



LINN COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT
104 SW 4th Ave. Suite 200 / PO Box 100
Albany OR 97321
Phone: 541-967-3853
Fax: 541-967-4268



Support Senate Bill 918

The issue of notification to interconnected social service entities of a completed suicide for a person 24 years or younger is a critical issue, and I am disappointed I am unable to testify in person. I am a member of Linn Council of Integrated Services for Children and Families, a group established in 1985. This group includes school superintendents, public agency and non-profit leaders in Linn County. This group acknowledges death by suicide in Linn and nearby Benton County has been at an extremely high level over the past five years, and our impact of mental health pre and post vention is of the utmost importance. Significant (yet sometimes futile) conversations have taken place on how we, as a community, can provide the best supports possible for the families, friends, students and adults who are impacted by the death of the youth. A continual barrier is the notification, by name, of the young person who has completed suicide. Without this critical piece of information, putting a unique post-vention plan into place is nearly impossible.

I have a probation officer who works for me who has had three youth she has worked complete suicide. One example from her caseload is a case where she was working with the sister and family of a youth who completed suicide. Without notification she was unable to provide support and help to align services for the youth she was working with and her family. She resorted to searching social media to figure out who the youth was that completed suicide in order to start helping to support the youth and their family. This is a clear indication of a broken system when public service agencies are not even able to get enough identifying information to be able to set up services for a devastated family. Not to mention, for me as the director of a public service agency, being unable to set up supports for my own staff when these tragic events occur. There is a lot of current research and more public awareness on the effects of secondary trauma and the long terms consequences for our line staff. In order to mitigate some of this trauma I need to know who needs the services and without proper notification anything I try to set up will always be behind the curve. This is one of many such examples in our community but imagine how many examples there are across the state with similar stories.

It is amazing how interconnected youth are in our communities because of social media. It has extended relationships far beyond the neighborhood, school and town. A youth who has completed suicide has far reaching effects across many different communities and the more

Torri Lynn
Director
Juvenile Department

tlynn@co.linn.or.us
khusk@co.linn.or.us

Rob Perkins Jr.
Supervisor
Community Programs

rperkins@co.linn.or.us

Lisa Robinson
Supervisor
Probation Services

Tracy Vaughan
Office Manager
Juvenile Department

lrobinson@co.linn.or.us

Kevin Husk
Detention Manager
Linn Benton Detention Center
(541) 791-9397

tvaughan@co.linn.or.us



LINN COUNTY JUVENILE DEPARTMENT
104 SW 4th Ave. Suite 200 / PO Box 100
Albany OR 97321
Phone: 541-967-3853
Fax: 541-967-4268



quickly support services can be put in place the better long term results we will see for our youth, families and line workers. With social media information travels at lightning speed which is all the more reason social service agencies need to move even more quickly to try and keep up with the mass movement of information..

SB 918 provides authority for mental health officials to provide the name, date of birth and date of death of someone 24 years old and younger who completes suicide to social service and youth caring agencies when this information comes to mental health from a third party, such as a law enforcement agency or coroner. This will allow agency officials to be able to quickly implement the critical post-vention services needed in our community.

Please support SB 918 and our communities living with the pain of a young person's death.

Thank you,

Torri Lynn

Torri Lynn
Director
Juvenile Department
tlynn@co.linn.or.us
khusk@co.linn.or.us

Rob Perkins Jr.
Supervisor
Community Programs
rperkins@co.linn.or.us

Lisa Robinson
Supervisor
Probation Services

Tracy Vaughan
Office Manager
Juvenile Department
lrobinson@co.linn.or.us

Kevin Husk
Detention Manager
Linn Benton Detention Center
(541) 791-9397
tvaughan@co.linn.or.us