



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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July 24, 2020

Senator James Manning, Jr., Co-Chair
Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE, H-178
Salem OR, 97301

Dear Chair Manning, Chair Sollman, and members of the subcommittee,

On behalf of the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA), we respectfully request a modification to the recently published proposed Ways & Means reduction list for the 2020 rebalance. The modification would allow us to move our equity work forward more promptly. As explained below, this request will not change the amount of the proposed reduction for OYA.

Background

As you know, a 2019 budget note from this subcommittee directed OYA to report on its efforts to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion in its workforce and services to youth. And last year, OYA also launched its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiative.

We now seek to accelerate that work by permanently self-funding two positions: a strategic manager for our DEI initiative, and a recruiter focused on enhancing the diversity of our staff. DAS and the Governor's Office support the creation of these positions, but we've been instructed to permanently give up two other positions in exchange.

What We Are Requesting

Since we have been asked to identify existing positions to give up in order to create the two new DEI positions, it makes sense to look to vacant positions that we could potentially live without. As it happens, there are several vacant positions on the Ways & Means reduction list that we are being asked to hold for the rest of this biennium. We would like to repurpose two of these positions in order to create the DEI positions this biennium, as instructed.

To that end, we are asking that two items be removed from the list:

- 1) Juvenile Parole and Probation Officer (JPPO) position / Line 180 / 1 position (1 FTE)
 - \$104,744 GF and \$22,481 FF
- 2) Painter position / Line 181 / 1 position (1 FTE)
 - \$87,574 GF

Together, these items total \$214,799 (\$192,318 GF and \$22,481 FF). In order to get to the proposed reduction total, we suggest a line be added for a reduction of Individualized Services in the amount of -\$214,799 (-\$192,318 GF and -\$22,481 FF).

These changes would allow us to self-fund the two new positions and enhance our efforts around diversity, equity and inclusion.

We appreciate your consideration. Please don't hesitate to call either of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Joseph O'Leary

Director

Oregon Youth Authority

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Report to the Oregon Legislature: Gang Transition Services for Multnomah County Gang-Involved Youth

July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

**Prepared by the Juvenile Services Division of the
Multnomah County Department of Community Justice**

January 2020

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Why Are GTS Funds Needed?

GTS funds are needed to sustain the Multnomah County continuum of services for gang-involved youth and gang-affected families. Those services include probation supervision (RISE Unit), Community Monitoring Program (CMP), Community Healing Initiative (CHI) for youth on probation, shelter placements, and the East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET). Without these services, our community would be less safe and more youth of color would be committed to youth correctional facilities and residential facilities outside of Multnomah County.

GTS funded programs continue to have a positive impact on reducing recidivism among gang-impacted youth involved with the Community Healing Initiative (CHI). GTS funds contribute to lower recidivism and fewer crime victims, ensure youth attend their court hearings, connect youth and families to pro-social and culturally responsive services, and keep youth in the community and out of more expensive placements.

What Services Are Funded with GTS Support?

A) COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES

RISE/GTS	CHI	Shelter	Community Monitoring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Probation Supervision to Gang-involved Youth• Recidivism Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Culturally Specific Services• Community Based Support• Outreach to Parents and Siblings• Mentoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short-Term Shelter & Treatment Foster Care Placements• Culturally Responsive Settings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Electronic Monitoring• Increased Accountability

Resource Intervention Services to Empower (RISE) Unit: RISE provides probation supervision to high-risk, gang-affected, justice-involved youth using strategies that are tailored to each youth's issues, strengths, needs, culture and environmental influences. RISE focuses on medium and high-risk youth on supervision and their families by utilizing Functional Family Probation Services (FFPS), an evidence-based case management model. In partnership with the Community Healing Initiative (CHI) Team, Juvenile Court Counselors (JCCs) develop probation case plans that establish enforceable expectations and address victim restitution. Along with holding gang-involved youth accountable through specialized supervision and sanctions, Juvenile Court Counselors coordinate treatment and interventions designed to address anti-social behavior. Skill building, mentoring, intensive family-based counseling, culturally-appropriate services, community support systems, educational advocacy and the incorporation of positive, age-appropriate activities are all used to counter gang involvement. RISE also partners with law enforcement, adult Probation/Parole Officers (PPOs) and the community to gather intelligence that helps dismantle gang activity.

COMMUNITY HEALING INITIATIVE (CHI): CHI is a family- and community-centered collaboration designed to stop youth and gang violence in Multnomah County by addressing its root causes. This collaborative paradigm between Multnomah County and community-based providers reflects joint system responsibility that entails shared financial resources and investments, shared system outcomes and shared risk. CHI provides culturally-specific services to medium and high-risk African American and Latino youth and works with the entire family. CHI applies supervision/suppression, intervention, and prevention strategies to youth and families who have recent involvement with high-risk activities and behaviors relevant to violence/gun violence. Each family receives a comprehensive assessment and individualized family service plan. Services are tailored to meet a family's individual needs and integrated in a manner that reduces and prevents gang violence. A network of public safety and social service agencies, and community-based organizations known as the CHI Team, build service capacity, promote integrated case management, increase connection to ethnic communities in the metropolitan area, and

augment community safety. The CHI Team focuses on sustainability through fostering family and community ownership and empowerment. Services are evidence-based, culturally-specific, and family-oriented. The family service plans address criminogenic needs that most closely link with recidivism and youth violence. CHI also includes a mentoring program which pairs CHI youth with a professional adult mentor with similar life experiences, who represents a culturally relevant and positive role model in the young person's life. The goals of CHI are to prevent medium and high-risk youth of color from committing new crimes and penetrating further into the justice system. Culturally competent, strength-based programs that are delivered in homes and the community are shown to be most effective with disenfranchised youth. All the work conducted through CHI helps prevent unnecessary and expensive detainment in correctional facilities.

SHELTER CARE: Multnomah County serves as a model site, and has long been regarded as a national leader in the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). Shelter care is one of the alternatives to detention that the Juvenile Services Division (JSD) utilizes. Shelter care services offer at-risk youth who would otherwise be placed in costly detention beds an opportunity to remain safely in the community under a high level of structure and supervision by professional shelter care providers. JSD contracts with Boys and Girls Aid and Maple Star Oregon to provide short-term shelter and treatment foster care to pre- and post-adjudicated youth. Services are focused on providing a safe, secure and supportive environment that assists with behavioral stabilization, strengthens individual and family relationships, uses evidence-based practices (EBP) and strength-based approaches in dealing with the criminogenic needs of the youth, and facilitates the youth's reintegration back to the family and/or community. The majority of justice-involved youth placed in these shelter programs are Latino and African American. By serving youth of color in culturally appropriate placements (short-term shelter care or treatment foster care), research has shown the disproportionate confinement of youth of color drops significantly and keeps youth connected to their communities without a reduction in public safety.

COMMUNITY MONITORING PROGRAM (CMP): Community monitoring is another alternative to detention utilized by the Juvenile Services Division (JSD). The Community Monitoring Program (CMP) permits some at-risk youth who would otherwise be housed in detention to remain in the community under the supervision of Volunteers of America's (VOA) Youth Monitors. CMP serves as a central component of Multnomah County's juvenile detention reform work. The program gives at-risk youth greater opportunity to demonstrate accountability and responsibility than if they would have been in detention. Additionally, youth can remain involved in the community, their schools, and access community-based services. The Juvenile Court establishes the conditions under which each youth will remain in the community. Under continuous supervision through the use of electronic monitoring, home visits and phone calls, the juveniles can continue with school or work and maintain community ties, support systems, or alternative care. VOA's Youth Monitors are specially trained to detect violations of conditions of release or threats to public safety. Youth Monitors conduct random field visits, evaluate any changes to the youth's living situation within the community and file reports with the Juvenile Court. To ensure community safety, any activity that places the public at risk may result in removal from the program and placement in detention under the authority of the Juvenile Services Division or the Juvenile Court.

B) EAST METRO GANG ENFORCEMENT TEAM (EMGET)

The EMGET partnership reduces the impact of criminal street gangs on the citizens, schools, businesses and neighborhoods of the Cities of Gresham, Troutdale, Wood Village and unincorporated areas of East Multnomah County. EMGET includes a partnership between the City of Gresham Police Department and the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office. EMGET accomplishes five major goals to reduce gang activity:

1. Provides a high level of coordinated law enforcement;
2. Locates and identifies individuals affiliated with criminal street gangs;
3. Gathers and shares intelligence information related to criminal street gang activity;
4. Investigates crimes associated with criminal street gangs;
5. Provides an increased level of police presence in known or suspected street gang affected areas.

Table 1: East Metro Gang Enforcement Team (EMGET) Workload Measures

For the Period: 7/1/2018-6/30/2019

EMGET Measures	# Completed
Number of criminal organization related contacts	406
Number of new criminal organization members documented	97
Number of felony arrests	164
Number of misdemeanor arrests	89
Number of EMGET cases referred to the District Attorney for prosecution	98
Number of weapons seized from criminal organization members	39

Data Source: EMGET

How Does Multnomah County Maximize the Impact of GTS Funds?

Multnomah County maximizes GTS funding by leveraging local and grant resources to support gang prevention and intervention work in several ways. In order to combat the serious social and public safety problems associated with gangs and gang involvement by youth in our community, Multnomah County invests a significant amount of county general funds to combine with the GTS funding received, which allows the County to provide the important programs and services described in this report.

One way Multnomah County has leveraged local and grant revenue to maximize GTS funding is through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model Assessment and Implementation Plan. This plan offers clear, specific, and manageable strategies for ways our County can positively impact youth and families. The six strategies within the implementation plan align with the Five Core Strategies for the OJJDP Gang Model. The Local Public Safety Coordinating Council (LPSCC) Youth & Gang Violence Steering Committee has been instrumental in advancing the goals and crafting strategies to guide the implementation planning process and is leading the implementation of the plan.

GTS funding has also been maximized by the investment of county general funds to expand a model developed in Multnomah County known as the Community Healing Initiative (CHI). As previously stated, the CHI program provides culturally-specific, wraparound services to gang-involved probation youth and their families. The providers are community-based and have deep ties and connections with youth, families and the services needed (leadership development, parenting classes, mental health, drug and alcohol treatment, etc.) to reduce and reverse the cycle of violence.

Multnomah County funds an additional program that maximizes GTS funding targeting all first-time youth offenders with a qualifying low-level offense. Eligible youth are referred to Community Healing Initiative - Early Intervention (CHI-EI), a program operated by community-based, culturally-specific non profit organizations that provide support, services and referrals. Prior to July 2015, these first-time, low-level offenders received warning letters from the Multnomah County Juvenile Services Division (JSD). This early intervention and diversion program engages youth and their families with culturally-responsive care coordination and case management, school connection and reconnection assistance, pro-social activities and referrals to needed services (counseling, health, emergency assistance, etc.). This initiative was designed by a multi-disciplinary, cross sector team to help reduce disparities in the number of referrals for youth of color to the Juvenile Services Division, and reduce the likelihood that these youth return and/or penetrate more deeply into the juvenile justice system. It is also intentionally aligned with the County's OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model Assessment and Implementation Plan. CHI-EI specifically targets the strategy of intervening at the first sign of risk.

2019 Output and Outcome Measures

All Active Cases in FY2019

Table 2: Demographics of Youth* Receiving GTS Funded Services

Risk Level	Gender	Race/Ethnicity
High - 42%	Male - 83%	Caucasian - 21%
Medium - 40%	Female - 16%	Hispanic - 21%
Low - 9%		African-American - 50%
Unknown - 9%		Other - 7%

*Youth can receive multiple GTS funded services within a reporting period. See appendix for a description of data sources.

Table 3: JCP Risk Level of Youth* Receiving Funded Services

Program/Service	Unclassified/ Unavailable		Low		Medium		High		All	
RISE/GTS	0	0%	44	24%	76	41%	67	36%	187	100%
CHI**	20	26%	3	4%	20	26%	34	44%	77	100%
Shelter	3	4%	14	21%	25	37%	26	38%	68	100%
CMP	15	7%	18	8%	101	45%	92	41%	226	100%
All	51	9%	51	9%	224	40%	232	42%	558	100%

*Youth can receive multiple GTS funded services within a reporting period. See appendix for a description of data sources.

**Includes only CHI youth with a valid Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) number in the data

Table 4: Gender Distribution of Youth* Receiving Funded Services

Program/Service	Male		Female		Non-Conforming		All Participants	
RISE/GTS	174	93%	13	7%	0	0%	187	100%
CHI	102	76%	29	21%	4	3%	135	100%
Shelter	56	82%	12	18%	0	0%	68	100%
CMP	181	80%	45	20%	0	0%	226	100%
All	513	83%	99	16%	4	1%	616	100%

*Youth can receive multiple GTS funded services within a reporting period. See appendix for description of data sources.

Table 5: Race/Ethnicity Distribution of Youth* Receiving Funded Services

Program /Service	African-American		Hispanic		Caucasian		Other/Unknown		All Participants	
RISE/GTS	98	52%	26	14%	51	27%	12	6%	187	100%
CHI	90	67%	43	32%	0	0%	2	1%	135	100%
Shelter	17	25%	23	34%	20	29%	8	12%	68	100%
CMP	105	46%	40	18%	58	26%	23	10%	226	100%
All	310	50%	132	21%	129	21%	45	7%	616	100%

*Youth can receive multiple GTS funded services within a reporting period. See appendix for description of data sources.

Table 6: Program Completion

Program/Service	Complete		Incomplete		All Participants	
RISE/GTS	34	64%	19	36%	53	100%
Shelter	34	63%	20	37%	54	100%
CMP	184	81%	44	19%	228	100%
All	252	75%	83	25%	335	100%

** Completion events differ by program: RISE/GTS includes completion of community supervision without escalation to an OYA commitment or a charge filed in adult criminal court; Shelter completions are exits to live at home or to live in an appropriate community placement (not Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) nor OYA); Community Monitoring Program includes completion of service without an abscond or new crime.*

**No completion/exit status data for CHI due to the fact that CHI youth may continue in CHI services past probation completion.*

Table 7: School & Employment Training Engagement for Closed RISE/GTS & CHI

	Yes		No		Unknown		Total	
Graduated/GED/Enrolled*	97	73%	27	20%	9	7%	133	100%
Career Development/ Job Training Program**	39	29%	91	68%	3	2%	133	100%
Either graduated/enrolled or received career development training	108	81%	23	17%	2	2%	133	100%

** Reflects available education data;*

***Services counted include: ALPHA school-based career training, construction training programs, garden restorative justice programs; culinary training programs, SE Works job training, and other related stipend/incentive programs.*

Table 8: Youth who received a new criminal referral while in Programs

Program/Service	No Recidivism		Recidivism*		All Participants	
RISE/GTS	121	69%	54	31%	175	100%
CHI**	65	84%	12	16%	77	100%
Shelter	54	79%	14	21%	68	100%
CMP	197	87%	29	13%	226	100%
All	437	80%	109	20%	546	100%

*Recidivism is defined as a new felony or misdemeanor law violation referral, regardless of whether or not the referral was adjudicated.

**Of 118 primary youth clients who exited in FY19, only 77 have a JJIS ID on the record.

Table 9: Youth Committed to OYA while receiving funded services

Program/Service	OYA Youth Correctional Facility Commitment		OYA Residential Commitment		No Commitments		All Participants	
RISE/GTS	12	7%	15	9%	148	85%	175	100%
CHI	4	5%	3	4%	70	91%	77	100%
Shelter	0	0%	0	0%	68	100%	68	100%
CMP	2	1%	5	2%	219	97%	226	100%
All	18	3%	23	4%	505	92%	546	100%

Table 10: Outcome Trends

Program/Service	FY 2018	FY 2019
Program Completion	75%	75%
No New Criminal Referrals	80%	80%
No OYA Placements	91%	92%

A Closer Look: Youth Profiles CHI Probation

The following stories are written by care managers working with probation youth in the CHI program. Names have been changed to protect individuals' identities.

Story # 1 Martin was referred to Latino Network in June 2018 on a possession of weapon charge. He was in high school when that incident happened. Family was engaged with Latino Network and Martin's sister, nieces and nephews participated in the Spring and Summer Academia. Martin completed community service through Latino Network, during that time he showed responsibility, accountability and willingness to help. He graduated high school, got a full time job, and moved out of his home and is currently still living on his own with his partner. He has a car, and is financially independent. Martin is enrolled in Mt. Hood Community College studying to obtain an engineering degree. He aced his last midterms, and his long term goals are working in Germany.

Since his probation period ended in August 2019, he has not incurred not even a parking ticket. He is extremely goal oriented, and we have no doubt that he will attain all his goals

Story # 2 August 2016 to December 2019; what a powerful journey of resilience, value building, and change for Antonio. Back in 2016 when Antonio and his family first connected with CHI, Antonio's priorities were negative peer influences, marijuana use, and earning money in illegitimate ways. He didn't value the love and support of his mother and grandmother at home, instead focusing his time in the streets of Portland with friends he was loyal to, no matter how dangerous their collective goals and motivations were. Eventually, Antonio and his peers were caught for a string of burglaries in Portland, leading to a temporary commitment to OYA for community placement. He was fortunate not to be fully committed to OYA for placement at MacLaren Youth Correctional Facility. He was given a chance, which he initially took advantage of. The structured setting in a treatment center over 120 miles away from home, in Eugene, and space away from the negative environmental influences in Portland led to a period of growth and success for Antonio. He started thinking about completing high school and starting college at the University of Oregon in order to earn legitimate money in a business related career. After passing 2 of his 4 GED tests, he transitioned to a more independent living program in Junction City. However, he became home sick and didn't advocate with his team about his needs in an effective manner about his desire to return to Portland. He chose to run away instead. He stayed on warrant status for almost three months before turning himself in. Antonio bounced back well from the second opportunity his Judge gave him. He was able to transition back to his grandmother's home, worked as an assistant basketball coach for middle school youth, and took advantage of Summerworks internship opportunities. While he made progress with his positive social network and valuing the influence of his mother and grandmother, he wasn't paying back restitution in order to fully take accountability for the burglaries and earn his way off probation. In the summer of 2019, he failed to appear for court because he felt

embarrassed that he hadn't taken care of his restitution payments. He had let down his family, team and the Judge again.

After a few weeks, he was picked up on his warrant and broke down emotionally to his grandmother while he was in juvenile detention. What if his elderly grandmother had passed away while he was on the run for a third time in three years? What would her lasting memories of her grandson be? She had shown up to all his court hearings despite her mobility challenges and had always welcomed him back to her home because she believed in his ability to be a successful young man. This was the ultimate, most genuine turning point. Over the next 6 weeks, he attended Project Payback 4 days per week and paid back over \$2,000 in restitution. He was featured in the first CHI Success Story video, his story of restorative justice was shared with a Multnomah County District Attorney Candidate, his Judge, family and team were able to see him in court one last time in December 2019, not for any negative consequences, but for a positive one; he had successfully completed probation. He was able to see the joy in everyone's face for the accomplishment, none more valuable than that of his grandmother.

