

**Policy Option Package:
Sex Offense Treatment for OYA Youth**

Community Services

Purpose

The Oregon Youth Authority (OYA) provides assessment-driven, individualized, evidence-based treatment for youth adjudicated for or convicted of sex offenses. By providing youth with high-quality sexual offense treatment (SOT), we are increasing the likelihood that they will not commit future offenses.

This policy option package would ensure that youth in community Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS) programs continue to receive quality SOT treatment.

This POP includes funding to administer a standalone contract for BRS providers in the community to provide sex offense treatment services.

Sex Offense Treatment (SOT) in Community BRS Programs

Historically, Behavior Rehabilitation Services (BRS) providers have been willing to offer SOT in addition to required BRS services without additional compensation because this treatment is beneficial to youth and is often required by the youths' treatment plans. However, several cost-related issues are potentially jeopardizing this practice:

- Although many BRS providers have sought additional certification in SOT, the funding for this treatment is not covered through BRS services. Currently, there is no other funding source to compensate these providers for providing SOT.
- The passage of HB 2472 and its subsequent implementation in January 2020 requires that any individual delivering SOT must hold certification with the Sexual Offense Treatment Board (SOTB). This compliance adds nearly 10% to the costs of providing SOT, including application fees (initial \$75 and annual on-going \$325), payment for clinical supervision (\$150 per hour), annual training, and higher salaries to recruit and maintain certified staff with mental health licensure and educational backgrounds.
- With the 2015 passage of HB 2320, youth adjudicated for sexual offenses may elect to participate in determination hearings near the end of their supervision. During these hearings, the quality and thoroughness of SOT is considered when determining whether a youth will need to register as a sexual offender for the rest of their life. The court may request SOT treatment-specific documentation and/or subpoena the therapist. However, OYA is not able to financially compensate SOT-credentialed providers for the expectations of this treatment documentation or their orders to appear in court.

Concerns that the costs listed above will continue to increase, combined with the lack of a funding source for providing SOT, have led BRS providers to make decisions about whether to continue providing this essential treatment.

OYA is seeking funding to offer separate contracts to certified providers so they may sustainably deliver SOT and ensure youth are meeting court-ordered conditions of supervision. If BRS residential treatment providers cease providing SOT, this could potentially force OYA to pay third-party providers at full hourly rates, as detailed in the next section, which is a far greater cost to the agency than the current request.

For future biennia, OYA seeks the minimal amount of funding necessary to fairly and adequately compensate BRS providers for SOT services provided by fully credentialed therapists (on staff at those providers) who remain compliant with the new guidelines, in order to provide youth in OYA custody high-quality treatment that will reduce the likelihood of recidivism.

How Achieved

SOT in Community BRS Programs

For those BRS providers able to deliver SOT, we have developed a long-term solution based on feedback on the number of hours and types of services needed. We believe one Senior Social Service Staff could fulfill these requirements for a 14-bed program (the standard size of a BRS program for staffing and budgeting purposes).

OYA's Community Resources Unit (CRU) will administer a standalone (separate from BRS) contract for SOT services (i.e. one-on-one sessions, assessment, clarification with survivors, family sessions, SOT group, documentation). The position's fully loaded cost (salary and other payroll expenses) based upon the estimated 2021 Oregon Wage Information is \$80,454 per year, or \$160,908 per biennium. Within a 14-bed program, this cost is \$16.27 and the total ask for the biennium is \$1,189,337.

While we considered several other options, none were as cost-effective or easy to execute as the one described above. The options we rejected include:

- Paying BRS providers or other contracted SOT credentialed providers at full hourly rates — currently \$150.19 for individual therapy and \$36.54 for group therapy — for an estimated total biennial cost of \$2.3 million (based upon average weekly treatment hours per youth).
- Paying BRS provider staff for their time and compliance efforts, for an estimated total biennial cost of \$1.3 million. Compliance with the new certification standards includes required monthly individual/group supervision, ongoing training, continuing education, and

annual licensing fees. Staff time amounts to 0.5 FTE for each of the 16 SOT therapists currently working with OYA youth at our BRS providers; again, we used the estimated fully loaded cost of a Senior Social Service Staff to determine the cost of this option.

Logistically, the SOT service would be initiated for a youth by their juvenile parole/probation officer at the time the youth is placed in the BRS program that provides this treatment. CRU will conduct periodic reviews of program files to ensure the provider is maintaining documentation of the individual's certification with SOTB.

Staffing Impact

There is no staffing impact for the community BRS programs proposal.

Quantifying Results

Results are anticipated to include continued provision of quality SOT treatment in BRS programs. The results will be measured through the OYA Performance Management System.

Revenue Source

\$1,189,337