



morrison
child & family services

administration

11035 NE Sandy Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97220

phone 503.258.4200
fax 503.233.4359
morrisonkids.org

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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

Morrison Child and Family Services has worked closely with Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) youth since the department's inception. We have developed three specific programs -- each of which have been in operation for over 25 years; each of which effectively treats boys or girls utilizing the best practices available today.

Youth who attend Morrison programs funded by OYA have an extensive history of abuse, some of it horrific, which has resulted in a laundry list of "troubles" in their lives. Some of the troublesome behavior is directed towards themselves, while other actions significantly impact the safety of our communities.

Morrison sees the results of trauma on the lives of our young clients on a daily basis; the impacts that adversely change their lives in many different ways. Sexually abusive behavior towards others, drug abuse (buying and selling) including high level drugs such as methamphetamine and heroin, robberies, assaults, teen pregnancy, on-going sexual victimization, prostitution, depression, aggression towards others and school failure -- it's a long list of "troubles" that **without** programs such as ours, communities and neighborhoods will see more individuals who suffer from a life time of poverty and abuse, on-going criminality, and who will continue the cycle of trauma and abuse.

Over many years, Oregon has sought to address these "troubles," making our communities safer and altering the lives of traumatized individuals through funding important programs. Morrison has three successful programs funded through Oregon Youth Authority:

- **Breakthrough Day Treatment** works with adolescent drug abusers. Again, trauma has damaged these youth, and they live in a criminal, drug, and gang-involved lifestyle that damages their own lives as well as those with whom they come in contact.
- **Counterpoint Day Treatment** works with adolescents who sexually offend --who are both victims of sexual and other abuse themselves and guilty of perpetrating damaging offenses on others -- often with multiple incidents of sexual abuse against children and the vulnerable.
- **Rosemont** -- one of the few remaining secure girl's treatment programs with a long history of working with some of the most victimized and troubled girls in the State of Oregon. Rosemont consistently utilizes Evidence Based Practices and delivers results.

These programs are at risk. We have cut all we can over the past several years and cannot take more. It's hard to fathom how to maintain any program integrity, with accountability to our taxpayers, delivering effective results AND, at the same time, keeping our communities safe **with yet another cut**. If Oregon Youth Authority must cut dollars to programs, Morrison will need to make some tough decisions about whether these programs can survive.

We recognize that you need to balance Oregon's budget, but not on the backs of youth! The long term results of cuts to this population will have immeasurable costs in lives continuing to be out of control and dollars spent in prisons, welfare systems, and repairing the damage they inflict.

Morrison Program Outcomes and Impact

Breakthrough Day Treatment Program

Breakthrough graduates demonstrate significant improvements in clinical and functional outcomes. Specifically, clients show a reduction in endorsing delinquent attitudes and gain personal strengths and competencies necessary for successful reintegration into the community. In addition, Breakthrough is successful in reengaging youth into the learning process and helps many achieve their academic or GED diplomas while in treatment.

Counterpoint Day Treatment Program

Counterpoint Day Treatment program demonstrates successful treatment completion outcomes across the years. Specifically, in 2012, 75% of clients successfully completed treatment. Furthermore, Counterpoint's impact on reducing the likelihood of sexual offense recidivism is strong and consistent across the years. Zero sexual recidivism rates have been documented from 2007 to 2010¹.

Rosemont Residential Treatment Program

Rosemont clients show significant clinical and functional gains. Reductions in trauma-related symptoms of anxiety, depression, anger, and PTSD were consistently found across the years². Follow-up reports document lower legal involvement, higher enrollment in and graduation from school, and higher employment. In addition, youth and family members report higher confidence in the ability of the youth to handle daily life stressors and overall satisfaction with life.

¹ Due to funding cuts, Morrison Child and Family Services has not had the resources or capacity to gather recidivism data for 2011 and 2012.

² Program evaluation data for Rosemont between 2006 and 2011.