Appendix

The following is a brief description of GTS-funded programs and the data sources used for Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 contained in this GTS Annual Report.

RISE

RISE focuses on providing supervision and case-management to gang-impacted/gang-affected, high-risk youth. Youth receive an assessment using the Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP) risk assessment tool. For each youth, an assigned Juvenile Court Counselor develops an individualized case plan that reflects the youth's criminogenic risks and needs. Juvenile Court Counselors work closely with law enforcement to prevent crime and violence by collaborating on prevention efforts. Data is comprised of youth on GTS-funded RISE caseloads. These data are pulled from our Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).

CHI

The target population for CHI program includes African American and Latino youth, who are on probation through Multnomah County Juvenile Court. CHI provides educational and vocational services, counseling, mental health and addiction treatment, mentoring and other services in a culturally appropriate setting designed to strengthen a youth's pro-social connections to the community and maximize his or her community supports.

A database of youth referred to CHI services is maintained by ServicePoint. Youth served in this reporting period (including new cases, closed cases, and carry-over cases from previous years) were matched with youth's JJIS data to gather information such as risk level and new criminal offense for this report.

Shelter & CMP-Detention Alternatives

As one of several detention alternatives, GTS-funded shelter care serves youth at risk of gang involvement to prevent them from being placed in a more expensive youth correctional facility while ensuring public protection. A shelter database maintained by DCJ Research and Planning was used mainly for gathering the data for this report. Data on JCP risk level, re-offense, and OYA commitment were gathered separately from JJIS for the shelter youth to generate statistics needed for the annual reports.

The Community Monitoring Program (CMP) provides supervision and support to assure public safety and the youth's presence for court hearings while reserving the use of costly detention bed spaces for higher risk youth. This program also serves as an immediate sanction for youth who have gone to court and need additional support and supervision to assure compliance with probation. A combination of CMP database and JJIS reports provided by County IT in SQL server was used as data sources for this report.



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POIC Rosemary Anderson High School
717 N. Killingsworth Court, Portland, OR 97217

Written Testimony shared with the Joint Ways and Means, Public Safety Subcommittee via phone conference

July 24, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs, Sollman and Manning, and Subcommittee Members:

My name is Julia Mitchell, Chief Operating Officer at POIC, in Portland/Multnomah County

The Community Healing Initiative program funded by Multnomah County Department of Community Justice began in 2011.

This past year CHI served 170 African American families and 650 individuals throughout Multnomah County. This program works to keep youth of color who are disproportionately overrepresented in detention out of detention.

Reducing GTS funding would be detrimental to the African American lives we support and serve. This funding is a good investment in our community.

CHI's role today is supporting families through systemic racism, racial trauma, and racial inequities.

- CHI is a culturally specific model for prevention, intervention and supervision. It is designed to address root causes of youth violence.
- CHI is focused on probation youth with involvement in high-risk activities and behaviors such as gun violence and gangs.
- CHI Probation Youth have 10% lower recidivism rates than comparable youth not involved in CHI.
- CHI works with the entire family system, not just the targeted youth (parents/guardians, siblings).
- Our families are impacted by gentrification and disparities in all systems: employment, education, health, housing, income, and the justice system.
- CHI supports the school districts to help reduce violence and to help youth challenged to have a positive experience in schools.
- The spread of COVID-19 is disproportionately negative impact on African American families. CHI Care Managers work to help families reduce the stressors and barriers

caused by COVID related matters by connecting the families to services in the community to support their households.

CHI Goals are to:

- Reduce involvement in the juvenile justice system
- Reduce/eliminate gang-involvement and gang-related behaviors
- Reduce youth violence and juvenile delinquency
- Reduce felonies and arrests of African American and Latino family members
- Increase academic achievement

Success Stories

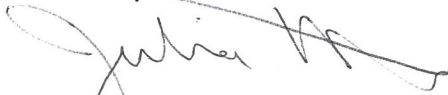
Quincy, aged 17, worked with CHI for 2 year while on probation. Gang impacted, he struggles in the community, received several probation violations, and spent time in detention. Mom struggled with sobriety and was incarcerated several times throughout his life. Quincy was an average student at school, but his anger got in the way off his own success, as he had been kicked out of several schools. CHI helped him enroll at Rosemary Anderson High School (RAHS). He attended RAHS's Historically Black College Heritage tour. Quincy successfully completed probation, graduated from RAHS, and is working full time. He is also looking forward to attending college in the fall.

In Closing

There's a number of similar stories like Quincy's. CHI is saving lives; keeping our youth in school, out of detention, and helping to reduce the school to prison pipeline. Reducing disparities in the juvenile justice system is critical and keeping African American youth out of detention and in the community is also critical.

In my humble opinion, it is imperative that funding for this program remains at its current level, at the very least.

Thank you,



Julia Mitchell
Chief Operating Officer
POIC+RAHS

Department of Community Justice



Juvenile Services Division Administration

TO: Senator James Manning, Co-Chair
Representative Janeen Sollman, Co-Chair
Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Public Safety

DATE: July 24, 2020

RE: Item 190 Reduction in Multnomah County gang intervention funding

For the record, my name is Deena Corso and I am the Juvenile Services Division Director for Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice. I am testifying before you today on behalf of Multnomah County regarding the proposed reductions to the Multnomah County gang intervention funding, Item #190 on the Co-Chair 2020 Rebalance Plan.

This funding allows Multnomah County to provide critical community-based, family-focused, culturally-responsive services to high-risk gang-impacted youth in our community. This funding passes through OYA to fill a unique need that Multnomah County has for serving justice-involved youth. Moreover, these programs have been shown to reduce recidivism, build youth and family strengths and prevent the need for placement in detention or a youth correctional facility, as described in the 2019 Annual Report to the Legislature that has been submitted to the Committee on OLIS. Services funded by this resource include:

Community Healing Initiative (CHI)

The CHI program is a collaboration between the County and two culturally-specific community providers, **Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)** and **Latino Network** and is designed to reduce youth and gang violence in Multnomah County by addressing its root causes. Each family receives a Care Manager that conducts a comprehensive assessment and develops an individualized family service plan. Services are tailored to meet a family's unique needs and strive to prevent Black and Latinx youth from committing new crimes, further penetrating into the justice system, and/or being placed in correctional facilities.

Shelter Care

As a national leader in detention reform, Multnomah County utilizes short-term shelter care as an alternative for youth who would otherwise be placed in detention pending resolution of their court case. Shelter care services offer high risk youth an opportunity to remain safely in the community under enhanced structure and supervision. Multnomah County contracts with **Boys and Girls Aid** and **Maple Star Oregon** to provide shelter services which assist with

behavioral stabilization, strengthen individual and family relationships, utilize evidence-based practices and strength-based approaches to address the criminogenic needs of the youth, and facilitate the youth's reintegration back to the family and/or community. The majority of youth receiving these services are Black or Latinx.

Community Monitoring Program (CMP)

Another vital alternative to detention in Multnomah County is the Community Monitoring Program (CMP) which allows high risk youth who would otherwise be in detention pre-adjudication to remain in the community under the supervision of **Volunteers of America's (VOA)** Youth Monitors. This program gives youth greater opportunity to demonstrate accountability and responsibility and to remain connected to their families, communities, schools, and community-based providers.

Resource Intervention Services to Empower (RISE)

RISE provides probation supervision to high-risk, gang-affected, justice-involved youth using strategies that are tailored to each youth's issues, strengths, needs, culture and environmental influences. RISE focuses on medium and high-risk youth on supervision and their families by utilizing Functional Family Probation Services (FFPS), an evidence-based case management model. Skill building, mentoring, intensive family-based counseling, culturally-appropriate services, community support systems, educational advocacy and the incorporation of positive, age-appropriate activities are all used to counter gang involvement. In partnership with the Community Healing Initiative (CHI) Team, Juvenile Court Counselors (JCCs) develop probation case plans to address each youth and family's unique needs.

Outcomes

In Calendar Year 2019, 675 duplicated youth received services from one or more of these four programs. Black youth make up 46% of those served and 23% identify as Latinx. **Of all youth served, 80% did not receive a new criminal referral while in the program and 93% did not escalate to an Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) community placement or youth correctional facility.**

This funding is braided with local County General Fund to provide an important investment in the lives of gang-impacted youth and their families. At a time when racial justice and criminal justice transformation are being demanded by communities across the state and across the nation, the types of programs and services that this funding provides are needed more than ever.



CITY OF GRESHAM

July 24, 2020

Joint Committee on Way and Means, Public Safety Subcommittee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Se. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Testimony on East Metro Gang Enforcement Team

Dear Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

As your Committee considers the deep cuts necessary to address the COVID-19 economic crisis, and the State's current economic reality, the City of Gresham understands the need for the services funded through this Committee, but provided by the City of Gresham, to be reduced proportionately with other services, but we urge the Committee not to go any deeper than that.

We also understand the need to revisit the format, composition, and deployment of gang services to ensure that they are conducted in a way that is consistent with the State's values, focused on opportunities for effective prevention and community partnerships. We want to undergo that examination and work with the Legislature in the 2021 Session to achieve this shared goal.

The East Metro Gang Enforcement Team has worked in concert with community partnerships in recent years, as evidenced by the testimony provided by the Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center in this Committee during the 2019 Session. Gresham has partnered with POIC for prevention services like late night basketball, and for civilian outreach services who work in tandem with EMGET officers, seek to prevent incidents before they happen, and work to curtail retaliation if a tragedy does occur.

The Gresham Police Department, thanks in part to this investment from the State of Oregon, has a homicide "solve rate" that is substantially higher than the national average. We are eager to work with Legislators, both locally in our delegation, and on this Committee, to ensure that the services we provide are highly effective and consistent with the Committee's goals. We look forward to this conversation leading up to, and during, the 2021 Session.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director



**Testimony of Ricardo Lujan-Valerio, Director of Advocacy
Regarding Item #189 - Oregon Youth Authority
Joint Interim Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
July 24th, 2020**

Co-Chair Manning Jr., Co-Chair Sollman, and Members of the Committee:

Latino Network¹ appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on Item #189 of the Co-Chair 2020 Rebalance Plan - agency Reduction Detail. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to expose the disproportionate impact and lack of services to historically underserved communities, we urge you to support current services provided by community-based organizations.

Item #189 allows Multnomah County to partner with community-based organizations in providing probation & parole navigation, case management, and mentoring for youth in high risk of navigating the criminal justice system. For nearly a decade, Latino Network has effectively served the highest risk impacted youth and their families with our culturally specific intervention program - Community Health Initiative (CHI). CHI engages our highest risk, adjudicated Latinx youth on probation and parole to set and pursue positive life goals and to avoid future incarceration. Most recently, Latino Network, in partnership with Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice and POIC, have successfully served youth upstream at first arrest to divert, intervene, prevent recidivism while addressing mass incarceration disproportionately affecting communities of color.

This past year, we have been able to serve 45 youth navigating our criminal justice system through parole and received 126 referrals for early intervention. Additionally through the Parent Partnership, we created a juvenile justice Parent Handbook for families first coming into the system and have our parent advocate attend court every week to provide in person support and guidance to parents entering the courtroom. Without the funding provided by the state in Item #189, Latino Network's ability to coordinate with the Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) and our county partners will be significantly hindered.

¹ Latino Network is a culturally-specific nonprofit serving Latinx youth and families in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties. Our organization provides transformative services to over 8,000 Latinx youth, families, and community members in multiple areas including education, family stability, and advocacy.

COVID-19 has made Latino Network's work with our community more important than ever. Since the start of the pandemic and the recent political attacks to our immigrant community by the federal government, our youth navigating the criminal justice system have faced significant barriers in fulfilling their responsibilities to mitigate further detention. The fear recently inflicted to our community through ICE subpoenas and COVID-19 affecting our participants' ability to physically check in with the appropriate county officials during probation & parole required Latino Network to work closely with our county partners and our participants to ensure trust and confidence in fulfilling their responsibilities.

Lastly, Latino Network requests that the legislature rename this fund allocation. The level of intervention that our team provides is rooted in community and works to prevent interactions with our criminal justice system that disproportionately affect our young community members. Latino Network does not participate in gang enforcement; this title misrepresents the long-lasting and dedicated relationship we have built with our community.

We respectfully request the continuing funding of this program (Item #189) and the renaming of this fund. Thank you for your time and consideration. We respectfully request that the county continue to support the essential services our organization and our partners administer for the community.



**To: Members of the Joint Interim Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Public Safety**

From: Jason Myers, Executive Director
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Kevin Campbell, Executive Director
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police

Date: July 24, 2020

**Re: Testimony re Reductions to Police Basic Training Classes at the
Department of Public Safety Standards and Training**

Good afternoon Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Association Chiefs of Police and the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association, please accept this testimony expressing concern regarding the reduction of funding for three police basic training classes from the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training budget (Item #401). If these cuts are finalized, the final basic training class that will be available in this biennium will start in September. That means that no basic training classes will be held until July of 2021, an 8 month period. Currently, there are over 200 full-time police officer positions that are vacant, with more expected in the next few months and this number doesn't include vacancies in the Oregon State Police or the Portland Police Bureau. If the reductions stand, agencies who hire officers will have to wait 24 months at the earliest for an officer to complete their training and return to their agency to begin their additional field training requirements.

We urge the committee to restore funding for these three basic training classes. We believe our basic training curriculum is one of the most advanced in the United States. President Obama's 21st Century Policing Report recommendations are integrated throughout the training curriculum and the academy is regularly updating training to insure that best practices are in place that ensure we are achieving just and equitable outcomes for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration!

July 24, 2020

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman
Members of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

Thank you for the opportunity to present this written testimony today. Oregon Child Abuse Solutions (OCAS), the network of Oregon's Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) understands that there are difficult decisions ahead as you weigh the needs of our communities and limited State resources. We are thankful for your dedication and leadership as you make these decisions.

OCAS appreciates the Tri-Chair's stated priority of protecting and preserving "Child welfare investments and other programs providing benefits to those most in need." and, "Department of Justice child support enforcement, domestic and sexual violence programs, civil rights investigations, and other services." Our members fit this description perfectly, as the entities that provide child abuse medical assessments, forensic interviews, and follow up treatments, therapies and family advocacy for children when abuse is suspected. We are thankful for this stated prioritization, especially considering the very limited funding that CACs currently receive from the State.

Despite providing statutorily mandated services, State dollars only comprised 17% of CAC budgets pre-COVID, causing access issues—particularly in rural areas where many CACs have limited access to private donors. Like many others, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a whole new set of challenges for CACs. Cases of child abuse are on the rise, as abuse thrives in times of stress and isolation.

In June 2020, CACs assessed more children for abuse than they did in June 2019—even with social distancing measures in place, and children being isolated from caring adults who might usually intervene in cases of abuse. And, CACs are reporting that the children they serve are presenting with more complex and severe cases of abuse. As well, the cost of providing care per child has increased due to the increased severity, social distancing within CACs, sanitation and other safety measures, and the cost of expensive telemedicine equipment. Simultaneously, private funding for CACs—which our members rely heavily on due to chronic underfunding from the State—dropped suddenly and dramatically as the economy took a downturn. All of these factors are compounding, and have left the future of CACs in a dangerous position. For these reasons, CACs are seeking emergency funding of \$2.4M to address the needs arising from COVID-19. In the future, we will also need to address the ongoing issue of chronic underfunding.

This need is urgent and real today—and OCAS is expecting it to further increase, since both previous recessions and resumption of the school year historically leads to increased reports of child abuse, and subsequent referrals to CACs. As well, during these challenging times—while children are facing unprecedented rates of abuse and the outside world can seem equally dark, the follow-up services and trauma-focused therapies offered at CACs are critically important.

When children are unable to access a CAC in a timely manner due to the CAC's long waitlist caused by budget constraints, they might instead be re-routed to receive care at an Emergency Room, or be interviewed at a police station. On a normal day, these approaches are more traumatic, less specialized and tailored to the needs of the child, and subsequently impede their chance at justice, since the evidence collected might be of a lesser quality. During a pandemic, it is especially nonsensical to route a child away from a more appropriate care setting into a busy hospital emergency department.

Additionally, DHS caseworkers rely heavily on the work of CACs. CACs operate independently from DHS, but do provide diagnoses and critical information that caseworkers rely upon when developing safety plans and making critical decisions on the placement, or removal, of a child. Without the information provided by expert medical providers at CACs, caseworkers are forced to make life-altering decisions without all of the information. OCAS feels that recent DHS audit highlights the need for increased investment to community partners, like CACs.

Put simply, Oregon's Children's Advocacy Centers cannot sustain any budget cuts. Already, CACs have had to lay off staff and in some cases, limit services. Waitlists are growing, and the children who need and deserve our services are not always getting them. Children's Advocacy Centers need more funding, not less. We remain thankful to the Tri-Chairs for their recognition of the importance of preserving critical services that programs funded by DOJ and CVSSD, including CACs, provide.

Sincerely,

Becky Jones
Executive Director
Oregon Child Abuse Solutions



Family Preservation Project

Current Status & COVID-19 Impact

The Family Preservation Project is a proven model for strengthening families and communities, helping mothers take ownership of their lives and changing the lives of children with an incarcerated parent, reducing trauma and providing support they do not receive anywhere else.

CURRENT STATUS

FPP has been able to facilitate critical communications among moms, kids, caregivers, caseworkers, attorneys, community corrections, juvenile justice workers, mental health professionals, and community-based resources. And we are doing this work on the slimmest of margins and with emergency grant funds that are short-term funding resources.

We are extremely grateful to DOC for extending a high level of trust in FPP staff so that we can continue providing critical services and we would highlight that the partnership efforts with DOC and CCCF has been in the best interest of the women, their children, the caregivers and Oregon's public safety system. **It is in everyone's interest that in a time of crisis we are supporting the marginalized and underserved.**

Although the Family Preservation Project was to be funded in the final budget reconciliation bill of the 2020 legislative session, it (like everything else at the end of session) did not have the opportunity to pass. This means that **the program received no state funds for this biennium**, a critical funding source for the existence of the program. To cover just staffing for the second half of the biennium would require \$250,000.

The YWCA of Greater Portland understands that we are in unprecedented times and that the impacts on the economy and the State's budget are staggering. However, the YWCA of Greater Portland will continue to advocate for state funds to support this program and its services, **otherwise this gender-responsive and trauma-informed suite of services that serves more women than any other program available in the facility will cease as we know it.**

This means:

- Children of incarcerated mothers, an overlooked and underserved population of often marginalized children, will lose critical supports = **inequitable outcomes.**
- Reduction in participants recidivism will be eliminated = **increased costs.**
- State services for children and caregivers that were a part of the program will increase = **increased costs.**

RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The FPP model is built upon in-person supports and family visitation opportunities. With the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to respond and regroup in the face of unprecedented circumstances. We've done so by working closely with the Department of Corrections and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility staff, developing new ways of connecting with incarcerated women and their children, and continuing to innovate on how best to support this vulnerable and often overlooked population within the current environment.

