

Hope for Safe Spaces for Youth In Oregon

HB4059





Past Challenges:

“Give Us This Day”

“Sequel”

“Michigan”

“Tennessee”

Unforgivable / Unacceptable

Facts:

Punitive regulations (small things by statute must be investigated as either “abuse” or “neglect”)

You may not protect staff, other youth from aggressive behavior

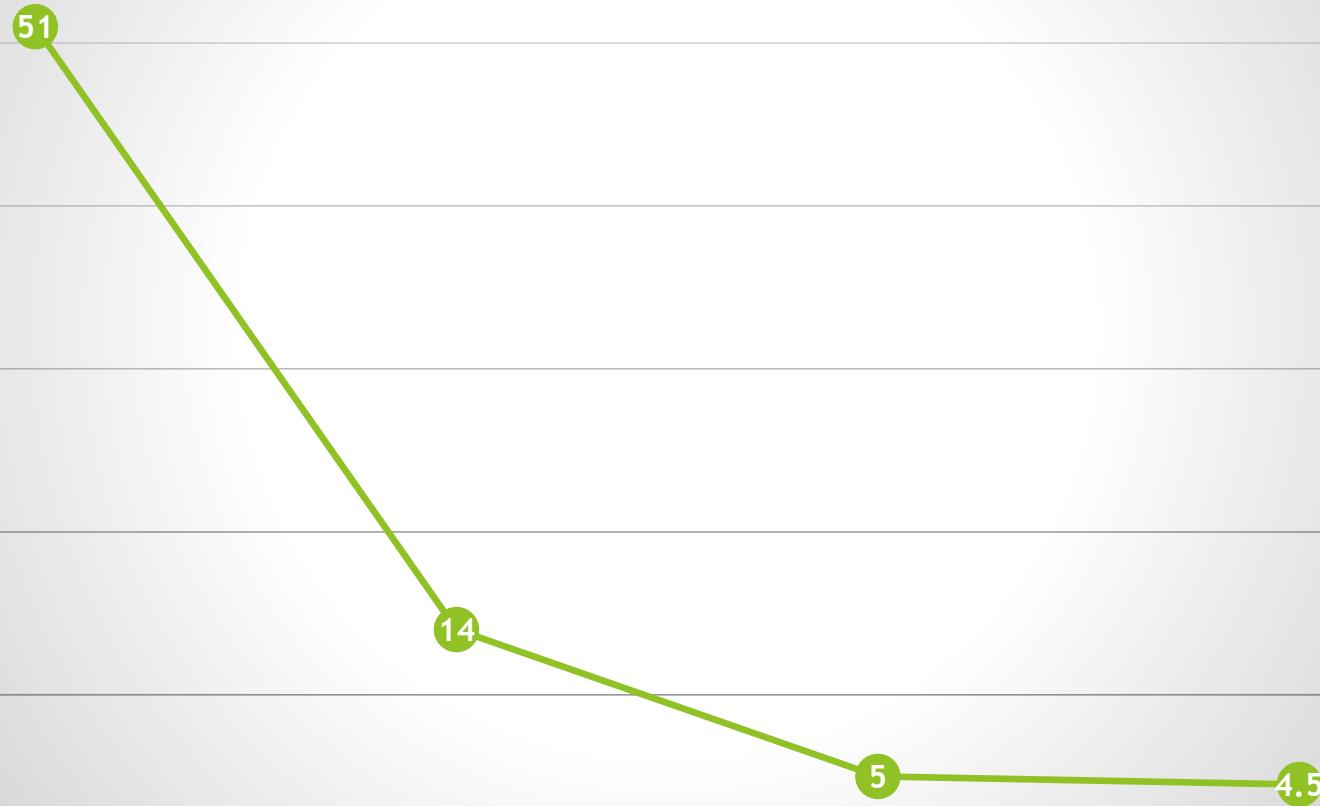
Dr. Jetmalani: “*Fear and terror*” among workers”

Problem:
Well meaning responses had unintended consequences:



Fact

Decline of Available Safe Places for Kids 2014 - 2025



PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUTH

These Programs Have Been Hit Hardest / and Closed:

Culturally specific programs
LGBTQ+
Girls' programs
Latinx
Black youth
Regional diversity
Outdoor
Small & especially rural programs





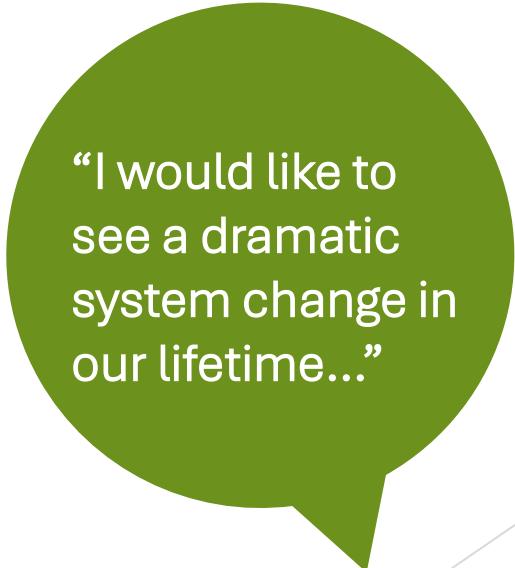
Doing nothing is not an option.



Listen to the Youth:



“The part of us
that is angry is the
part that says that
systems need to
be better...”



“I would like to
see a dramatic
system change in
our lifetime...”

Facts:

There is only 1 program (with 2 locations, 1 child and 1 adolescent) for aggressive youth.

Acuity is on the rise

OHA estimated approximately 130 spots needed each year



Reality:

No Where to Go

Example: 24 and 55

Where Are These Youth:

- ✓ Emergency Rooms
- ✓ Hotels with 2-3 full time DHS caseworkers
- ✓ On the streets / homeless / incarceration
- ✓ In wrong level of care (pressuring foster system)



*“I wasn’t safer
when they rejected
me. I was
homeless, on the
street...”*



*To Be Safe, Kids Require
Safe Spaces*

Status Quo is Getting us
LESS CHILD SAFETY
because there are no safe spaces



Two Choices:

1) Status quo

OR

2) Change Course & Rebuild
Options for Children through Teams
of Caring Adults / Safe Spaces