



Feb. 25, 2015

For the Joint Committee on Ways and Means - Subcommittee on Public Safety

Chairs Williamson and Shields and member of the committee:

J Bar J Youth Services
www.jbarj.org

Administrative Office
62895 Hamby Road
Bend, Oregon 97701
(541) 389-1409
(541) 389-9348 Fax

J Bar J Boys Ranch
62895 Hamby Road
Bend, Oregon 97701
(541) 312-4022
(541) 389-9348 Fax

J Bar J Learning Center
62895 Hamby Road
Bend, Oregon 97701
(541) 389-1409
(541) 389-9348 Fax

Cascade Youth & Family Services - Runaway and Homeless Services
25 N.E. Daggett Lane
Bend, Oregon 97701
(541) 382-0934
(541) 383-3024 Fax

Cascade Youth & Family Services - The "LOFT"
19 S.W. Century Drive
Bend, Oregon 97702
(541) 318-3436
(54) 585-2460 Fax

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Oregon
2125 N.E. Daggett Lane
Bend, Oregon 97701
(541) 312-6047
(541) 312-6052 Fax
Prineville Office
(541) 408-7662
Madras Office
(541) 325-5603

The Academy at Sisters
P.O. Box 5986
Bend, Oregon 97708-5986
(541) 389-2748
(541) 389-2897 Fax
1-800-910-0412

Regional Toll-Free Teen Crisis Hotline
1-800-660-0934 (24 Hours)

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon regarding the Oregon Youth Authority and the critical role it plays in public safety. My name is Stephanie Alvstad and I am the Executive Director of J Bar J Youth Services in Central Oregon. Our organization provides residential treatment and transitional living skills to adjudicated youth in OYA's custody. We are a 501©3 employing approximately 100 people in multiple programs reaching children and families throughout our community.

- J Bar J has been working with OYA since its inception in 1995 under SB1 and we strongly support the continuing mission of the agency with its current level of funding or more. (It would be nice to see the JJIS system updated, it was created in the late 90's as a statewide database for OYA, Juvenile Depts. and Providers).
- The creation of OYA in 1995 has led to the longest period of stability for Juvenile Justice in Oregon history. Since Rick Hill, the first Director in 1995, the Agency has been fortunate to have a series of very good directors, Fairborz Paksherest is no exception, he cares deeply for kids and it shows. Again, I encourage you to fully fund its mission to enable OYA to continue the stability it and its contractors require to maintain high quality care, accountability and education of youth for public safety in communities across Oregon.
- Under Fairborz leadership, OYA has become a highly adaptive, data driven agency. The Youth Reformation System (YRS) provides invaluable information to the Youth Authority and to partners, like J Bar J. By giving the right services in the right locations, dollars will be saved and youth and our community will benefit.
- The cultural shift to Positive Human Development (PHD), which emphasizes the assets of youth and staff, provides the best opportunity to reduce recidivism by teaching the skills to be productive citizens.
- J Bar J is considered a very challenging program, we hold youth accountable through high expectations, commitment to community safety and an opportunity rich environment. We are considered a highly effective program statewide and nationally. With guidance from OYA, our program has implemented a service delivery that follows PHD, assisting us to help our youth become good community members, good partners, good employees, and eventually good parents.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Alvstad

Stephanie Alvstad
Executive Director

Julie Schneider, Ph.D.
Licensed Psychologist