



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

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OJDDA

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The Oregon Juvenile Directors' Association (OJDDA) Advocates for Dedicated Funding for Juvenile Specific Substance Use Disorders (SUD) Treatment within SB 1044.

The effects on adolescents of the legalization and decriminalization of drugs in Oregon has not been a consideration at any point in the planning or implementation process. Juveniles have been an afterthought and considered collateral damage on law and policy changes. Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Network (BHRN) Grants which came through Ballot Measure 110 provided hundreds of millions of dollars to the Substance Use Disorder community for treatment and harm reduction services. A requirement to include services to adolescents were not part of the BHRN Grant process. Little to none of this money was targeted or granted to providers focusing on juvenile services. **(See the Lund Report article, "State Inaction Left Oregon Teens Vulnerable to Fentanyl's Fatal Spread," March 7, 2023).).**

- Youth are different than adults and should be treated with an evidence-based approach focusing on the adolescent brain and teen brain science.
- Adolescence is one of the most susceptible times for permanently damaging a brain by using drugs and alcohol.
- Adolescent brain research establishes that it is very difficult for young people to connect their current actions with the long-term consequences of those actions.
- Families across Oregon are struggling to know where and how to obtain services for their children.
- There are very few treatment facilities for youth to access when they meet the criteria for in-patient treatment.
- Untreated SUD's will plague the youth and their community throughout their life course.

OJDDA Recommends that 25% of the designated \$15 Million dollars designated towards substance use disorder facilities and recovery services as cited in Amendments to SB 1044 Section 1 (8) is mandated towards adolescent treatment services to start building a systematic approach to treatment for our youth.