



WASHINGTON COUNTY
COMMISSION ON
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Together for Children

**Washington County
Commission on Children and Families**

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOUSING

Testimony on HB 2392 - February 13, 2013

William Thomas, Washington County Department of Health and Human Services

Chair Tomei and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is William Thomas and I live in District 43 in Portland. I am testifying in support of HB 2392 on behalf of the Washington County Department of Health and Human Services, within which I serve as Director of the Commission on Children and Families.

HB 2392 would establish needed legislative direction, expectations and mandates for the Youth Development Council. Our Commission urges you to adopt the amendments submitted by Representative Clem and send HB 2392 to the House floor with a Do Pass recommendation.

HB 2392 is critically important for ensuring continuity of effective, community-based services in Washington County. These services include after-school programs, family coaching, Family Resource Centers, juvenile crime prevention, parent education and student retention services for school-age children, youth and families who live in the communities served by our seven school districts: Banks, Beaverton, Forest Grove, Gaston, Hillsboro, Sherwood and Tigard-Tualatin.

Our local system of services and supports for the 136,000 children and youth and their families in Washington County may be underfunded, but it is clearly working well and is not broken.

The Juvenile Crime Prevention funds and the Title XX Youth Investment funds that flow to Washington County and the other 35 counties in Oregon are the product of a partnership between the state and counties that began in 1978 with establishment of Juvenile Services Commissions.

With limited state funds the Washington County Health and Human Services and Juvenile Departments have jointly developed "... a unified system that provides services to school-age children through youth 20 years of age in a manner that supports academic success, reduces criminal involvement and is integrated, measurable and accountable", as envisioned in HB 4165.

Through passage of HB 2392 the Legislature can ensure that both Juvenile Crime Prevention and Youth Investment funds will be distributed to counties and tribes in all geographic areas of the state through equitable funding formulas, so that community-based systems of services and supports for children, youth and families that are efficient, effective and integrated continue to achieve legislatively identified outcomes, and so that these local systems are not dismantled.

In 2012, HB 4165 provided clear legislative direction and mandates for the Early Learning Council. This bill specified a planning process for developing a new early learning system and a number of "sideboards" like the four reports that the Council has provided to the Legislature.

HB 4165 also established the Youth Development Council under the Oregon Education Investment Board. But the bill was much less clear about the legislative expectations, direction and mandates for the new Youth Development Council than it had been for early learning.

Our Commission and Department believe that the Youth Development Council needs more specific direction and clearer mandates from the Legislature before dismantling community-based youth-development programs and services throughout Oregon that support academic success and reduce criminal involvement, and which are both integrated and accountable.

In Washington County we have blended and braided our \$478,000 per year in Title XX Youth Investment funds with other federal, state and local funds to invest in services that support academic success, effective parenting, family stability, high school graduation and positive youth development, while preventing juvenile delinquency and school drop-outs. (See 2012-13 ELC/YDC allocations for community-based services in Washington County).

All of these WCCCF initiatives involve performance-based contracts and have demonstrated outcomes (see Youth Investment performance indicators and other community-based services supported by the Washington County Commission on Children and Families in 2011-12).

In the absence of clear legislative guidance through passage of HB 2392, these critical local services for school-age children, youth and their families are at risk for elimination in 2013-15.

- HB 2392 requires that the Youth Development Council establish an equitable formula for distribution of Youth Investment funding to programs and services in all geographic areas of the state, and that it enter into intergovernmental agreements with regional or county entities and tribal governments to contract for youth development programs, services and initiatives that achieve outcomes identified by the Youth Development Council.
- HB 2392 broadens the focus of youth development funding priorities to include services related to the prevention of and intervention in criminogenic risk factors that lead to juvenile delinquency, as supported by research-based science, in addition to services related to the prevention of and intervention in gang violence and gang involvement, which the Legislature identified as a funding priority in HB 4165.

Everything that our society know about prevention science tells us that child welfare, health, human service, juvenile justice, mental health, and substance abuse systems are all addressing the same risk and protective factors for children, youth and their families.

- For that reason HB 2392 will require implementation of best practices that build upon protective factors that increase the health and well being of children and youth, in addition to best practices that are evidence based, culturally, gender and age appropriate, address individual risk factors and include tribal best practices.
- Finally, HB 2392 will require implementation of best practices that respond to local concerns and considerations identified and reported on by three members of the council appointed as representatives of county departments and boards of county commissioners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2392 and Rep. Clem's amendments.

2012-13 ALLOCATIONS OF ELC/YDC FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE WCCCF

FUNDING STREAM SERVICE STRATEGY	Basic Capacity (ELC)	Children Youth & Families (ELC)	Great Start (ELC)	Family Preservation & Support (ELC)	Healthy Start (ELC)	Youth Investment (YDC)	County General Fund	TOTAL	Ages served
After School Activities		\$12,906				\$118,926		\$131,832	Middle school youth in 5 school districts
Alternative Ed/ Student Retention		\$ 6,954				\$117,236		\$124,190	Middle/ High school youth in 5 school districts
Children's Intervention (Family Violence)		\$23,985				\$ 20,457	\$ 2,408	\$ 46,850	Witnesses of domestic violence 4-18 countywide
Community-Based Positive Youth Development		\$ 6,775				32,377		\$ 39,152	Underserved school age youth – Latinos/ sexual minorities - countywide
Community Mobilization	\$237,860							\$237,860	Children 0-18 countywide
Early Literacy			\$47,555					\$ 47,555	Children 0-8 countywide
Family Coaching		\$ 9,896		\$ 40,000		\$ 67,343		\$117,239	Children 3-18 countywide
Family Resource Centers		\$10,000	\$15,885	\$111,410		\$105,764	\$75,048	\$318,107	Children 0-18 countywide
First Step to Success			\$21,000					\$ 21,000	Children 5-8 TTSD/Sherwood
Healthy Start					\$945,166			\$945,166	Children 0-3 countywide
Parenting Education		\$14,478	\$10,000			\$ 16,827	\$ 5,545	\$ 46,850	Children 3-18 countywide
TOTAL	\$237,860	\$84,994	\$94,440	\$151,410	\$945,166	\$478,930	\$83,001	\$2,075,801	

2011–12 Washington County Youth Investment Performance Indicators

Service Strategy	Number Served	Outcomes	Comments
After School Activities	5,000+	81% of participants reported increased commitment to school and positive peer relations	Target population – middle school youth in five school districts
Alternative Ed/Student Retention	431	87% of youth improved or maintained at least 80% attendance 99% of youth remained enrolled in school at the end of the school year	Target population – middle and high school youth in five school districts
Children’s Intervention Services	148	95% of children served reported increased self esteem, and that they learned new methods of non abusive self expression	Target population – school-age witnesses of domestic violence countywide
Community Based Positive Youth Development	335	90% enrolled in school at end of school year 85% reported positive academic attitudes and performance	Target population – underserved school-age youth – Latinos and sexual minorities– countywide
Family Coaching	97 families	97% reported youth in stable living situation, enrolled in school and/or working, and not involved in Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice systems (6 & 12 month follow up) 98% of families reported improved family communication and problem solving	Target population – families of school-age youth countywide
Family Resource Centers	8147 families, 20,000+ individuals	96% reported their involvement with the family resource center enabled them to access needed community resources	Target population – families of school-age youth countywide
Parenting Education	145 families	98% reported improvements in parenting knowledge, skills and practices	Target population – families of school-age youth countywide

COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES SUPPORTED BY THE WCCCF IN 2011-12

The Washington County Commission on Children and Families (WCCCF) is a volunteer commission supported by professional staff. It is responsible for community-based planning—identifying emergent needs, then investing in and working with communities to develop strategies and systems that promote child health, school readiness and success, youth leadership skills, alcohol and drug prevention and other identified needs. **WCCCF community-based services supported by blending and braiding public (federal, state, County and city) and private funds and grants in 2011-12** included the following:

○ Child Health

- **Healthy Kids** - Outreach and assistance with insurance applications for low-income kids. Assisted 755 families, with 1,410 children, to complete Healthy Kids applications. Direct services supported by **Healthy Kids Outreach and Enrollment** grants, and program coordination and development supported by braiding **Basic Capacity** and **Healthy Kids** funds.
- **School-Based Health Centers** – Have supported health centers in three schools: Tigard High School, Forest Grove High School and Merlo Station High School. In 2011-12 there were 2,435 primary care visits by more than 1,300 students; 895 mental health visits by close to 175 students; and 344 dental visits by over 225 students. A new SBHC is being established at Hillsboro’s Century High School that will open in February 2013. Two \$500,000 construction grants have been awarded to develop additional SBHCs at Beaverton and Tualatin high schools. Direct services supported by blending **Genentech, Kaiser Permanente, Oregon SBHC, PacificSource, patient revenue, school district** and **other** funds and grants, and program coordination and SBHC development supported by braiding **Basic Capacity**, local **CDBG**, local **CCF, HRSA SHBC Construction Oregon SBHC** and **Tuality Healthcare** funds and grants.
- **Suicide Prevention** - Provided ASIST suicide prevention training to 105 educators and staff from local school districts, law enforcement, Juvenile Department, and non-profits. ASIST training and program coordination and development supported by braiding **A & D Prevention, Basic Capacity** and **Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention** funds.
- **Summer Food Program** - coordinated development of summer food program sites offering nutritious meals and activities in collaboration with four school districts and their community partners. Almost 200,000 meals were served at 68 sites in schools, parks and apartment complexes around the county. Program coordination and development supported by braiding **A & D Prevention, Basic Capacity** and **Healthy Kids** funds.

○ School Readiness/Success

- **After School Programs** - In partnership with five school districts and four community based agencies, more than 5,000 youth participated in educational enrichment and social / recreational activities targeting middle school youth during after school hours. Direct services supported by blending **Children, Youth and Families** and **Youth Investment** funds, and program coordination and development supported with **Basic Capacity** funds.
- **Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation** – Provided consultation and training for childcare providers, early childhood programs and parents about how to support positive social-emotional development in young children. More than 360 providers and parents were assisted in 2011-12.

Consultation services supported by blending local **CCF** and **County Mental Health** funds, and program coordination and development supported with **Basic Capacity** funds.

- **Family Resource Centers** – Six centers serving all seven school districts provide basic needs, food, clothing, toiletries, and referrals to community resources for families in Washington County. 8,147 families were served in 2011-12 representing more than 20,000 individuals (adults and children).

Direct services supported by blending **Children, Youth and Families, Family Preservation and Support, Great Start, Youth Investment** and **County** funds, and program coordination and development supported by braiding **A & D Prevention** and **Basic Capacity** funds.

- **Healthy Start** – Through a county-wide collaboration, 405 first time parents and their infant/toddler received home visits to provide information and assist with building strong parent-child relationship, parenting skills, and assisting parents to promote their child's development. Direct services supported with **Healthy Start** funds, and program coordination and development supported by braiding **Basic Capacity** and **Healthy Start** funds.

○ **Youth Leadership Skills**

- **Youth Advisory Council / Youth Summit** – Washington County's Youth Advisory Council, comprised of 12 high school students from around the county planned the annual summit to support school based youth teams in applying for grants for student teams to prevent substance abuse and bullying/violence in their school communities. More than 325 students from 21 schools attended the summit in November 2011 and 19 teams completed projects, which were highlighted at a Culmination Event in May 2012.

Prevention service projects supported with **A&D Prevention** funds, and program coordination and development supported by braiding **A&D Prevention** and **Basic Capacity** funds.

○ **Alcohol and Drug Prevention**

- **Local Alcohol and Drug Coalitions** – Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard and Tualatin worked through their community coalitions (composed of representatives from local schools, law enforcement, businesses, parents, students, faith communities, parks and recreation districts) to reduce availability and use of alcohol and drugs by young people. They undertook efforts to promote abstinence and safety at homecoming, prom, and graduation; educate parents and the community about social hosting laws and consequences; prescription drug turn in events and established permanent drop sites in several jurisdictions (Beaverton, Hillsboro, Tigard).

Prevention services supported with **A&D Prevention** funds, and program coordination and development supported by braiding **A&D Prevention** and **Basic Capacity** funds.

- **High Risk Drinking among 18-25 Year Olds** - through a three-year federal grant we established a broad based county wide planning committee to develop a strategic plan to address binge and high risk drinking among the 18-25 year old population in Washington County. Key partnerships are being established with local law enforcement (Sheriff's Office, Beaverton, Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Tigard Police), Pacific University, and our local alcohol and drug coalitions to implement identified strategies.

Prevention services supported with **Oregon SPF-SIG** grant, and program coordination and development supported by braiding **A&D Prevention, Basic Capacity** and **Oregon SPF-SIG** funds.