



Parrott Creek
Child & Family Services
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February 22, 2017

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Public Safety

Dear Joint Ways and Means Public Safety Committee Members,

Please support the OYA requested budget, which includes a critical rate increase for Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) programs. As a part of OYA's community residential services system, *Parrott Creek Child and Family Services* operates a Behavioral Rehabilitation Services (BRS) Level 4 Residential Treatment program for adjudicated boys ages 13 to 18.

Parrott Creek Child and Family Services was founded in 1968 to give troubled youth the tools, skills, and emotional support they need to change negative patterns and get back on track to lead successful lives. Our residential treatment facility is located in Clackamas County and we are licensed through the Department of Human Services to provide 24/7 residential treatment services for up to 21 boys.

In collaboration with the Oregon Youth Authority our services include sex offender treatment, individual, group and family counseling, social skill building, recreation, drug and alcohol counseling, and vocational/occupational assistance. Youth have an on-site school in collaboration with the Canby School District. After-care transition services including family counseling is available for up to three months. In partnership with OYA, there is a high value placed on providing services that are culturally competent, gender specific and family focused. Twelve months after leaving Parrott Creek, over 85% of youth have not progressed further into the juvenile justice system

A 16 month process of 3 state agencies, youth, advocates, CCO's and providers identified a 30% rate gap between current rates and what it costs to serve these youth. The Governor's Recommended Budget has included a rate increase for OYA providers. This rate increase is critical for the youth who must have BRS programs to succeed. Twenty three BRS contracts have been given back to OYA and DHS in the last 48 months because of low rates, which are exacerbated by extremely challenging regulatory oversight and risk management for highly traumatized children and their behaviors.

At Parrott Creek we work with the youth and their families in building skills, trust and increasing communication. Seventy-four percent of the youth served have an ACE score of 4 or more, recognized as the level at which they have significant cognitive impairment, creating behavior and learning issues. Although many of the youth have suffered traumatic events in their lives, we know that when kids and their families receive services in this system, their chances of having safer, more productive lives increases dramatically.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on how the Oregon Youth Authority and Community Residential Providers like Parrott Creek are an integral part of our state's public safety network and critically important in helping youth stop harmful patterns and prevent future involvement with the justice system.

Sincerely,

Linda Winnett

Executive Director

cc: Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs