

March 19, 2015

The Honorable Chip Shields and Jennifer Williamson, Co-Chairs  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

**Re: SB 5504**

Co-Chairs Shields and Williamson, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Kimberly Bernard. I am the Research and Planning Manager with the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. I manage the largest research team in County Community Corrections. On behalf of Multnomah County and the Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors, I am here to draw attention to Policy Option Package 104 in the Department of Corrections budget and ask for your support. The proposal is to begin the long and overdue process of replacing the current Corrections Information System (also referred to as CIS or DOC 400).

**What is CIS?**

CIS is the system of record for Community Corrections and state institutions. It is the foundation for how every County collects, interprets, analyzes information for operational decisions, policy formulation, mandatory reporting, quality assurance, and release of information to the general public.

This critical system still uses a programming language that was designed in the early 1960s. This is a dying language – the programming equivalent of speaking Latin. It is not sustainable and does not allow Community Corrections to keep pace with technology and practice changes.

**Opportunities with New Technology**

There have been quite a few technology improvements over the last 50 years. Think of how nimble and efficient community supervision could become if:

- Officers could use their cell phone to record case notes during a home visit
- Officers could use text messages to communicate with offenders
- Officers could work collaboratively with local non-profits - sharing critical case information in a secure, central web-based system

This is all now technologically possible but Oregon has a tremendous barrier in the existing CIS system.

**CIS is Outdated**

If you have never had the opportunity to navigate CIS, I would like to describe the experience for you:

- There is no mouse navigation and no web browser view for anyone using the CIS computer system.
- There is no data field to enter the e-mail address of the offender. We are unable to send or receive e-mails with offenders using CIS. The computer system of record is 30 years older than e-mail.
- There is no data field to enter a mobile phone number for an offender. This is a field we could use to communicate with an offender, as well as use for data mining to compare to phone numbers listed on websites used for prostitution and other human trafficking activities to increase community supervision.
- There is no data field to enter progress reports from outside providers for offenders receiving drug & alcohol, counseling, or other court ordered services. Under the current system, an outside provider types progress notes for an offender, faxes or mails the typed progress notes to the officer. Then the officer has to re-type the progress notes for each offender into CIS. The labor savings would be significant and the data to determine which treatments were successful in reducing recidivism would now be more readily available.

In short the programming that you experience daily with private companies like Apple or Amazon is missing in CIS. The ability to integrate and enhance data that we all take for granted in our daily lives is missing.

### **Keeping Pace with Evidence-Based Practices**

The funding in POP 104 will allow DOC to begin the development of a data system that:

- Keeps pace with innovation and evidence-based practices,
- Replaces silos and allows for efficient information sharing between public safety partners,
- Enhances the supervision of offenders during probation and post-prison supervision for Multnomah County and all counties in Oregon, and,
- Provides easy access to data and better measurements of success/recidivism for all offenders.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Submitted by:

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