

ASSOCIATION OF OREGON COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Addictions • Mental Health • Developmental Disabilities

Cherryl L. Ramirez
Executive Director
cramirez@aocweb.org

Diana L. Bronson
Executive Assistant
dbronson@aocweb.org

Andrew J. Smith
Legislative Liaison
asmith@aocweb.org

Sarah Jane Owens
Developmental Disabilities Spec.
sjowens@aocweb.org

Silas Halloran-Steiner, President
Yamhill County Health & Human Services

David Hidalgo, 1st Vice President
Multnomah County Mental Health and
Addiction Services

Barb Seatter, 2nd Vice President
Mid-Columbia Center for Living
Sherman, Hood River & Wasco

Karla McCafferty, Secretary/Treasurer
Options for Southern Oregon, Inc.
Josephine County

Baker County
Mountain Valley Mental Health Programs, Inc.

Benton County Health Department

Clackamas County Health, Housing
& Human Services

Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare
Columbia Community Mental Health
Confederated Tribes Community
Counseling Center of Warm Springs

Coos County Mental Health
Community Living Case Management
Coos, Curry, Douglas, Josephine Counties
Crook County Mental Health
Lutheran Community Services

Curry Community Health
Deschutes County Health & Human Services

Douglas County
Community Health Alliance
Grant, Morrow, Wheeler & Gilliam Counties
Community Counseling Solutions
Harney County Symmetry Care, Inc.

Jackson County Health and Human Services

Jefferson County
BestCare Treatment Services

Klamath Basin Behavioral Health
Klamath County Developmental
Disabilities Program

Lake County Mental Health
Lane County Health and Human Services
Lincoln County Health and Human Services

Linn County Health Department
Malheur and Umatilla Counties
Lifeways, Inc.

Marion County Health Department
Polk County MH & Addiction Services
Sherman, Hood River & Wasco Counties
Mid-Columbia Center for Living

Tillamook County
Tillamook Family Counseling Center

Umatilla County
Addictions Program/DD Program

Union County
Center for Human Development, Inc.

Wallowa County
Wallowa Valley Center for Wellness
Washington County Behavioral Health &
Developmental Disabilities Division

February 9, 2015

Senator Chip Shields, Co-Chair

Representative Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chair

Public Safety Subcommittee, Joint Ways and Means Committee on Ways
and Means

900 Court Street NE, Room H-178

Salem, OR 97301 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Shields, Co-Chair Williamson and Member of the
Subcommittee:

Thank you for investing \$15 million for Justice Reinvestment (HB 3194)
during the 2013 legislative session. Sentencing reforms and investment
dollars are putting Oregon on course to be able to avoid the need to build or
bond for a new prison for at least the next five years and it is estimated that
the State will avoid \$300 million of prison related costs during this same time
period.

Recent prison forecasts have shown that HB 3194 has been largely effective
in flatlining prison growth, for now. However, changing the trajectory of
Oregon away from an over-reliance on prisons to one that has a strong
public safety infrastructure at the local level will take time, focus and ongoing
reinvestment of resources.

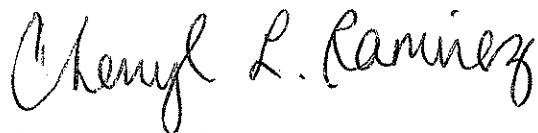
As a key system partner in management and coordination of mental health
services in Oregon, we are very concerned that a failure to reinvest savings
in community based treatment will only lead to a scenario where there is
more and not less of a demand for prison capacity. Oregon must continue to
strongly reinvest in the local efforts to develop programs that prevent crime
and the unnecessary use of extremely expensive prison beds. These
essential programs include addiction and mental health treatment, victim
services and re-entry support for people released from prisons and jails.

Passing HB 3194 was an important step, but only the first one in a multi-year
process to rebalance how Oregon prioritizes spending and increases
Oregonians' safety. HB 3194's success depends on Oregon's continued
commitment to a new way of addressing public safety through dedicated
resources to build an infrastructure of more cost-effective means of crime
prevention and recidivism reduction.

1201 Court St. NE, Suite 302, Salem, Oregon 97301 • Phone: (503) 399-7201
website: www.aocmhp.org

The CJC and DOC have determined that \$58.5 million are the actual costs averted through the successful implementation of Justice Reinvestment. If we fail to reinvest these resources into cost effective, proven practices that reduce recidivism, we risk losing the progress we have made. The Governor's budget designated \$58 million. We urge you to fully fund this request in your budget.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl L. Ramirez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Cheryl L. Ramirez

Association of Oregon Community Mental Health Programs