

Klamath County Community Corrections



Senate Bill 5506-Criminal Justice Commission

Co-Chair Jackie Winters, Co-Chair Carla Piluso, and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Public Safety, My name is Aaron Hartman, I am the Director for Klamath County Community Corrections. I am here today to speak on behalf of Klamath County Community Corrections and voice Klamath County's support of the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

I am going to highlight the success of Klamath County's Justice Re-Investment programs and impress upon this committee the importance of the JRI program in Klamath County. This funding and support provided by the Criminal Justice Commission allowed Klamath County to develop and implement to successful programs.

The first program is our Klamath Evidenced Based Sentencing Program (KEBS). KEBS started with technical assistance and the development of an implementation plan from the Criminal Justice Commission in 2015. The implementation and plan has changed the way Klamath County sentences our Drug, Driving and Property crime offenses. Klamath County uses the current JRI supplemental grant to fund this program. The grant funds a Deputy District Attorney and training for this offense population.

There are a total of twenty six participants in the program. Eleven of the twenty six are currently employed and ten of this group have received housing assistance while participating in the program. Over the course of the program we are experiencing about a seventy percent success rate with individuals who are repeat property, drug and driving offenses and score medium and high on our criminogenic risk factor assessments. This would not be possible if not for the help and funding support of the Criminal Justice Commission. This program is making a difference in Klamath County.

Success Story 1:

In February 2016, I received a referral from the District Attorney's Office requesting that Client A be evaluated for the Klamath Evidence Based Sentencing (KEBS) program. I had supervised Client A previously in 2013, and had substantial doubts regarding her ability to be successful in the program. During her previous supervision cycle, Client A was in active addiction, an abusive relationship, and had destroyed all relationships with family members and positive friends. Client A had demonstrated no desire to change or comply with supervision as she went from one warrant to another, refused residential treatment and denied the extent of her addiction, and ultimately had her probation revoked. Despite this, assessments were completed and Client A was given a dispositional departure to participate in KEBS. At the time she was referred for

KEBS, Client A was pregnant and using methamphetamine, had no stable housing or means of support and was still engaging in crimes with her husband. Again, she showed no desire to participate in programming or make an effort to change her circumstances. I attempted to engage Client A in the KEBS program by connecting her with her assigned mentor putting her on a regular drug testing schedule, and assigning her to programming to help her address her addiction, unhealthy relationships, and criminal thinking. Client A continued to avoid supervision and refused to engage with her mentor. It appeared Client A was headed for the Department of Corrections.

Then in June, Client A gave birth to her daughter who was immediately taken into care by the Department of Human Services. Client A again found herself in jail due to methamphetamine use. I spoke with Client A after her release and informed her that she was going to residential treatment, or she was going to prison, the choice was hers. Client A entered residential treatment 12 days after her daughter was born and was able to successfully graduate her program in September. She graduated despite significant setbacks that included an arrest on warrants for crimes committed at the beginning of her KEBS supervision and an out-of-state warrant from California. Client A took these setbacks in stride and maintained her focus on her sobriety and regaining custody of her daughter. After release from treatment she was placed in transitional housing provided by the KEBS program and partnerships with outside agencies and engaged in outpatient treatment and programming with probation. Client A was able to separate herself from her abuser and worked to find self-esteem and self-worth that she had never had before. Client A had truly turned a corner in her recovery and was working hard to put past mistakes behind her. She engaged with her mentor and through the support and encouragement she received from this mentor, she was able to thrive in the community. In November, Client A's daughter was returned to her care and has remained in Client A's custody since. Client A has gone on to graduate from outpatient treatment services and numerous cognitive programs that Klamath County Community Corrections offers. Client A is currently employed with the Gospel Mission and is the coordinator for their women's housing program. Client A owns her own car, has repaired relationships with her family, is able to visit with her older kids, and is actively looking for ways to give back to her community and support other mothers who have lost custody of their children through DHS intervention. Client A is an excellent example that change is possible and programs such as KEBS are worth the effort.

The second program is our Pre-Trial Release program this program began implementation in February 2018. This program is funded by the Justice Re-Investment and is Klamath County's main JRI grant.

Prior to receiving funding for Pre-Trial supervision Klamath County's one day no-show rate or Fail to Appear rate was 72%. In the first 6 months of program implementation the Pre-Trial program shrunk that rate to 14% and within the first year the program has reduced the FTA rate to 5% and that represents a 67% reduction in Fail to Appear. The length of stay in the jail for pre-trial detainees has been reduced to an average of 15 days. 91% of the people who participate in the pre-trial release process attend all of their court appearances and successfully complete pre-trial release. A grand total of 735 people have been released from jail to participate in the program and over 400 people are actively being supervised by pre-trial

release. In addition our grant supports Evidenced Based Programing in the jail that includes Mental Health Services. From July 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018 147 individuals have been identified as needing some type of Mental Health Service and 304 Mental Health Services have been provided. Between July 1 and December 31, 2018 there were 62 offenders lodged in custody who were on supervision. These 62 offenders all received treatment in the jail. Of the 62, 15 completed treatment while still in custody, 22 continued treatment upon release from custody, and one out of those 22 completed treatment. The average length of stay in treatment while in custody is 25 days.

Through implementation of the Pre-Trial program more jail capacity is available for the higher risk populations within our community. A total of 1948 people have been assessed 550 females and 1398 males in the pre-trial program.

The Criminal Justice Commission and their Justice Re-Investment grant program made this possible. The ability to see and analyze real time data made our implementation much more attainable and allowed Klamath County to assess our progress over time. The technical assistance, implementation planning and grant reporting supports Justice Re-Investment East of the Cascade divide. Many times those who supervise criminal offenses outside the metro region can feel disconnected and dismissed. I am here today in support of Justice Re-Investment and all the support to make my county successful provided by the Criminal Justice Commission. I am in support of the agency requested budget of 41.6 million for the Criminal Justice Commission and the additional 7.2 million in Justice Re-Investment funding.

Success Story: Pre-Trial Release

One individual was indicted of Assault III, Unlawful Use of a Weapon and Assault IV. After indictment the Pretrial Officer recommended release. Defendant A had a plan to set up an assessment and engage in services with KBBH. Defendant A had a place to move to in Chiloquin, OR and understood the restrictions of her release. The court denied pretrial release; however, Defendant A was gender matrixed based on history and risk level. Defendant A has not missed any weekly check-ins, violated her release agreement and has appeared at every court appearance. Defendant A pled guilty and the case was closed with 36 months of probation. Due to success on supervision Defendant A was nominated by several probation officers for a Thanksgiving basket and Christmas incentives.

Success Story: Jail Treatment

“One individual has been a repeat offender, with continuous jail stays, and showing no interest in successfully completing treatment. He had been disruptive and removed from group during prior attempts. He has a substance addiction in combination with a severe anger and emotional regulation issue. He would usually end up in solitary confinement during his sanctions due to anger outbursts.

He completed MRT- Coping With Anger in C-POD treatment group. He was consistent with his attendance, communicated effectively with his facilitators and Probation Officer and was offered a bed at the ARC- Salvation Army program in Portland, OR after self-advocating. On January 10, 2019 he will be transported to the ARC by his Probation

Officer, a special favor presented to him due to his turn-around and dedication to his treatment.”



3203 Vandenberg Road, Klamath Falls, OR 97603 • 541.880.5500 • Fax 541.880.5513