

# Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium (CEOJJC)

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*An intergovernmental organization of the counties of: Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney,  
Hood River, Jefferson, Lake, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Wasco, Wheeler*

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## **Public Testimony on SB5542 Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety February 25, 2015**

Thank you for this opportunity to present public testimony in support of SB5542 and to present strong support for the work of the Oregon Youth Authority. I am here today representing the 17 member counties of the Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium.

### **The Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium**

The Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium (CEOJJC) was formally established in 1987 as an ORS Chapter 190 intergovernmental regional organization to improve the effectiveness of the juvenile system within the region. For over 25 years, member counties have been working collectively to share resources across county lines and to develop effective approaches for working with youth offenders in rural communities.

### **Risk/Needs Profile of Youth Offenders in Rural Counties**

Research by the Oregon Youth Authority shows that although there are fewer youth offenders in the juvenile justice system in rural counties, the criminal risk factors and the service needs of these youth are the same as the risk factors and service need profiles of youth offenders in urban counties.

### **Fairness and Equity for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System in Rural Counties**

The Oregon Youth Authority has been a strong partner with the Consortium to ensure equal and fair treatment for all youth in the juvenile justice system in Central and Eastern Oregon. The CEOJJC region covers over 61,000 square miles. Accessing needed resources in rural counties is a continuing challenge, especially for youth with significant behavioral health treatment needs (primarily substance abuse and mental health issues).

## **Coordinated Planning and Resource Development with OYA**

CEOJJC and OYA have recognized that their mutual efforts are most effective when we work together in a co-management approach. Co-Management is not a program. It is a process that establishes how counties and OYA will work together in mutual decision-making, implementing best practices for reformation of youth offenders in rural communities, and maximizing the use of limited resources in the region.

## **Improving Positive Outcomes for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System**

We join with all of the county juvenile departments across the state to urge your continued support for the cutting edge work the agency is doing in developing new research-based practices and tools that are specifically designed to improve positive outcomes for youth in Oregon's juvenile justice system. All of this is possible because of the information that is available in the Oregon's Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) that is managed by OYA in partnership with the Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association (OJDDA).

The Youth Reformation System (YRS) and related assessments use real time data, research and predictive analytics to inform decision-making and support professional discretion to improve outcomes for youth, reduce future victimization, and maximize effective and efficient use of resources. Research-based system improvement work focuses on assuring that the right youth (*based on risk/needs*) get the right services (*targeted to individual risk/needs*) at the right time (*timely access to effective services and supervision*).

## **Conclusion**

There is much we could say about the great work that the Oregon Youth Authority and their efforts to work in close partnership with our Consortium. We urge your continued support for work the agency is doing in developing new research-based practices and tools to improve public safety as well as positive outcomes for youth in the juvenile justice system. We want to acknowledge our highly successful partnership with OYA to co-manage the juvenile justice system in Central and Eastern Oregon.

Jeff Milligan, MA  
Consultant and Project Coordinator  
Resource Development and Intergovernmental Partnerships

## CEOJJC is a 17 County Intergovernmental Organization

Baker  
Crook  
Deschutes  
Gilliam  
Grant  
Harney  
Hood River  
Jefferson  
Lake  
Malheur  
Morrow  
Sherman  
Umatilla  
Union  
Wallowa  
Wasco  
Wheeler

