



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: March 3, 2015

TO: Joint Ways and Means Committee, sub-committee on Human Services

RE: HB 5026 and relevant Lane County infrastructure

Co-Chair Representative Nathanson, Senator Bates, and members of the sub-committee:

Twenty years ago Lane County voters supported a bond measure to build the John Serbu Juvenile Justice Campus. The site contains numerous facilities which all share a goal of assisting youth that need help in achieving adulthood in the face of challenging situations. For the staff of Lane County's Division of Youth Services, more and more focus is on serving youth before they encounter local police or the judicial system. One element of that work is to the unique issues presented by children and youth who are known to both the child welfare and the juvenile justice system.

These "crossover" youth require substantive collaboration between public agencies, and Lane County has been working closely with Oregon's Child Welfare Division to establish a local facility for youth and their families which we believe will result in a more efficient service delivery combined with better outcomes. This work is part of a national effort managed out of Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform to develop and implement proven practices that eventually will become a national standard known as the Practice Model. Lane, Multnomah, Washington, and Marion Counties are all participating.

Lane County has identified a facility which would be designed to serve a daily average of 14 youth, primarily from local foster placements in need immediate assistance to avoid situations that impair the success of the family. This assistance will range from short term stays that may be characterized as a "timeout" to simply diffuse an evolving crisis to longer stays that involve cognitive treatment arrays for the youth and their families.

Remarkably, Lane County youth do not currently have such a facility. As a result, on any given week DHS staff typically manage multiple out of region placements involving complicated transportation logistics, or house youth in local hotels.

Lane County has identified a facility on the Campus that would be ideal for both "respite" and longer care needs. A local agency has volunteered to assist with some of the remodeling that facility, and we are working with a community-based non-profit organization to develop a pro-forma operating budget to examine the on-going costs to sustain it. If successfully developed, we believe some of the operational dollars would come from the budget of Child Welfare that you've heard over the past several days. This plan is still dependent on Lane County finding the necessary funding to open the facility, and to ensure that the on-going costs are sustainably funded. We look forward to working with the Legislature over the course of the next several months to identify additional resource opportunities to make this facility a reality.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY