

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 43: Department of Corrections Substance Use Disorder Pilot

To:	Emergency Board
From:	Public Safety Subcommittee
Carrier:	Representative Evans

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board acknowledge receipt of a report from the Department of Corrections on the status of implementation of a substance use disorder pilot program, operation of two K-9 units, and wastewater testing in corrections institutions, with instructions that the Department provide a follow-up status report to the Emergency Board in December 2024.

The Department of Corrections' report indicates the programs are still in the initial stages. At the Oregon State Penitentiary and the Snake River Correctional Institution, the Department has begun hiring for the substance use disorder pilot program and trained peer mentors. The K-9 program has two trained units operating at the State Penitentiary and Oregon State Correctional Institute, conducting searches of all common areas, visiting areas, work areas and targeted cells four days a week for about 10 hours per day.

The Department has also started collecting weekly wastewater sampling at all three of the above institutions and sends these samples to an independent lab for testing. Results are returned within about 48 hours and logged by facility and substance. With about five weeks of data, the Department is still analyzing the findings to determine contraband substances and how they might be metabolized, as well as substances provided as part of medically assisted treatment plans.

The Public Safety Subcommittee recommends approval.