

Memorandum

PREPARED FOR:
Task Force on Specialty Courts
DATE: October 11, 2024
BY: LPRO Staff
RE: Recommendation Proposals for Consideration



Study Area Sub-Topic	Proposed Recommendation
	Funding Mechanisms
Funding Data	<p>Rigmaiden 1.1: Formal Cost Study The Legislature should authorize, direct, and fund a formal cost study to better understand the funding needed for startup and long-term maintenance of treatment courts.</p> <p>Wong 1.1: Funding Data Collection (see full entry under Administrative and Funding Balance)</p>
Mechanism	<p>Sévos/Wig 2.1: Specialty Court Grant Program Application Timeline CJC should consider a four-year rolling grant period for the SCGP like that of Measure 110 and would recommend that CJC reset the SCGP funding cycle so that funding decisions have been negotiated and made prior to the award date and so that the primary awardee has sufficient time to execute contracts with sub-awardees prior to the award date.</p> <p>Sévos/Wig 5.1: Funding Methodology The State should explore alternative funding approaches, including a four-year rolling grant program or something similar, transitioning the grant program to an agency other than the Criminal Justice Commission, and allocating general funds to certain court liaison roles (in the same manner as court coordinators) based on number of treatment court participants.</p>



[Moawad 1.1: Streamlining Funding Through Accountability](#)

New specialty courts should need to apply for grant funding for two two-year cycles, after which they would move to an accreditation model funded through a Current Service Level approach after proving its concept, along with established specialty courts.

[Garcia 2.1: Permanent Task Force](#)

(See full proposal under Administrative and Funding Balance.)

[Rigmaiden 2.1: SCMS Funding](#)

(See full proposal under Administrative and Funding Balance.)

[Rigmaiden 3.1: General Funding for OSCA Treatment Court Team Staff](#)

(See full proposal under Administrative and Funding Balance.)

Treatment/Services

[Sévos/Wig 1.1: OHA Billing Modifier](#)

The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) should add a billing modifier/enhanced rate—similar to those for Integrated Co-Occurring Disorder and Culturally- and Linguistically-Specific Services—to ensure that providers can be reimbursed at a rate that allows them to provide the higher-level services necessary to adhere to best practices.

[Moawad 4.1: OHA/OHP Billing Code](#)

OHA should establish a billing code within Oregon Health Plan/Oregon Health Authority for non-billable specialty court activities.

[Sévos/Wig 4.1: Utilization Management Budget Review](#)

The Legislature should pass a budget note instructing CCOs to follow the recommendations of specialty courts for prescribed treatment services.

Administrative and Funding Balance

Oversight and Process

[Garcia 2.1: Permanent Task Force](#)



Improvement

The State should create a permanent Task Force on Specialty Courts, administered by the Governor, or a Chief Justice Advisory Committee on Specialty Courts, administered by the Oregon Judicial Department. The permanent Task Force would be responsible for oversight of specialty courts, and ensure they remain evidence based. It would provide recommendations for legislative policies, funding, and information related to outcomes.

[Simmons 1.1: Creation of the Specialty Court Advisory Committee](#)

The Legislature should create a multi-disciplinary Specialty Court Advisory Committee, which reports to the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, to regularly study and provide ongoing and timely information and recommendations to the Chief Justice, to include policy and legislative proposals and regular reporting regarding the state of treatment courts in Oregon.

[Moawad 5.1: Increasing Coordination](#)

The agencies involved in specialty courts should continue to work toward a less siloed approach to providing services to specialty court participants, coordinating the efforts among the agencies that provide such services.

[Moawad 3.1: Statewide Assessment Database](#)

(See full proposal under Eligibility Metrics.)

Data Collection

[Wong 1.1: Funding Data Collection](#)

To collect meaningful data about the costs of treatment courts, the State should use standardized definitions to collect specialty court operation costs every two years. The Criminal Justice Commission should develop the definitions in consultation with the Oregon Judicial Department. Specialty court programs should collect data during the grant application budget process regarding total operating cost of the program and input the total anticipated cost using a standardized definition key, starting in the 25-27 grant cycle.

[Sévos/Wig 3.1: SCMS Data Integration/Ingestion](#)

The State should take the recommended steps to ensure ingestion of relevant data from those disparate databases into SCMS.

[Moawad 2.1: SCMS Compatibility](#)



The State should improve or replace SCMS so that it is compatible with treatment providers' reporting rather than requiring manual entry.

[Simmons 2.1: Uniform Data Entry and CJC Access](#)

The Legislature should require all treatment courts within the state, regardless of funding source, to enter data into a uniform data entry program (currently identified as SCMS) and require CJC to have access to deidentified data from all treatment courts, regardless of funding source, for the purposes of analysis recommendations, and training.

Funding Balance

[Rigmaiden 2.1: SCMS Funding](#)

The Legislature should give funding to OJD for the cost of SCMS and its improvement/expansion.

[Rigmaiden 3.1: General Funding for OSCA Treatment Court Team Staff](#)

The Legislature should provide general funding for the Treatment Court Team members in the Oregon State Court Administrator's office who are currently grant funded and limited duration.

[Sévos/Wig 5.1: Funding Methodology](#)

(See full proposal under Funding Mechanisms.)

Statutory Foundation

[Rigmaiden 4.1: Statutory Update of ORS 3.450 and 137.680](#)

The Legislature should change the terms "Drug Court" and "Specialty Court" to "Treatment Courts" and define Treatment Courts as those programs that follow the 10 Key Components and focus on moderate- to high- risk/need individuals.

Eligibility Metrics

Assessments

[Moawad 3.1: Statewide Assessment Database](#)

The State should create a statewide assessment database to ensure access to the most recent assessments to improve efficiency and reduce duplication assessments that could be taxing on the participants.



Entry Decision

[Behre 1.1: Returning Court Control over Admissions](#)

The Legislature should give specialty court judges discretion to determine who enters their specialty court.

Accountability Mechanisms

Program Evaluation

[Scroggin/Garcia 1.1: Third Party Evaluations](#)

The State should provide funding for, and require all specialty court programs to receive, a one-time third-party process evaluation to ensure adherence to the National and Oregon Specialty Court Standards. In consultation with the Oregon Judicial Department, the Criminal Justice Commission should (1) take lead on contracting, in accordance with any process required by state law, (2) maintain the results from the assessments, for use in future decisions on standards and resources.

[Garcia 2.1: Permanent Task Force](#)

(See full entry under Administrative and Funding Balance.)

Peer Review

[Alderson 1.1: Specialty Court Board of Review](#)

The Legislature should create a Specialty Court Board of Review, comprised of specialty court administrators and professionals, to provide peer review oversight to ensure adherence to best practices and evidence-based guidelines and to support Specialty Courts in meeting the needs of the communities they serve.

Certification/Accreditation

[Moawad 1.1: Streamlining Funding Through Accountability](#)

(See full entry under Funding Mechanisms.)

***This list is a summary of concepts submitted to LPRO staff and is not intended to be final or comprehensive. Please share any feedback on concepts that are missing, incomplete, or unclear.**