- **March:** FPP staff learned that effective March 13 all non-essential staff would no longer be permitted access to Coffee Creek Correctional Facility (CCCF).
 - Without physical access to the FPP offices at CCCF, we did not have access to our phones, email or files. This would essentially end all program activities.
 - FPP staff quickly gathered as much of the contact information for families, and names and identification numbers for our program participants.
 - FPP launched a pen pal initiative, "You Are Not Forgotten."
 - Recognizing that FPP participants would be cut off from all program staff and service providers, staff sought an avenue to provide some personal connection during a time of crisis.
 - Pen pals are asked to write 3 letters a week and are invited to send in books through Amazon or Thrift Books.
 - To date, we have been able to match over 125 women outside with women in custody.
 - FPP is able to provide support services via telephone and messaging.
 - FPP staff worked with DOC/CCCF staff to register FPP phones and emails with the prison telecommunications system. Allowed us remote access to those lines. This is a major and unprecedented step for the program and our partnership with DOC/CCCF.
 - Also worked with DOC staff to create a mechanism for the CCCF mailroom to forward kytes (inter-facility communication) on a weekly basis so that we could respond to requests from existing and new participants.
 - Lastly, we worked with DOC to receive remote access to our state email-making it easier to remain in contact with professionals and community partners regarding our participants.
 - FPP is paying for all of the communication with participants so there is no cost to the women in custody.
- **Mother's Day:** Mother's Day is a dark day for the mothers incarcerated at Coffee Creek. Many incarcerated mothers lack the financial resources to reach out to their families by phone or video visits. Consequently, their children spend Mother's Day missing their mother's - not being able to touch them or hear the sound of their voice. This year, due to the Covid-19 epidemic, many incarcerated mothers have not touched or seen their children in months. In order to support these moms and their children, FPP sought provide all 140 women currently receiving services through FPP with a Mother's Day video visit:
 - Colin Meloy of the Decemberists put on an Instagram Live concert to benefit FPP. In a few days- this effort brought in over \$1,000 in donations. This allowed the YWCA Family Preservation Project to place funds on over 130 women's accounts for video visits.
 - Women and families who are alumnae of the Family Preservation Project showed up for the women inside and their children by making donations; leaning into one of the things that we hold most dearly, the idea of lifting each other up

- In one week, we raised funds to support 362 video visits or 566 phone calls between incarcerated mothers and their children in celebration of Mother's Day.
- This represents over 60 individuals giving \$45.
- This seemingly small effort made a concrete difference in the lives of roughly 400 individuals on a very difficult day during a very difficult time.
- **Ongoing** – continuing to provide:
 - Support to women who do not have the financial resources to communicate with their children over video and phone.
 - Essential items and support to caregiving families to ease the burden of both full-time parenting and home-schooling with few resources.
 - Caregiver/Grandparent support group over Zoom so that the community can support one another during these unprecedented times.
 - "You Are Not Forgotten" pen pal initiative.
 - Work to remove the current barriers that exist around securing housing during COVID, which if left unresolved, can lead to women needing to remain in custody beyond their earliest release date.

EXAMPLES OF INNOVATIVE SERVICE DELIVERY DUE TO COVID-19:

- A mom in treatment lost her AIP (alternative incarceration program) leave – program that allows participants to leave custody based on different requirements than those of a general release. Her 7-year-old son lives with his 19-year-old sister (a new mom herself). The 7-year-old is on the spectrum and does not cope well with uncertainty or change. The mom was told that unless she could identify a housing solution for her transitional leave in June, she would not be released until November. The women inside are not connected with release counselors until they are very close to their release date and this mom was unsure how she was going to be able to find housing. We were able to help her reach out to Community Corrections and transitional housing in her county. She was able to secure a bed and therefore keep her transitional leave date so she will be released in June instead of having to wait until November.
 - We are providing the same sort of support for a number of women, ensuring that they are released per the timeline established prior to the pandemic and ensuring that correctional facilities do not have more people than had been planned.
- A mom recently had a new DHS case opened. There had been a previous case which was closed with the establishment of a guardianship. Unbeknownst to the mom, the guardianship had failed and her 10-year-old son went through multiple subsequent placements, eventually ending up in a residential psychiatric facility. She received paperwork stating that the case had been reopened and that there was a court date set, but no communication from a caseworker. We were able to review the orders with her and answer her questions, and helped her make contact with her caseworker and attorney. She is advocating to be able to communicate with her son's therapist and to be able to start having written contact with him.
- Another mom who completed 5 of 6 months of her treatment program, but did not graduate due to the program shutting down because of the pandemic, has an open DHS case. The plan is for guardianship with the current caregivers with a visitation plan in place. She will release to transitional housing. Due to a child neglect charge, it is stipulated that contact with her children, who she has been seeing every two weeks, would be at the direction of the parole officer. FPP has been able to identify

and contact the PO, the DHS caseworker, her attorney and the transitional housing program to ensure that contact would not be disrupted and that a mediated agreement post-guardianship would be in place through the courts.

LASTLY, FAMILY PRESERVATION PROJECT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE CHILDREN OF OREGON:

- 84% of incarcerated mothers had at least 1 child living with them before incarceration and are more likely than men to serve as the custodial parent of their children.
- Children of incarcerated mothers are 2.5 times more likely to also become incarcerated in their lifetime than if their father is incarcerated. They are also at much greater risk of dropping out of school and academic challenges.
- Having a parent in prison can have an impact on a child's mental health, social behavior, and educational prospects.
- Over half of incarcerated mothers do not see their children during their incarceration.
- Research shows that for incarcerated mothers, family connections are the best indicator of successful re-entry.

We appreciate your consideration and review of this information.

Sincerely,

YWCA of Greater Portland

Susan Stoltenberg, Executive Director

Jessica Katz, FPP Project Director

Current & Former FPP Participants

Nova Sweet

Sophia Montoya

Ashley Dorety

Kendra Wright

Maria Frias

Autumn Dowty

Ashley Doherty

James Sherrod

Michelle Plummer

Crystal Magana

Maura Olsson

Kristen Mannion

Leannette Morales

Patricia Dexter

Ebony Howard

Casey Hough

Roxanne Ritter

Angie Sherer

Elaine Doherty

Vanessa Sharrod

Kessa Hulse

Lanetta Garner

Isabel McDaniel

Deserea Barclay

Misty Folmsbee

Robin Romm

Rhiannon Miller

Beth Melnick

Attachment:

- HB 4131 one-pager:
 - HB 4131 was introduced in the 2020 legislative session. The bill did not progress, but funding for FPP was included in the budget reconciliation bill that ended up not being able to move.
 - Chief Sponsors: Reps. Piluso, Prusak, Neron, Bynum, Helt, Sanchez and Senator Frederick.
 - Regular Sponsors: Reps. Alonso Leon, Barker, Doherty, Gorsek, Greenlick, Helm, Holvey, Keny-Guyer, Leif, Lively, Meek, Moore-Green, Nearman, Nosse, Power, Schouten, Sollman, Wilde, Williams; Senators Beyer, Boles, Dembrow, Gelser, Hansell, Knopp, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Roblan, Thatcher, Thomsen, Wagner.



TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety
FROM: Mae Lee Browning, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA)
DATE: July 24, 2020
RE: 2020 Rebalance Plan, Public Safety Section

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman and Members of the Committee:

Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (OCDLA) submits this testimony regarding the budget rebalance proposal.

OCDLA has been the leading voice for public defense policy in Oregon for over 40 years representing 1,200 providers statewide. Our members work with youth in the juvenile justice system, parents whose children have been removed, children in foster care, and adults in the criminal justice system, appeals, civil commitments, and post-conviction relief proceedings. Our members include public defense providers who work in non-profit public defender offices and consortia, private bar attorneys, and investigators. We advocate at the state and local level to support adoption of public policies that support providers and their clients based on best practices for just outcomes.

OCDLA recognizes the monumental task ahead of this committee now in rebalancing the state budget in the short-term and the challenges you face will only grow in 2021. We appreciate the release of a portion of the SPA dollars for the Public Defense Services Commission by the E-board earlier this year and we also appreciate the seemingly modest reductions proposed for the agency (items 200-201) at this time.

That being said, OCDLA feels the need to continue to remind this committee, and the entire legislative body, that the serious challenges facing the provision of criminal defense services that led to allocating a Special Projects Appropriation in the first place still exist. And they have only been compounded by COVID-19.

While medical professionals are easily and frequently identified as frontline workers during COVID, less obvious is that those who work in Oregon's court systems are frontline workers as well. As you know, public defense providers enter their clients' lives in times of distress. Today, not only are they navigating a legal system complicated by a pandemic and putting their health and safety on the line when they have to appear in court in person, they are also helping clients who are at a heightened risk of contracting COVID-19 while incarcerated or engaged in court proceedings.

Public defense providers are scrambling to continue to provide high-quality legal services and preserve the constitutional rights of their clients during this pandemic. The typical challenging workload for public defense providers across the state has become compounded as they navigate new restrictions on court proceedings, in-person court appearances, encounter new difficulties communicating with clients while trying to balance social distancing and confidential

communications, and pleas offers are being made that do not help them fairly and adequately resolve their cases. Public defense providers have been seeing their caseloads continue to increase and some caseloads are higher than they were pre-pandemic.

We encourage this Committee to keep these factors in mind as you review proposed reductions to Oregon Public Defense Services, the Oregon Judicial Department, the Department of Corrections, and the Oregon Department of Justice.

