary

We focused on what we could agree on, if we were going to improve our system, hold our prison bed usage steady, and maintain public safety:

- Multnomah County as the largest County by population and stands in a position to reduce state prison bed usage through policies and practices locally. Of note is Multnomah County's rate of incarceration and length of stay metrics. **Multnomah County's incarceration rate and average length of stay is less than other large counties in part due to a shared commitment to use incarceration alternative programs and options when appropriate in the current case management system.** Because of this, in order for Multnomah County to commit to a set target of bed months or offenders in the next biennium, a change in the current system is required and reinvestment funds must be focused on funding this change management.
- The system partners identified a current gap that would need to be bridged in order to achieve the most effective and timely resolution of felony cases coming through the system while balancing public safety and the optimal use of prison beds. **That gap was the lack of a consistent and comprehensive risk/ needs assessment on offenders early in the case processing that provides relevant information for the DA, Defense, Court and Community Corrections to consider in the ultimate resolution of the case.**
- Investing in community corrections alone will not lead to the desired result.
- **In order to achieve a set target, the felony case decisions at all points must be aligned; issuing, sentencing, supervision, and revocation.** All system partners must sign on to hit the identified target numbers. Base funding for community corrections and the Courts must be maintained in order for there to be capacity to handle more criminal cases locally as opposed to DOC. Reinvestment funds of \$3 million per year in Multnomah county will fund the change necessary to reduce the impact on state prison bed usage.

- In examining the data from Multnomah County and statewide, we arrived at a target of 50-80 cases in the course of a year, 100-160 in a two year time period that would have gone to prison last year but would instead stay locally. In order to accomplish this, the system must realign from a charge based system to offender based.

Proposal

- Allocate resources to enable us as a system to sort cases more effectively
- Allocate resources for neutral timely risk/needs assessments
- Allocate resources to respond to the increased number of offenders we handle locally
- Allocate resources to facilitate easier system navigating by offenders and victims
- Allocate resources to system partners who are impacted by this proposal and who's efforts are needed to achieve the outcomes desired
- Allocate resources to analyze the outcomes and provide a feedback loop

Next Steps:

Prepare a presentation to describe our deliberations and conclusions, discuss with other counties, and present to the legislature's joint public safety committee.