



Marion County

OREGON

February 5, 2014

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Samuel Brentano
Janet Carlson
Patti Milne

Marion County Legislative Delegation
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: Oppose HB 4134 - Youth Development Council Allocation of Funds

Dear Marion County Delegation:

The Marion County Board of Commissioners reviewed the Youth Development Council's (YDC) proposed Community Investment Strategy. While the board appreciates the Council's efforts in developing the strategy, we are concerned about incorporating Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funds within the proposed Youth and Community Grant program. In fact, we have taken a position to oppose any legislation that makes changes to ORS 417.855(3), which specifies that JCP funds be allocated to counties pursuant to a population-based formula with a minimum grant for small counties. HB 4134 would do exactly that.

HB 4134 will be before the House Education Committee in a Public Hearing and Possible Work Session on Monday, February 10.

There are four key reasons for our opposition:

1. Local services have a demonstrated track record of success. Losing \$200,000 per year will have a significant impact on services for youth referred to the Marion County Juvenile Department.
2. Statewide services have demonstrated significant results through independent evaluations and, by statute, have employed evidence-based practices for preventing juvenile crime. There has been limited review at the state level of what the impacts will be to juvenile programs throughout the state with these proposed funding changes.
3. JCP funds have historically been categorized as public safety funds. Public safety funds are less appropriate for community-wide allocations through a competitive grant process. Case in point, incentive and baseline funds for adult community corrections are likewise allocated by population for prisoner reentry and other public safety interventions to reduce and prevent recidivism.
4. There has been no dialogue with county commissioners about this change prior to the release of HB 4134. The Association of Oregon Counties took a position in opposition to this legislation on January 13, 2014.

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For more than 20 years, JCP funds have focused evidence-based services on at-risk youth in Marion County. In 2013, Marion County received \$206,911 to support our Family Support Program managed by the Juvenile Department. Youth ages 9-13 are identified and referred by schools, law enforcement and families. Youth who assess medium or high risk on a validated risk assessment tool are eligible for services. Interventions are provided within the context of and in partnership with family, school and community. Outcomes from 2009 to 2012 show a 125% increase in attachment and commitment to school; and 81% of youth who completed the program did not have a referral to the juvenile department within twelve months of completion.

Youth referred to the Family Support Program have a multitude of complex issues. Marion County Juvenile Department partners with community programs, such as the Boys and Girls Club, while youth engage in intensive interventions through the Family Support component. The Family Support Program also addresses over-representation of minority youth in our juvenile justice system by providing bi-lingual and bi-cultural services to young Hispanic/Latino youth and families.

The JCP initiative has been a successful public safety strategy to identify and intervene with targeted community youth who have come to the attention of community agencies, schools or law enforcement and who demonstrate behavior that will lead to imminent or increased involvement in the juvenile justice system. In statewide implementation, outcomes have demonstrated not only prevention and reduction of juvenile criminal activity in youth served, but also significant youth educational achievements. The attached letter and issue brief from the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association highlights these outcomes and accomplishments over the past two decades. In an effort to reduce the high cost of prisons, adult and juvenile justice systems, along with the personal and financial impact of crime to communities, victims, and the public, investing in specific services for these targeted JCP youth is critical.

In conclusion, the Marion County Board of Commissioners supports continuing important JCP services in our Juvenile Department that prevent and reduce juvenile crime. The board therefore does not support incorporating JCP funds in the YDC Youth and Community Grant Program and opposes statutory changes to the JCP funding formula as outlined in HB 4134.

The Marion County Board of Commissioners



Samuel A. Brentano, Chair



Patricia Milne, Commissioner



Janet Carlson, Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Full Ways & Means Committee



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

- Faye Fagel, President
- Torri Lynn, President Elect
- Joe Ferguson, Treasurer

OJDDA
609 W. 10th St
Medford, OR, 97501

December 20, 2013

Dear Co-Chairs Devlin and Buckley,

The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association is very concerned about the dismantling of crucial juvenile justice prevention programs if the funding proposal recently developed and approved by the Youth Development Council (YDC) is implemented. This funding proposal will be presented to the Ways and Means Education Subcommittee in January. Since 1998, the Juvenile Crime Prevention funds have provided programming for a unique population of youth who have been identified by validated risk assessments to be at risk of entering or penetrating further into the juvenile justice system. These evidence-based programs have been evaluated and reported by an outside research firm, and the outcomes have been overwhelmingly positive.

