

Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium (CEOJJC)

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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Written Testimony
**JOINT COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**
February 21, 2017

Co-Chair Sen. Jackie Winters:
Co-Chair Rep. Duane Stark:
Members of the Committee:

My name is Jeff Milligan and I am here today representing the Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium, also known as CEOJJC. CEOJJC is a 17 county ORS Chapter 190 intergovernmental organization established in 1986 by ordinances passed by the county commissioners in all member counties. I help to coordinate activities of the intergovernmental partnership with OYA, including piloting implementation of the case management principles and assessment tools in OYA's Youth Reformation System.

The work of the Consortium supports the efforts of its member counties to improve the effectiveness of their local juvenile justice systems. One of the main activities of the Consortium is operating a shared system of regional resources to divert youth at imitate risk of commitment to OYA.

County diversion grants from OYA and other funds are pooled to create a system of shared regional resources. This system of regional resources is co-managed in partnership with OYA based on service priorities of CEOJJC's regional diversion plan.



The development of research-based risk assessment tools by OYA is transforming the work of county juvenile departments. These tools help to identify which youth are likely to re-offend if they don't receive the right levels of supervision and specific intervention services. This helps county juvenile departments, especially in smaller counties make the best use of existing intervention and reformation services.

In your meeting on Monday 2/20/17, Fariborz talked about the important role of county juvenile departments in managing around 90% of youth in the juvenile justice system. Fariborz referred to the "hydraulic effect" of this "county-state management partnership". If OYA resources are reduced, this puts more pressure on counties to manage more high risk youth safely in the community, especially if these youth need secure placement. If county resources to safely manage high risk youth in the community are reduced, judges will commit more youth to OYA care for public safety reasons. If both parts of the county-state management system are reduced through service and resource reductions, judges will again be forced to commit high risk youth to OYA who could have been served in county diversion programs in the past.

There has been a reduction in referrals to juvenile departments and commitments to the Oregon Youth Authority. But it is important to understand although the total numbers are down, the complexity of current referrals and the multiple service needs of these youth and their families have significantly increased. In our region, over 50% of youth have DHS histories, 76% of youth who were committed to OYA from the region have a co-occurring AOD and mental health diagnosis, 76% of parents have histories of alcohol/drug use, and somewhere between 70%-91% of all youth have a diagnosed drug and alcohol history.

Juvenile department staff are working closely with schools to assist youth and families access these earlier services. Juvenile crime and related youth problems are very visible in rural communities, So are the victims of juvenile crime. Because of this, rural communities support early intervention balancing accountability with reformation. Certain youth however need target diversion services because of their risk profile and multiple service needs. County juvenile departments and the courts need will continue to need the resources of OYA for some of these youth.

We would like to sincerely thank the Oregon Youth Authority for recognizing the unique challenges rural counties face. We look forward to our continued intergovernmental partnerships and support. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this public testimony.

Respectfully,
Jeff Milligan, MA
Central and Eastern Oregon Juvenile Justice Consortium