



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association
Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments
www.ojdda.org

Continuity for Health Care for Youth in Detention **County Juvenile Departments**

The Oregon Juvenile Directors Association strongly supports the passage of Senate Bill 470 for the purposes ensuring youth who enter local juvenile detention facilities prior to adjudication and youth within 30 days of release from a public institution continue access to their Oregon Health Plan. In 2021 there were approximately 1607 admissions of youth to local juvenile detention facilities for pre-adjudicatory detention. In 2021 the overall average length of stay for youth in detention was of 15.7 days. As juvenile directors we know that youth who enter the detention facilities have higher incidents of trauma, and are in need of both crisis and ongoing behavioral health services. The current law shifts the payment mandate from Medicaid (OHP) to the general funds of the individual counties. This break in eligibility is not based on any science or best practices for youth healthcare needs.

Characteristics of youth placed in local detention facilities

- There are eleven (11) youth detention facilities in Oregon. The majority of counties place youth outside their county of residence.
- Youth admitted to detention often have complex behavioral health concerns upon admission to detention.
- A majority of youth admitted to detention facilities qualify or are currently covered by the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid).
- Detention is a decision point where youth of color and historically marginalized youth are overrepresented.
- Youth entering detention are often experiencing medication disruption, requiring updated assessments and medication management. Few youth enter detention with filled prescriptions and the most common expenses for medications are:
 - Latuda \$1400
 - VYvance \$390
 - Adderall \$10
- The Majority of youth return to their community and do not escalate to the closed custody. Over 95% of youth referred to the juvenile departments remain in the community, supervised by local county juvenile departments.

Federal Exception for Youth in Public Institutions

- Oregon requested the opportunity to cover youth in pre-adjudication detention and a period of time prior to release in the 2021 waiver.
- In December 2022 the 2023 Federal Appropriation Legislation, H.R. 2617 allows for the coverage of eligible youth who are scheduled within 30 days to be release or youth pending disposition of charges for the purposes of screenings, diagnostic services, referrals and case management.
- The Federal legislation has effective date of 24 months following the passage in December, 2022.

The Need for SB 470

- There is a gap until the effective date of December of 2024 for the Federal exception to be implemented.
- Youth in Oregon who find themselves placed in a local detention facility and youth preparing to leave a facility will benefit from the continuity of care. This includes medication management, behavioral health services and appropriate physical health response.
- Coverage for children and youth aligns with the overall goals stated by the Oregon Health Authority in the 2021 Waiver.
- Without this legislation these services become the full responsibility of the local counties. Counties are not set up to adequately address the complex and comprehensive needs for youth without access to continuation of Medicaid coverage.

OJDDA's Request

Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association respectfully requests that Senate Bill 470 be passed so that the medical and behavioral health needs of youth in detention are appropriately and equitably addressed.

For Further Information Contact:

Lara Smith at 503-804-9750