Under the current YDC proposal, these programs will be discontinued as of July 1, 2014 and the roughly \$3 million remaining funds will be placed into a "Youth and Community Grant" with other funds that will be awarded to entities working to improve education and workforce success for disconnected youth. This change is a vast departure from the way these funds are currently being used and there has not been sufficient dialogue about the ramifications.

Our Association respectfully asks that you and the Legislature look very closely at this proposal before making any decisions. We also request that the YDC proposal come before the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee for a broader discussion on the effects it will have on our juvenile justice system.

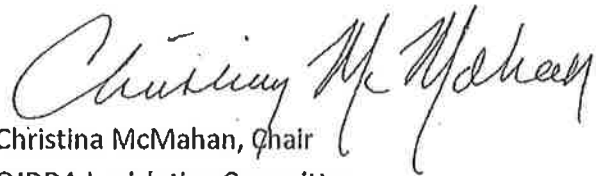
Juvenile Crime Prevention allocation requirements remain in current statute in ORS 417.855. The current YDC proposal does not follow this statute. We believe that there needs to be an extended dialogue before this program is dismantled.

Please see the attached issue brief with more detail about both our concerns and our programs. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Faye Fagel, President
OJDDA



Christina McMahan, Chair
OJDDA Legislative Committee

enclosure

cc: President Courtney
Speaker Kotek
Sen. Jackie Winters
Sen. Rod Monroe
Rep. Betty Komp
Rep. Jennifer Williamson



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Issue Brief on Juvenile Crime Prevention Funding:

The Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) funding allocated to Oregon's 36 Counties and Tribes needs to be sustained with the existing population-based and minimum grant funding formulas. This formula provides for equitable funding allocations for counties and tribes and is currently supporting programs with proven effectiveness. This critical funding stream began in 1998 and targets funds for at-risk youth to either prevent delinquency from occurring, or to prevent further penetration into the juvenile justice system. The Youth Development Council (YDC) has proposed a new policy and funding model, which changes the current funding formula to a competitive grant process. OJDDA believes the YDC proposal will eliminate effective and proven programs that address the unique needs of communities and those adolescents who are at-risk or juvenile justice system involved.

OJDDA has been in support of the formation of the YDC, however we have many concerns about the YDC's process in determining the new funding model. Lack of communication with stakeholders and transparency has frustrated our membership since the development of the Council. We were lead to believe that the process was going to start with the Council evaluating and fully understanding current programs before making recommendations for changes. This was never allowed for and attempts to bring information to the Council were stymied until the very end of the process, after the draft proposal was already completed.

We believe strongly that the programs provided for through JCP funds are an essential component of our local juvenile justice systems and have already been proven to meet most of the core outcomes stated by the YDC. We believe these programs and outcomes should be fully understood before making any final decision to dismantle them.

Programs funded by Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) have:

- Served over 9,038 youth who have been assessed by a scientifically validated risk instrument (09-11 biennium)
- Met the Youth Development Council's goals to support academic success and reduce criminal involvement
- Met evidence-based criteria (as evaluated by an independent research firm) in 86% of local programs
- Leveraged significant funding resources statewide to address local community priorities for at risk youth

JCP Funded Programs have Proven Results which reflect Sound Investments and Good Public Policy:

- 50% of all JCP youth showed a decrease in risk factors
- 89% of youth with no criminal referral before JCP services did not have a criminal referral within 12 months of starting JCP services
- 84% of JCP youth with prior criminal referrals had no additional criminal referral in the 12 months after start of JCP services
- 72% reduction in aggressive behavior at school
- 45% increase in significant school attachment
- Reduces victims and improves public safety
- Prevents at risk youth from entering the juvenile justice system and transforms high-risk youth into productive citizens

OJDDA Respectfully Requests the Oregon Legislature:

- Support the continuation of local programs that are producing positive outcomes by maintaining a population-based and minimum grant funding formula.
- Support the existing collaborative community process
- Support existing community partnerships that leverage JCP funding
- Support the legislative intent of ORS 417.855 in its current form by maintaining equitable funding allocations

For More Information: Please contact Lara Smith (503-804-9750)