

Department of Community Justice



TO: Co-Chairs Stark and Winters and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Sub Committee on Public Safety

DATE: April 10, 2017

RE: Support for Justice Reinvestment

Co- Chairs Stark and Winters, and members of the Committee,

I am Scott Taylor, Director of Multnomah County Department of Community Justice. I am here to provide an overview of the Multnomah County Justice Reinvestment Program, MCJRP. Over three years ago, the leaders of Multnomah County's public safety system began meeting and designing the program.

This group includes representatives from the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney, Portland and Gresham Police Departments, Metropolitan Public Defenders, the Presiding Judge and Chief Criminal Judge, Citizens Crime Commission, Community Corrections and our LPSCC Executive Director. We meet every Friday morning at 7:00 a.m.

This unique collaboration has led to a ripple effect that touches a variety of other initiatives. It has allowed us to effectively create and adjust the largest Justice Reinvestment operation in Oregon both in numbers not sent to Department of Corrections (DOC) institutions and those placed on Short Term Trans Leave (STTL).

Our model calls for a comprehensive assessment process prior to a Judicial Settlement Conference. Assessment results are shared among the Court, the DA, the defense, representatives from the victim community, and DCJ to help inform sentencing discussions.

During the assessment period, individuals with a substance abuse issue are placed in a treatment readiness dorm. This program provides those who stay in the community with direct access to appropriate levels of treatment. The program is operated by the Sheriff, with programming provided by Volunteers of America.

In partnership with the DA and the Court, this same model has also been applied to youth 15-18 years of age who may be under a Measure 11 initial charge. After assessment and review, some are eligible to remain in the community with supervision from either our juvenile department or our youthful offender unit.

Since MCJRP began, we have funded two police officers who are assigned to participate in team staffings and to assist with contacting those in the MCJRP supervision, when requested by our PO's. This part of the collaboration has increased community engagement and established unusual trust between those under supervision and law enforcement.

As an example, last month's report discussed contact with a MCJRP client who needed food and other supplies, as his wife was pregnant and they were short of funds. The MCJRP law enforcement officer

assisted them in immediately getting supplies and established contacts with other community providers for future needs. Officers also attend the monthly Milepost Ceremonies we have for those who have achieved program goals.

Another example of successful collaboration is the creation of a Data Team, representing all partners. They are tasked with keeping us informed on our progress and help to uncover process challenges. We recently published a [summary report](#) of the outcomes achieved during the past few years and trends identified to date.

The data we receive provides valuable information to help us focus on our successes as well as how we can make improvements. It also confirmed that we are getting better results by keeping individuals in the community, compared to a matched sample sent to prison. This confirms that the investment in Justice Reinvestment has been effective.

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

Submitted by:

Scott Taylor, Director
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice