



ST. MARY'S HOME FOR BOYS

16535 S.W. Tualatin Valley Highway Beaverton, Oregon 97003-5143



February 25, 2015
OYA Public Testimony
of Francis Maher before the
Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

Co-chairs, Senator Shields, Representative Williamson and members of the Committee:

I appreciate this opportunity to share with you the treatment program at St. Mary's Home for Boys and our collaboration with the Oregon Youth Authority. I would like to briefly highlight our population, treatment program and efficacy.

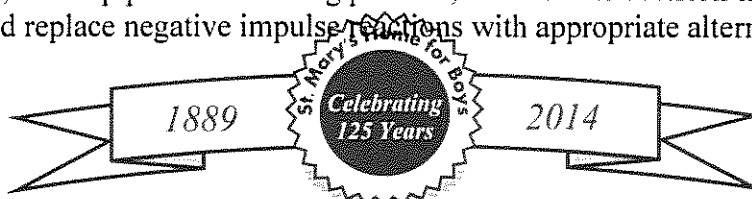
St. Mary's Home for Boys is located in Beaverton, Oregon and was founded in 1889 as an orphanage for abandoned and wayward children. Today St. Mary's offers residential treatment and mental health services to at-risk boys typically between the ages of 10 and 17 who are emotionally disturbed and behaviorally delinquent. The individualized program provides each client with a structured treatment regimen to ensure his successful transition to public school, the community, and an appropriate living environment.

Clients referred to our agency and those currently placed in our care have not developed the emotional stability or appropriate behavioral patterns necessary to function successfully in society. For most of the young men, an unstable or abusive home environment, coupled with treatment cognitive issues, negative educational experiences and community influences, have plagued their young existence.

In the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study by Kaiser Permanente and the Centers for Disease Control, researchers identified strong, graded relationships between exposure to childhood traumatic stressors and numerous negative health behaviors and outcomes, health care utilization and overall health status later in life. A sample of 67 of our clients found 46% had experienced domestic violence and 85% had an ACE's score of 4 or more. The mean St. Mary's Home for Boys ACE's score was 6.1 and the mode, or most typical score is 8.

- Witnessing domestic violence is the single best predictor of juvenile delinquency and adult criminality
- Children who witness domestic violence are 4 times more likely to be arrested and 8 times more likely to commit suicide

St. Mary's residential treatment program, in conjunction with our outpatient mental health team, is designed to provide each client with the skills he will need to address trauma, develop positive thinking patterns, increase his decision-making capabilities, and replace negative impulse reactions with appropriate alternatives.



St. Mary's treatment modality encompasses an evidence-based Cognitive Behavioral Interpersonal Program supported by a Token Economy System. Each client's treatment plan can include the following components:

- Individual and Group Therapy/Medical Management
- Individual and Group Counseling
- Family Counseling/Parent Training Sessions
- Trauma Treatment
- Individual Skill Training
- Juvenile Sex Offender Program addressing treatment needs of clients related to sex education, empathy, values, victimization, thinking errors, offense cycles and relapse prevention
- Survivors Program addressing those boys with identifiable physical and sexual abuse histories
- Drug and Alcohol Program
- Juvenile Firesetters Program
- Educational achievement through individualized instruction
- Physical development stressing cooperation and sportsmanship
- Emotional development geared to control impulses and anger
- Social development increasing acceptable behavioral skills
- Independent Living Program
- Transition and Aftercare Services

As part of our comprehensive Performance and Quality Improvement Program, St. Mary's began formally tracking treatment effectiveness in 2001. Clients' are contacted at three, six and twelve-month intervals post discharge for treatment effectiveness interviews. Data collected by OYA for recidivism has consistently yielded an 80% or greater success rate.

The Oregon Youth Authority has been and remains an authentic and highly effective community-based residential treatment partner. The combination of their Youth Reformation System, typology mapping and Positive Human Development, strengths-based approach is largely synergistic with treatment providers in addressing and ameliorating root causes of juvenile delinquency.

The Oregon Youth Authority is a First-Rate organization. In my opinion, their return on investment is accretive at every level. As it pertains to the State budget, OYA is successfully converting general fund consumers into income tax producers.

I would again like to thank the members of the Committee for this opportunity to share with you some the exceptional work and collaborations being implemented by the Oregon Youth Authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Maher", written over a horizontal line.

Francis Maher
Executive Director
St. Mary's Home for Boys