



To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Sheila Clark, Probation & Parole Supervisor

Date: April 4, 2017

Subject: Written Testimony Supporting SB 895 Relating to Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot (FSAP)

Senate Judiciary Chairman Floyd Prozanski, Co-Chair Senator Kim Thatcher, and members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly's Senate Committee on Judiciary, my name is Sheila Clark and I am the Supervisor of Washington County Community Corrections FSAP program. I am providing written testimony on behalf of Washington County Community Corrections.

In January 2016 our office began the process of building the Family Sentencing Alternative Pilot Program otherwise known as FSAP. The work in building such a program could not have been accomplished without the buy in and effort of our community partners which include: Washington County Circuit Court, District Attorney's office, Public Defenders, DHS, CODA Treatment, House of Hope, Bridges to Change and many more. Today FSAP is a thriving program that focuses on one of the most important relationships in life, the parent/child relationship. Since inception we have worked with 30 parents benefitting 63 children. If FSAP had not been an option at the time of sentencing, these 63 children would no doubt be further embedded in the DHS system and their parents would be in prison.

Childhood experiences have a tremendous impact on future violence, victimization, perpetration, and lifelong health and opportunity. Adverse childhood experiences (ACE) such as parental incarceration are an important public health issue.

FSAP participants and their children have high ACE scores. Risk factors captured in the ACE assessment include: drug abuse, physical, mental and sexual abuse, and parental incarceration. Each of these risk factors critically impact our community, and especially our children.

Success in the community for parents involved in the criminal justice system involves ensuring adequate resources. Factors that are inherent to success include: housing, education and employment skills, substance abuse treatment, parenting classes, positive role modeling, and a family focused approach.

When parents are incarcerated, the consequences reverberate for the next generation. In my 24 years as Probation and Parole Officer, I have experienced multiple generations come through my door. As you may expect this is difficult to see and experience. I have found myself asking what I could have done differently to change the outcome.

Prior to FSAP, parents did not have family oriented wraparound services to help them integrate back into the community as a parent. There were stand-alone programs that dealt with components but they did not focus on the family unit as a whole. Community corrections now has an evidence based strategy and resources to provide a foundation for positive family dynamics which not only treat the parent, but benefit the children and reduce the overall negative impact on our community.

I support the broadening of the eligibility requirements and increased funding of SB 895 which would allow more families to access the resources needed to make lifelong changes.

Thank you for your time and consideration