



## Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association

*Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments*

www.ojdda.org

- Faye Fagel, President
- Torri Lynn, President Elect
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OJDDA  
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To: Members of the Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee

From: Torri Lynn, Legislative Chair, Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association

Re: Testimony in Support of the Oregon Youth Authority 2015-17 Budget

The Oregon Juvenile Department Director's Association (OJDDA) urges you to support SB 5542 regarding funding for the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA). This budget not only supports OYA, but it also funds a portion of your local County Juvenile Departments and their core functions.

OJDDA and OYA have developed a strong partnership in building a juvenile justice continuum of prevention/intervention services, local diversion, detention, county probation, community treatment programs, residential programs, State probation and Parole and Youth Correctional Facilities.

County juvenile departments serve the majority of youth within communities and utilize county funding and a small amount of state funding to assess risk, provide services and interventions and appropriately prevent youth from moving deeper into the juvenile justice system through commitment to the Oregon Youth Authority for placement in a residential treatment program or Youth Correctional Facility.

While this funding (\$17,593,089) is only a small percentage of the Youth Authority Budget (just over 4%) when leveraged with County investments in local juvenile departments there is significant impact in each of our local communities.

### **Local Juvenile Justice Funding Streams**

There are three funding streams that come through the OYA budget providing for essential juvenile justice services in Oregon communities:

**Juvenile Crime Prevention Basic Services:** Funding supports community Detention, Shelter Care, Treatment Services, Graduated Sanctions, aftercare

and is used to reduce barriers to youth success in accessing treatment and connectivity to pro-social activities thereby reducing risk factors and recidivism. These programs increase local county accountability and interventions and support youth success through building community capacity, therefore avoiding the need for commitment to higher cost State resources.

**Diversion:** Funding is targeted for youth twelve to eighteen years of age who have been adjudicated for a Class A Misdemeanor or more serious act of delinquency and are identified to be a risk of commitment to a Youth Correctional Facility. Programs and services are designed to reduce risk factors and safely divert youth from commitment and may include: detention, shelter care, youth specific treatment including drug and alcohol, mental health, gang interventions, family functioning and sex offender interventions. Accountability is measured by reduction in recidivism and maintaining at or below the county allocated beds within OYA Youth Correctional Facilities.

**Individualized Service Dollars:** Funding is targeted for youth twelve to eighteen who have been adjudicated delinquent. Money is intended to provide services which cannot be paid for through any other source, private or public. These services meet widely varied needs from simple one-time purchases to complex multi-disciplinary case management services to prevent youth from being committed to OYA for placement in a residential treatment program or youth correctional setting. The goal of the funding is to prevent further escalation into the juvenile justice system, reduce commitments to OYA, increase public safety, increase educational participation, increase skills of youth offenders and reduce anti-social behavior.

These services were funded at \$17,593,089 in the 13-15 biennium. It is our understanding that they will be continued at the current service level in this 2015-17 budget. We strongly advocate for, at minimum, this level of funding.

### **Juvenile Justice Information System**

Oregon is progressive in having developed an extensive Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) in the year 2000. Statewide all Juvenile Departments along with OYA utilize JJIS to enter data on all juveniles referred. In addition to a data source for generating reports, assessing outcomes and tracking information for policy decisions, JJIS functions as a case management system. Initial assessment of risk, case plans, progress notes and referral information are all entered and used daily by probation officers. It is said to be one of the best systems in the nation primarily because all of the juvenile justice agencies in the state use the same system. This system is essential in the everyday work of

county juvenile departments. While maintaining this system has been the responsibility of OYA, a vast majority of data being placed in this system is done by county juvenile departments.

Upgrading and maintenance of JJIS through technological advancements is essential. The Policy Option Package that provided for these upgrades was not included in the Governor's Budget. We would strongly urge this committee to consider this investment to a web-based application and continue technical support to sustain quality operations. This information system not only guides us on where we need to go with our system, it also provides the information that is crucial to ensure that we are meeting our outcomes.

### **Shared Vision**

The county juvenile departments and OYA are engaged in a collaborative workgroup to develop shared principles and assess the current inventory of resources available to county juvenile departments. We are assessing public safety practices that serve youth within their own communities and prevent the need for state custody along with any gaps in those services. Through a great deal of conversation and personal investment, OJDDA and OYA are experiencing some of the most collaborative conversations and consideration of progressive investments in recent times.

### **Youth Reformation System**

County Juvenile Departments support the continued development and implementation of the Youth Reformation System (YRS). OJDDA believes that continuing to develop the continuum of services for youth in the justice system will enhance public safety. By placing youth in the correct setting with the correct type of treatment for the correct amount of time will benefit the youth's reformation and benefit local communities. Developing a system to ensure adequate front end services will help keep youth from escalating into state custody. As part of the system OJDDA supports the 10 year facilities plan to provide the best services for youth at the far end of the juvenile justice continuum.

Thank you for your consideration of this budget. Please help us to continue the great strides we have made in Oregon's juvenile justice system by continuing to invest in this OYA budget.