



Crook County

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March 25, 2019

Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Human Services
Oregon 2019 Legislative Session

Regarding Senate Bill 5525 (SB5525):

Dear Co-Chair Beyer, Co-Chair Nosse and Members of the Subcommittee;

The LPSCC (Local Public Safety Coordinating Council) in each County manages the current Justice Reinvestment Grant. They also advise the County Courts and Boards of Commissioners on Public Safety Issues. Some Counties have LPSCC Staff or Coordinators. This allows Counties and Regional Coordinators to address trends in Public Safety issues throughout the Counties they serve.

Currently, Behavioral Health resources are lacking in the Crook County area. Through Sequential Intercept Mapping and other local exercises and discussions, the lack of resources for this population has been stressed over and over. This lack of resources presents a public safety issue when those with untreated behavioral health disorders come into contact with other members of the public. Law Enforcement is faced daily with limited choices in dealing with these issues. They have to balance the wishes of the public with the special needs of a person exhibiting symptoms of a behavioral health disorder. Behavioral Health Justice Reinvestment would provide a necessary funding supplement to the Justice Reinvestment Grant by providing resources for this specific population.

Each Oregon County is in need of behavioral health resources, but each County has its own slightly different issues, populations and cultures. By bringing Elected Officials, Agency Directors and other stakeholders involved in Public Safety together, the LPSCC's will be in the best position to troubleshoot gaps in services to justice involved individuals, and to forge community based partnerships to address the gaps in funding.

Thank you for your time and efforts,

On behalf of the Crook County Court,

Brian Barney
Crook County Commissioner