

Robyn Cockrell Clackamas County testimony

Good afternoon my name is Robyn Cockrell, I am 16 years old and I live in Clackamas County. Before the Clackamas County juvenile department got involved in my life, things were really starting to fall apart for me. I had lost relationships, self respect and trust. I had poor grades, no ambitions or goals and I just wanted out. Getting high had only clouded my judgments, and influenced poor decisions. My lying was a huge factor in the deterioration of my relationship with my family but it didn't take long for that too spill into my social life as well. No one trusted me and every one doubted anything that I said. I hated who I had become and the places I was heading.

Getting high at one point in my life meant so much to me that I was willing to lose everything I had for my next fix. The summer of 2011 was the lowest point of my addiction. Making choices that neglected my well being, I got charged with Distribution of Narcotics. My whole life became enveloped with trying to skate under the systems radar, and my addiction turned to drugs that couldn't show up in a urine analysis. Along with four other misdemeanors once I received my felony charge I became more involved with the county, and the services they provide.

In the winter of 2011 and 2012 I joined girls circle, a group that met once weekly, where I learned how to set personal boundaries and how to develop good relationships with my peers. Then in February of 2012 I was placed in drug court. Within drug court I received many other opportunities that the county has to offer, one of those was green corps fresh start, in this program I learned

business skills, gained a lot of job experience and worked on participating as a positive team member to accomplish goals. I was also assigned to complete community service with fill a stocking fill a heart, where I saw how very little work can go a long way within a community when you're helping others. I completed ICE, a program focusing on the ripple affect crime has within families, friends and communities as a whole, it really emphasized that selfish decisions like mine effected people I don't even know. The biggest blessing I was given was being able to be a resident at the YES house down in Corvallis. Without drug court placing me in YES house in addition to the other services that the Juvenile Department connected me with there is no way I could have reached or even set the goals I have now and know I would be sitting in Oak Creek correctional facility, I wouldn't have been able to stop the downhill spiral if it weren't for the help from the Clackamas County Juvenile Department.

My current goals are to graduate with my class of 2014 with a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, I am a junior and I now am on track to reach this goal. I want to continue to build strong and healthy relationships, and find employment. I've been given the chance to pull myself out of a place I never wanted to go. I now strive to be an independent young woman, and make the right decisions. I like who I am and I look forward to my future, which is not something I could say before the Juvenile Department intervned in my life. I hope that more teenagers like me can be given these wonderful gifts as well. 😊
thank you for your time.