

**February 20, 2013**

**OYA Public Testimony**  
of Francis Maher before the  
**Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee**

Co-chairs, Senator Winters, Representative Williamson and members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you the treatment program at St. Mary's Home for Boys and our collaboration with the Oregon Youth Authority. I would like to briefly highlight our population, purpose, treatment program, metrics and efficacy.

St. Mary's Home for Boys is located in Beaverton, Oregon and was founded in 1889 as an orphanage for abandoned and wayward children. Today St. Mary's offers residential treatment and mental health services to at-risk boys between the ages of 10 and 17 who are emotionally disturbed and behaviorally delinquent. The individualized program provides each client with a structured regimen to ensure his successful transition to public school, the community, and appropriate living environment.

Clients referred to our agency and those currently placed in our care have not developed the emotional stability or appropriate behavioral patterns necessary to function successfully in society. For most of the young boys, an unstable or abusive home environment, coupled with negative educational experiences and community influences, have plagued their young existence. St. Mary's residential treatment program is designed to provide each client with the skills he will need to develop positive thinking patterns, increase his decision making capabilities, and replace negative impulse reactions with appropriate alternatives.

St. Mary's treatment modality encompasses an evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Interpersonal Program supported by a Token Economy System. Each client's treatment plan can include the following components:

- Individual and Group Therapy/Medical Management
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Family Counseling/Parent Training Sessions
- Individual Skill Training
- Juvenile Sex Offender Program addressing treatment needs of clients related to sex education, empathy, values, victimization, thinking errors, offense cycles and relapse prevention
- Survivors Program addressing those boys with identifiable physical and sexual abuse histories.
- Drug and Alcohol Program
- Juvenile Firesetters Program
- Educational achievement through individualized instruction
- Physical development stressing cooperation and sportsmanship

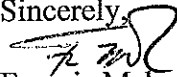
- Emotional development geared to control impulses and anger
- Social development increasing acceptable behavioral skills
- Independent Living Program
- Transition and Aftercare Services

As part of our comprehensive Performance and Quality Improvement Program, St. Mary's began formally tracking treatment efficacy in 2001. Clients' are contacted at three, six and twelve-month intervals post discharge for treatment effectiveness interviews. Data collected over eight domains has consistently yielded an 80% or greater success rate.

A recent Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) analysis of recidivism by typology and risk for St. Mary's resulted in an expected OYA Recidivism Risk Assessment of 21.5% and an actual Recidivism rate of 12.7%.

St. Mary's working in collaboration with OYA is committed to maximizing positive youth outcomes and mitigating recidivism. I would again thank the members of the Committee for this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Francis Maher

Executive Director

St. Mary's Home for Boys