Some things to consider as you review the Agency Reduction List:

- ensuring that technology/information systems reductions don't impede attorney/client communication (phone/message) for AICs and youth in the correctional system . . . as COVID has closed down in-person visits, the phone system is very strained and lack of telephone/video access to clients impedes attorneys' ability to adequately represent their clients.
- the impacts of reductions at DOJ for crime survivor services (159)
- the impacts of reductions to the Forensics Lab (169)
- impacts of reducing community-based addiction treatment at OYA (178)

Again, we thank the Committee for your time and thoughtful consideration, and we acknowledge the unenviable job ahead of you now and in the future. We look forward to working with you to preserve and ensure high-quality public defense services in Oregon.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mae Lee Browning, J.D.
Legislative Director, OCDLA

Subcommittee On Public Safety Hearing on 2020 Rebalance Plan for the 2019-21 Biennium - Testimony by John Calhoun – 7-24-2020 on behalf of Tax Fairness Oregon

The COVID pandemic has made it difficult for our judiciary to do its job. Many trials are not taking place and staff are being furloughed. Justice delayed is justice denied. Yet instead of adding funds to help deal with this crisis we are cutting millions from the court system. We are also cutting millions from the Oregon Youth Authority at a time when educational services for youth are also being cut.

And there is no reason to do so.

There are about 12 tax provisions in the CARES Act. We're concerned about the first 4 listed in the [LRO document](#). They total \$250 million dollars of new tax breaks snuck into the CARES Act, \$250 million that will stay in the pockets of the already rich, **unless you disconnect**.

Legislators need to act now, before 2020 taxes are filed to disconnect from these provisions. The legislature has no habit of taking tax breaks away from the wealthy retroactively, so this is work for 2020.

This issue is not just a revenue issue. It is also a wealthy divide issue, and an issue for the People of Color Caucus.

The benefits of these four measures will overwhelmingly go to the very wealthy, and they are overwhelmingly white.

You have a choice. Damage our justice system by making these budget cuts in order to pay for checks to the wealthiest, or just disconnect. Will you insist that these new tax breaks, created by Congress in March of this year, be addressed this year?

TO: Co-Chairs Senator Manning and Representative Sollman and all the members of the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety

Date: 7/24

Subject: State public safety budget and police reform

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness in the Tri-County area. Central City Concern operates about 2,100 units of affordable housing, serves 9,000 patients annually through our 13 Federally Qualified Health Centers, makes 1,200 job placements annually. These programs include both criminal and legal system reentry and diversion services for just under 1,200 people annually. **Our programs and properties span Districts 33,36,42,43,44,45,46,47,48 and 50**

Police Reform

Now is the time to protect and invest in our social safety net. Critical services like housing, health care and economic stability programs are needed now more than ever. While we understand the budget constraints the State of Oregon is under, we need our state leadership to value and center communities most impacted by poverty, homelessness and COVID-19. Public safety should begin and end with public health. We ask:

- **Prioritizing the voices of people who have experienced police violence first hand and center Black lives and Black communities** who have disproportionately been harmed by police voice and use of force. “Expert” testimony should not be limited to people who are part of the current system, but must include experts who can speak to reform.
- **Prioritizing state public safety funds for community-based solutions** by Divest from incarceration and corrections to invest in local communities.
 - **Close Warner Creek and Shutter Creek** institutions to save money (right now the prison population is down)
 - Funds that are passed through to local jurisdictions should be geared towards for culturally specific community-based interventions through health and human services rather than continued over-policing and over incarceration of Black, Indigenous and people of color.
- **Make changes in policies and laws to reduce the current over incarceration** of African Americans, especially people who experience poverty and behavioral health conditions. This includes significant sentencing reform and reinvestment in 2021 by **eliminating mandatory sentencing**
- **Make changes to policies and laws that maintain barriers** to housing, employment, health care and social goods for people who have experienced incarceration. These barriers are ultimately drivers of homelessness and poverty, we will never be able to fully address homelessness if criminal records continue to be used to deny access to stable housing and economic independence. This committee could also review policies and practices for automatic OHP enrollment and warm-hand offs to health and human service providers who can support care engagement and housing placement immediately upon release.

- **Pass legislation to actually end the use of tear gas and chokeholds.** During the recent state special session Central City Concern initially supported legislation introduced that would have eliminated the use of tear gas and chokeholds. We are deeply concerned that the final language that was passed will do more to further institutionalize the use of these mechanisms than to eliminate their use. Our residents in downtown buildings and clients who current sleep unsheltered have been exposed to these chemicals while not participating in the protests because of their wide indiscriminate use.

“I have been working as a Housing Specialist and have seen the effect that Measure 11 has had on people of color, especially African Americans. I have counseled, and worked with our youth that has spent time in adult Prison. Several of my clients have gone in as teenagers and come out so traumatized and or heavily medicated. They were introduced to drugs and experienced sexual assault. I am imploring you to abolish Measure 11, it has done harm and caused trauma that translates into long-term mental health complications, especially African American families. I see and heard stories from my clients on how they have been treated by the State Prosecution and the pressures that is put on people of color, by using fear tactics, to make them take agree to things that are not true. Once they get to prison, they then endure abuse from the Corrections Officers who do and say what they want to African American inmates. Consequences should be held for those who are sworn to serve and protect, when they have abused their power to mistreat or harm someone because the color of their skin. I have been told of stories of Corrections Officers bringing in drugs to inmates. This is why we are having a hard time getting our clients to stay clean and sober when they enter our transitional housing. All people who are exiting prison with any drug and alcohol issues in their past should have immediate access to behavioral health care and recovery meetings at the least, and this should be available to everyone coming out of jail. Drugs are highly available inside, which makes it hard for them to be successful in a new life. Having immediate access to physicians when they exit is vital to the African American community. My clients come out of prison with only a limited amount of medication, and have to wait to see a physician, and then they run out of meds before they can be seen. Mental Health is absolutely a must for African Americans coming out of prison, it should be readily available for people that need it.” *Lisa Bonner Brown, Flip the Script RE-Entry Program, Housing Specialist*

“Our team works primarily with people experiencing chronic homelessness and substance use disorders. The success we have had with helping these community members achieve stability and safety has depended on an array of community services being available, as well as having an alternative available to the criminal justice system that keeps these folks in cycles of incarceration and homelessness.” *Brennan Edwards, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Case Manager II*

“Let's provide real social and economic support to people experiencing racism, poverty, and other forms of oppression, instead of persecuting them! Thank you!” *Jennifer Neary, BEST, Benefits and Entitlement Specialist Senior Team Lead*

"I would encourage my representatives to get insight from organizations like DontShootPortland, Care Not Cops, and other police abolition groups throughout the country in redefining public safety. I would encourage my representatives to be brave in the policies they craft. These are unprecedented times calling for unprecedented measures. We need to rethink and redesigns our systems and institutions. I would also encourage our Oregon representatives to increase democracy and create structures that allows everyday people and their communities to have the power to shape the institutions and systems that are needed to meet their needs. Less hierarchy more democracy. More leadership from those most impacted by our systems. Thank you for your time." *Kyler Liu, Employment Access Center, Employment Specialist*

"I have seen, through many years working at CCC, how a criminal background creates major barriers to re-entering the community for many people. The more these barriers can be overcome by updating/repealing outdated regulations, the better." *E.V. Armitage, Administration, Executive Coordinator*

"It's time to start prioritizing the community members that are suffering the most due to negligence in government. Now, more than ever - we need your full support. Prioritizing policing over community health can no longer be tolerated. Our economy is highlighting years of our failing prioritization of policing in this moment- and it will only get worse. We need change. We need to focus on empowering and helping community members not militarizing police to oppress them. This begins with budget and direct alliance from government and our city's front-line care workers. We've been here, where are you?" *Misti Miller, Blackburn CCC, QMHP CADCI*

"I was recently told a story of an assault that was in progress in Chinatown. The person witnessing the assault was concerned about calling the police because of the PPBs history with the BIPOC community and mental health issues. They did end up calling the police but their concern is valid. We should not be put in a position where contacting the police might make the situation worse. Police reform must happen for the good of the community and to enable a new law enforcement team to get back to investigating actual crimes instead of just patrolling for misdemeanors to fill their time." *Matthew Petrie, IT/Admin, Manager*

"PPB directives grant officers the right to use tear gas on entire crowds if a "civil disturbance" has been declared. Tear gas is a chemical weapon that is banned in war so why is it being used in Portland at all? The use of tear gas not only negatively impacts the health of those protesting. It must be made clear that the use of tear gas also negatively affects the residents of downtown Portland and the houseless population, many of whom are clients of CCC. Several clients have reported that their mental health symptoms have spiked due feeling like they are living in a "war zone." They have also reported that tear gas have entered into their residential dwellings even though windows are closed. There have been numerous studies that indicate the detrimental effects of tear gas on physical and mental health. Our clients' health cannot afford to be continuously impacted by the ongoing use of tear gas. Please pass legislation that bans the use of tear gas outright." *Vy Pham, Old Town Recovery Center, Intake Coordinator*

"We can no longer ignore the fallacies of trickle-down economics and capitalism and how they have continued to devastate vulnerable populations, giving so many in this country no true pathway to the "American Dream". It is time to rethink the role of US govt in our collective success as communities, cities, states, and as a country. When we invest in our sickest, our most tired, our most disenfranchised, we are all better because of it. We can also no longer turn a blind eye to the broken police system. Police officers are not trained to be mental health workers, social workers, or community outreach workers. Defund the grossly overfunded police dept and fund social services. Support POC to support POC. Raise their voices and their resources." *Tracy Winn, OTC and OTRC, Psychiatric Medical Provider*

"I can think of innumerable instances in both my work and personal life where someone suffered from not having a access to medical or social services -- too many to mention here. WE NEED REFORM!" *Taylor Scanlon, Blackburn, RCP Community Liaison*

