

Ways & Means Public Safety Sub-Committee
Co-chairs, Senator Winters and Representative Williamson
900 SW Court Street
Salem OR 97301

RE: Testimony on the Oregon Youth Authority Budget February 20th, 2013

Dear Representative Hanna,

Since 1971, The Next Door, Inc. has worked with thousands of high-risk children and youth. Currently our program has a contract to serve 21 Oregon Youth Authority level four youth, in addition to 8 youth through the Department of Human Services, Behavioral & Rehabilitative Services. Our specialty is the treatment of sexually aggressive youth, using Evidenced Based Practices, including: 1) Changing Offender Behavior, 2) Aggression Replacement Training, 3) Pathways to Wholeness, 4) Collaborative Problem Solving, 5) Motivational Interviewing, 6) Healthy Relations and numerous others. For the past six years, our program has been rated "Highly Effective" by the Oregon Youth Authority based on their evaluation of the treatment we provide the youth and recidivism rates that they have monitored.

The youth in our program have universally experienced trauma. They have severe abuse and/or neglect in their past, resulting in mal-adaptive, antisocial behaviors. Often times this is generational in nature. It is our job to break this generational cycle and give the youth the opportunity to experience success in personal growth, their family and in the community at large.

We are coming to you asking that you continue to fund our program through OYA. Over the years, The Next Door and other programs similar to ours, have creatively budgeted to provide services to children, weaving together a number of funding streams. To reduce our budget in one area, in this case our contract with the Oregon Youth Authority, will cause our entire program to suffer, including the wide array of prevention programs that The Next Door manages in order to protect children from entering the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Thank you for your sincere consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any clarification.

Sincerely,
Janet

Janet L. Hamada, MSW
Executive Director
The Next Door, Inc.
PO Box 661
965 Tucker Road
Hood River, OR 97031
Office: 541-436-0301
Cell: 541-490-7904
Email: janeth@nextdoorinc.org
Website: www.nextdoorinc.org
My Blog: <http://www.nextdoordirector.wordpress.com>
The Dalles Address: 318 W. 2nd St, The Dalles, OR 97058