



Board of Directors

Steve Christiansen, *Chair*
Steve Hecker, *Vice Chair*
Jason Pellegrini, *Treasurer*
Zoe York, *Secretary*
Brian Cox
Chris Elliott
Margaret Hallock
Tricia Hedin
Trina Kanewa
Sen. James Manning
Kevin Moore
Guadalupe Quinn
Hon. Ilisa Rooke-Ley
Peter Shannon
Darren Stone
Richie Weinman

Staff

Paul Solomon
Executive Director
Nick Crapser
Deputy Director
Laura Johnson
*Director of Program
Development
Development*

To: Senate Committee on the Judiciary
From: Paul Solomon, executive director, Sponsors, Inc.
Re: Senate Bill 992
Date: April 4, 2019

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee, my name is Paul Solomon, I am the executive director of Sponsors.

Since 1973, Sponsors has been a leader in the implementation of evidence-based practices in prisoner reentry, providing housing, treatment and ancillary services to men and women in Lane County.

SB 992 creates an opportunity for Oregon to invest in a unique model to support improving the lives of adults who were formerly incarcerated, have the highest probability to recidivate, and are homeless upon reentry into Lane County – using an outcomes based contracting model.

In 2016, Lane County was awarded \$1.3mm, from DOJ and HUD, to scale a Housing First model with rigorous evaluation of recidivism & housing outcomes. The project is called The Way Home and it is a partnership between: Sponsors, Homes for Good (our county's housing agency) and Lane County Parole & Probation.

At full capacity we will serve 125 individuals with criminal histories, prioritizing women, veterans, & those excluded from federally funded programs (due to criminal histories)

We officially launched the program in October of 2018, after 2 years of work which included:

- Construction of 54 units of housing to compliment the public housing and vouchers provided by Homes for Good
- Evaluation of our outcomes, to date, in order to arrive at ambitious, but achievable, metrics, which was done in collaboration with the Criminal Justice Commission
- Development of a program design and 5 year evaluation process, with partners at NYU and University of Oregon, to ensure high quality program design and an ability to measure effectiveness

Services for People with Criminal Histories Since 1973

Phone: (541) 485-8341 Address: 338 Highway 99 North, Eugene, OR 97402 Fax: (541) 683-6196

Tax ID# 93-0639815

The Way Home is seeking support for the project in the form of an outcomes contract with funding tied to the achievement of successful outcomes. Currently, State funding for the justice-involved population that is experiencing homelessness and the service providers that are attempting to improve their outcomes has limited coordination or community-level incentives for performance.

Entering into an outcomes contract with THW allows the State to sustainably support a challenging population, coordinate long-term affordable housing with self-sufficiency support, and provide incentives for multiple organizations to collaborate and meaningfully improve outcomes across sectors. This is a pilot that can be expanded to other counties – and in fact, there is already interest from partners in Marion County to begin the process of developing a similar project.

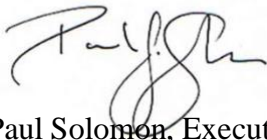
Success will be measured by reduction of “high cost” recidivism, maintaining stable housing, and more appropriate utilization of health care services (e.g., decrease in emergency department visits).

The dash 1 amendment to SB 992 will need some revisions to make the bill accurate, those will be:

- Inclusion of a reference to outcomes based contract with the State
- Insert language to clarify this is a Lane County pilot and who is to be funded
- Clarification of the health outcomes measured on page 1. Specifically, on page 1, line 6 *delete*: reducing use of emergency room and inpatient services; *and insert*: achieving more appropriate utilization of health care services. Page 2, lines 10 & 11 *delete*: use of emergency rooms and inpatient services and *insert*: appropriate utilization of health care services.
- Correct the minimum amount of time services are provided to individuals. Specifically on page 1, line 12: revising the length of minimum months of providing services.
- Clarification that population served are adults being released from Department of Corrections only. Specifically, on page 1, line 15 & 16 *delete*: Oregon Youth Authority or Federal Bureau of Prisons.

I thank you for your consideration and support of this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Solomon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Solomon" clearly distinguishable.

Paul Solomon, Executive Director