Thank you from all of us at Central City Concern, including:

Carly Hernandez Kadell Old Town Recovery Center Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - ACT & ICM Teams	Ryan Galle Hooper DSC Care Coordinator	Tracy Reed Old Town Clinic Certified Medical Assistant	Vernetta Holden OTRC/Mental Health Supervisor
Andrew Nelson Old Town Clinic/SUMMIT Health Coordinator	Ian Austin Golden West Hotel/STS Program Asst Case Mgr	Gabriel Luzader Kamprath Admin - Accounting Housing Accountant	Barber Baker Letty Owings Center Administrative Care Coordinator
Maggie Podesta Mental Health Employment Program Employment Specialist II	Taylor Scanlon Blackburn RCP Community Liaison	Patty Summers Sunrise Place/FAN Program FAN Program supervisor	Cindy Ross Puentes Puentes Office Manager
E.V. Armitage Administration Executive Coordinator	Meg Devoe Old Town Clinic Physician	Matthew Petrie IT/Admin Manager	Kyler Liu Employment Access Center Employment Specialist
Jack Keegan Health Services Manager, Telehealth Services	Misti Miller Blackburn CCC QMHP CADC I	Maura Lederer Housing Development Sr Project Manager	Jennifer Neary BEST Benefits and Entitlement Specialist Senior Team Lead
Jennifer Stein Housing	Cynthia Rouw CCC	Veronica Hill Administration	Charlotte Garner CCCRC

Administrative Specialist	Front desk	Accountant	Addictions Counselor
Kas Causeya BEST Program Manager	Arsalan Shah OTC Pharmacy Pharmacy Ops Manager	Amanda Stone On-Call Program - EAC Supervisor	Keri Burnidge Housing Office Facilities Manager
Sabrina Khuon Blackburn Center Health Assistant	Teiana Brown Public Affairs Public Affairs Specialist	Wayne Haddad Information Technology CIO	Eowyn Rieke Blackburn Services Director
Brianna Sustersic Old Town Clinic Senior Medical Director of Primary Care	Don Vidal BBIS Medical Coder	Jake Mendenhall Quality Management Quality Improvement Specialist	Emily McCadden Human Resources HR Specialist
Steph Hunter Blackburn Behavioral Health SUDS clinical manager/Mental health	Jonathan Lari Old Town Clinic Wellness Services Coordinator	Amy Lopez Old Town Clinic Summit Care Team Manager	Leslie Tallyn Quality Director of Quality
Victoria Lamy Recuperative Care Program Case manager	Allison Neighbor BEST Medicaid Outreach & Enrollment Specialist	Anthony Traver BCCM Clinical Supervisor	Clay Cooper Social Enterprises Senior Director
Kimberly Leathley Central City Concern Health Services Executive	Laura Recko Public Affairs Associate Director of Communications & Donor Relations	Ashley Gutchess BBIS A/R lead specialist	Robert Sanders Blackburn Center CRM/PSS, Community Associate
Miranda Tarrow Old Town Recovery Center Medical Records Clerk	Simon Klein Blackburn Center Care Team Manager	Pat Buckley Old Town Clinic Physician Assistant, Naturopathic Doctor	Roy Wheeler Old Town Recovery Center Peer Mental Health Counselor
Erika Tarjan Old Town Recovery Center MH & Addictions Case Manager, QMHP	Lauren Land Old Town Clinic Associate Medical Director of Primary Care	Jessica Savara Recuperative Care Program Program Manager	Julia Sirabella BBIS Insurance Specialist
Daniel Garcia Puentes Program	Doug Middlemiss BBIS	Nastya Gallagher Blackburn Center	LaToya Berry Old Town Clinic

Director of Latino Services	Supervisor	Receptionist/COVID-19 screener	Medical assistant
Teresa Dickinson Cambridge Court- FAN Supportive Housing Family Mentor	Brandon Deyo Old Town Clinic Complex Care Manager	Laurie Davis Old Town Recovery Center Mental Health Counselor	Mariam Admasu Office of Equity and Inclusion Associate Director of Equity and Inclusion
Naomi Camp Old Town Clinic Behavioral Health Coordinator	Linda Hudson Imani Center Director	Blaine Danley on/call on/call rss	Brandy Fishback Recuperative Care Program Case Manager
Anne Arthur Old Town Clinic Health Literacy & Education Program Manager	Keith Zimmerman On-Call Program - EAC On Call Staff	Miranda Rabuck Public Affairs Marketing Manager	Christianna Lomas Blackburn Community Associate
Natasha Nichols Martha Washington Community Building Assistant	Brennan Edwards Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion Case Manager II	Jared Gallegos Old Town Clinic Pharmacy Clinical Pharmacist	Katie Smith Old Town Recovery Center Mental Health Counselor
AJ Rohn Supportive Housing HMIS Data Quality Technician	Tracy Winn OTC and OTRC Psychiatric Medical Provider	Christopher Lewis Old Town Clinic Medical Assistant	Christina Schermerhorn Health Services Health Information Manager
Shannah Knaup Supportive Housing Associate Director of Permanent Supportive Housing	Amanda Young Billing & Business Information Systems Insurance Specialist	Lisa Bonner Brown Flip The Script RE-Entry Program Housing SPecialist	Katherine Stansbury Domestic Violence Offender Intervention and Addictions Counseling Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor II
Tiffany Warner Housing Administration Housing Systems Assistant	Roni StJohn BBIS Billing and Business Operations Manager	Gerald De Voe II Central City Concern OTC/OTRC Janitor II	Vy Pham Old Town Recovery Center Intake Coordinator
David Lawrence	Briana Stodola	Emily Frey	Vivian Lackey

Hooper Detoxification & Stabilization Center Associate Medical Director	Old Town Recovery Center Project Manager	Administration Learning & Development Manager	EOP Worksystems and Veterans Grant Per Diem Program Manager
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“As a white BLM protestor, I have seen things from our Police department that are very disturbing. The culture in police departments around the country is toxic and cancerous, and this is not untrue of Portland, unfortunately. Minor budget cuts and "reform" are nothing more than a slap in the face to those of us that know the outcome will be no different than other fruitless interventions used in the past. NOW is the time for real, meaningful change. Paying lip-service to the BLM movement is something people have done in the past to save face; however, this is not about saving face, it's about saving our most vulnerable citizens and fellow Oregonians and Americans. If Oregon is truly serious about meaningful change (and Oregon SHOULD lead the in this regard due to (a) having an extremely racist past and (b) because we're a model for the country in other areas already) than the OHP, OHCS and DHS budgets most not only be untouched, but they have to be increased. In addition, why don't we re-invest our surplus rather than doling out \$15,000 checks to Oregon's already richest people. This money can be re-invested in social justice programs, infrastructure and can go towards helping to solve our homeless crisis. The \$400 I get through this program I would gladly give up if it went to a like program. Thank you.” Ryan Galle, Hooper DSC, Care Coordinator

“Black Lives Matter” *Tracy Reed, Old Town Clinic, Certified Medical Assistant*

“CCC needs your help” *Vernetta Holden, OTRC/Mental Health, Supervisor*

“Hello, for at least 5 generations and well over 100 years, my family has lived in NE Portland and has seen the City change throughout those years. We love it here and a majority of our extended family members still live in Portland. Obviously, we have been around long enough to see Portland turn into the exciting and major City it is today, but with that, we have also been around long enough to become deeply concerned about the current socioeconomic status of its residents. My grandmother is now 95 and still lives in NE Portland; she cannot believe the severity of homelessness and mental illness that permeates throughout Portland. Coming from a predominantly white family I have been very fortunate throughout my life in Portland; however, we have been witnessed to the systemic social inequalities and inequities that Portland's people of color have faced throughout the decades. We whole heartedly believe it's gone on this way too long and needs to change, now. Obviously, these issues affect so many parts of our country and the world. Given Portland's history with white supremacy and its current reputation as being one the whitest cities in the US, we have a great opportunity to set a precedent for so many other community governments throughout the country by putting our resident's (all of them) health and human services as a top priority. Police reform is a great place to start with that pursuit by not only shifting their funding towards health and human services, but also re-thinking their role(s) in the community and allowing the city to re-establish its relationship with the police. Portland needs to "reset" and foster community involvement to establish a plan on what our city's priorities should be. There are too many Portland residents that have been unheard and forsaken for too long, Portland need to start listening and move towards allowing and ensuring all needs are met.” *Gabriel Luzader Kamprath, Admin - Accounting, Housing Accountant*

"I have always thought in my heart that Oregon was progressive in our thinking. However, through out a lot of personal advocacy work I've experienced - I hit many walls with our Leaders hear in Oregon - just not listening and making policy changes for the betterment of our people. Observe with your own eyes - the human suffering and the people rising - asking for change with on-going disparities in ALL the systems. We need change and now is the time! Change is possible but it will take action on the part of our Oregon Leaders. *Patty Summers, Sunrise Place/FAN Program, FAN Program supervisor*

"I recently met a patient new to our community. He expressed a desire to expatriate to Europe from the United States because of his lived experience with racism as a young black man. Because this wasn't possible, he migrated from the east coast with hopes of finding a better future here in Oregon. He is a veteran and he is homeless. He is seeking asylum from the prejudice and violence of racism in America - a country he dutifully served. We must do better." *Meg Devoe, Old Town Clinic, Physician*

"Please use your sound judgement and heart to help heal our community!" *Veronica Hill, Administration, Accountant*

"The state's monopoly on the legitimate use of violence must be re-considered as a rare and tightly managed aspect of our coordinated community response to distress. The emphasis should be on investment in individuals and communities rather than wasting our money on destructive tactics of control." *Katherine Stansbury, Blackburn - Domestic Violence Offender Intervention and Addictions Counseling, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor II*

"There needs to be a change for stable and affordable health services, and a police reform that does not allow police brutality and or a system that allows officers to be tried for there actions and responses that result in death to the community." *Teresa Dickinson, Cambridge Court- FAN Supportive Housing, Family Mentor*



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Alex.Cuyler@co.lane.or.us

DATE: July 28, 2020

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Public Safety Subcommittee

RE: Oregon Judicial Department budget proposal for Law Libraries

Co-Chair Representative Sollman, Co-Chair Senator Manning, and members of the subcommittee:

Lane County is aware that your sub-Committee is evaluating a proposed cut of \$900,000 from the Legislatively Approved Budget for the 19-21 biennium from the appropriation made to Law Libraries operated by Oregon Counties. Lane County is opposed to a cut of this magnitude and we hope you will work with the Department to make a less draconian cut to these key services.

Here is the rationale for our argument:

- Law Libraries have little discretion when it comes to revenue as a result of legislation passed in 2011. Prior statute allowed counties to adjust court filing fees that supported law library operations, but the Legislature decided that the uniformity of court fees was better policy than locally set fees. As a result, Law Libraries began operations under a discreet appropriation in 2011 and have not seen an increase in that appropriation since.
- Law Libraries are needed for pro se litigants now more than ever. The COVID 19 pandemic has literally disintegrated Oregon's economy and the pressure from that loss of income will mean those that need to involve themselves with the state's judicial system will be doing that work more and more without professional representation. Law libraries are the most convenient, and entirely free, resource for the public, and a cut of this magnitude will weaken an already fiscally constrained service.

Law Librarians run Law Libraries. These individuals have advanced degrees and are specialists in their fields. They do not work for free nor should we expect them to. In Lane County, our Law Library stood up remote access during the pandemic and we continue to work towards re-opening the physical location, with all its new standards (and expenses) for personal protection and physical distancing.

We recognize that this appropriation is likely to receive a cut. But \$900,000 less dollars for statewide operations to be taken over the next 10-11 months is too much, particularly in light of zero LAB increases for the past decade to support Law Library services within Oregon.

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

July 28, 2020

Co-Chairs Manning and Sollman, and members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety:

We write on behalf of the Oregon Library Association (OLA) to express grave concern regarding the proposed \$900,000 in cuts to county law libraries as per the 2020 Rebalance Plan and Agency Reduction Detail outline.

Since the 2011-2013 biennium, Oregon's county law libraries have experienced negligible revenue, with the allocation for law library services staying flat around \$7 million. At the same time, numerous periodic cuts have been forced on law libraries; further, per statute, county mediation/conciliation services are permitted to take a percentage of this allocation.

For nearly a decade, county law libraries have met their funding uncertainty head on and have frugally managed increasing expenses by reducing materials, services, and staff as needed. Now county law libraries are being asked to go even further by taking a 25% cut to the current year appropriation. With this reduction, if future appropriations are not increased, Oregon most definitely will be facing a loss of county law libraries and services statewide within the next 4-6 years.

Every day, Oregonians utilize county law libraries. They are often the last refuge for those who can't get help elsewhere. In this time of COVID and the physical closure of libraries, contrary to some assumptions, law librarians (along with their public and academic librarian colleagues) have found themselves busier than ever responding to "legal problem questions" from non-attorney patrons. Such questions have focused on things like custody and parenting time modification and enforcement; landlord/tenant matters and the moratorium on evictions; employment discharge and unemployment benefits; how to issue and respond to protective orders; and estate planning and probate administration.


Attorneys certainly rely on county law libraries too, especially those outside the metro area. For solo and small-firm lawyers across the state, the county law library provides access to legal information resources these practitioners could not afford on their own, as well as to materials on subjects outside their practice area.


Law librarians are resourceful, and they are adapting to the "new normal" in innovative ways. Since March, county law libraries have successfully transitioned many of their services to the virtual world. Such endeavors include:

- Legal research, reference, and referral services via telephone, email, text, chat, video call
- Document delivery of in-house materials via email, text, snail mail
- Comprehensive research guides and web-based tools directing users to authoritative legal information
- Access to specialized subscription databases normally only available inside the library

OLA accepts that, in these unprecedented times, hard choices will have to be made regarding government service reductions. However, county law libraries in Oregon are now approaching a critical state and we fear the future of these crucial resources is in very real jeopardy. We ask the Committee to recognize this dire situation and for their support, so our county law libraries can continue to provide vital legal information to Oregonians when they will need it most.

Sincerely,


Elaine Hirsch
OLA President


Kate Lasky
OLA Vice-President/President-Elect



Oregon AFSCME Budget Comments on Public Defense

July 24, 2020

Dear Co-Chairs Sollman and Manning and members of the Ways and Means Public Safety Subcommittee,

Oregon AFSCME Council 75 represents members in our state's public defense system through Local 2435 - the Appellate Division Attorneys at OPDS, Local 2805 - the Staff and Attorneys at Multnomah Defenders, Inc., and Local 3668 - the Staff and Attorneys at Metropolitan Public Defender. We know and appreciate the tremendous task you have in front of you and thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this discussion around the proposed budget reductions.

We appreciate that you have carefully worked with staff and the Office of Public Defense Services to ensure that these proposed cuts will not have an impact on services at this time. As you know from our previous discussions around public defense and much needed reforms, many who work in our public defense system are working with caseloads that are far too high to provide quality representation they desire and that is called for in our US Constitution. As Oregon AFSCME Executive Director, Stacy Chamberlain, pointed out in her testimony – entries into the prison system have currently slowed, mostly because trials are largely not happening due to the needed constraints health and safety considerations for COVID. This is not a permanent circumstance. The cases are piling up.

The legislature and the Chief Justice heard our members' concerns and responded to this earlier in the first Special Session in recognizing that we could not allow those even accused of the most serious crimes to languish and that trials must happen. This was done by extending our statutes for pre-trial detention by 60 days – thus allowing for trials to happen and giving time and space needed for courts to properly consider the health and safety of holding jury trials. However, the cases for those not being held pre-trial have largely stalled.

One of my members described it in this way:

"Anecdotally, trial level work feels deadly sclerotic right now. Crime is generally down and Multnomah County's only operating one grand jury (instead of 3-4, plus the odd special grand jury), so there are fewer cases being initiated, but it's pretty close to impossible to resolve cases. So even if there's less water coming out of the tap, it was already full and now the drain's plugged." Others echoed this sentiment and that unless we are able to provide relief for reducing caseloads through hiring more staff and attorneys, then other legislative and policy help will be needed such as reducing the severity of some offenses, and eliminating mandatory minimums because taking those changes would reduce the time cases take to prepare and try on both sides.



Oregon AFSCME Budget Comments on Public Defense

There are many other considerations, programs and costs that either impacts public defense work or public defense work impacts. This includes programs that other Ways and Means Sub-committees are working to hold harmless such as behavioral health supports - a service that is both preventative and supportive in reducing recidivism. It also includes family supports such as Healthy Families that the Education Sub is looking at potentially cutting and certainly intersects with our child welfare and our corrections systems.

I know that you all know this and offer it as a reminder that we are a resource for learning specific program and cross sector impacts. We welcome the opportunity to work with all of you to provide perspectives and solutions that will continue to allow for critical services to continue to be provided.

Thank you for your continued work.

Respectfully,

Eva Rippeteau
Political Coordinator
AFSCME Council 75



ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DIRECTORS

*OACCD
Executive Board
Members*

Eric Guyer
OACCD President,
Jackson County
Community Justice

Jessica Beach
OACCD Vice President,
Yamhill County
Community Corrections

Aaron Hartman
OACCD Secretary,
Klamath County
Community Corrections

Dale Primmer
OACCD Treasurer,
Umatilla County
Community Justice

Jeff Wood
OACCD Past President,
Marion County
Community Corrections

*Committed To, And
Value, Offender
Reformation,
Services to Victims,
Crime Prevention,
And Community
Restoration*

OACCD is committed to partnering with the State as we move through these difficult times and decisions. As Oregon climbs back from the devastating impact of COVID-19, Community Corrections is committed to assist in the many social, health and economic challenges we all face. We remain steadfast in providing wrap-around supports and behavioral health interventions to justice-involved individuals who will be disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While our system adjusts to the financial hardships before us, our Association is at the table with our partners to address reform and equity within Community Corrections and the Criminal Justice system at large. It is in this spirit that we dedicate our efforts to ending the disparate treatment of BIPOC within the Criminal Justice System, including addressing the lasting collateral and systemic impacts of justice involvement. We are grateful for the shared recognition that reform is an investment in the quality of supervision and programs provided by Community Corrections, ensuring that evidence-based approaches are delivered to the right individuals in the community.

Community Corrections continues to offer the most cost-effective interventions aimed at reducing recidivism as well as stabilizing individuals within our communities. Funding for Community Corrections provides access to treatment, healthcare services, housing, employment and targeted interventions aimed at improving the health, employment and stability of justice-involved individuals. The end result is a safer and healthier community for all of us.

We know there are tough budget decisions ahead and changes to our prison system may be necessary. A financially strong and viable Community Corrections system will be imperative to protect public safety and meet the needs of the population we serve. We ask that as you make necessary budget cuts you consider the importance of a healthy Community Corrections system to serve as a cost-effective alternative to prison and an important safety net for justice-involved individuals. We are committed to furthering the reform efforts that have been consistently driven and supported through legislative leadership, and are dedicated to finding creative solutions in this challenging environment.