

**Testimony on ODSVS (SB 5018, Department of Justice budget)**  
Submitted to the Ways and Means Committee in Hermiston, Oregon  
April 20, 2013

By: Mickie Ebert DV/SA Co-located Advocate at DHS for CPS and SSP

Good morning. My name is Mickie Ebert and I am, an advocate for Domestic Violence Services serving Umatilla and Morrow County. I am also a co-located advocate for the welfare office. I am a resident of Hermiston, Oregon

Thank you for coming to Eastern Oregon this Saturday morning, during such a busy time for the legislature, to hear from us.

- I am here to ask for your support in relation to (SB 5018, Department of Justice budget) to increase the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Shelter Services Fund so more victims and children can have a safe place to go when fleeing abuse.
- I am also asking for your support related to (SB 5529, DHS Budget) to allow for Domestic Violence Advocates to be co-located at child welfare offices.
- In Umatilla and Morrow county where I have been employed in my position for 8 years, I Have been the shelter advocate for 4 yrs. And have worked first hand with survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in our office and community for the remaining 4 yrs. I now respond to the hospital for all sexual assaults on this end of our county and am a member of our SART. I currently serve as the co-located advocate for Hermiston, welfare office. This position I believe is of great importance. It enables me to help keep the non offending parents and their children together while insuring their safety.
- The service provided by a victims advocate working alongside victims or more appropriate, survivors is invaluable. The needs of the survivors are dynamic and ongoing through the years. The victims advocate role provides support, counsel; communication and risk assessment tools that serve the survivor but also help empower them.
- Having a victim advocate working closely with the survivor helps in assessing the risk that the survivors may or may not escape the abuse, it provides information about previous behavior necessary for change. While providing resources and referrals to community partners to insure their becoming strong, self-sufficient survivors.
- Domestic and sexual violence - victim advocates, co-located in our communities' Child Welfare Offices, make a similar profound, positive difference serving the needs of children, women and families.

Increasing the Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services would mean that even more people will be able to access the services they need to become safe and rebuild their lives – and for some people, to even be able to live another day. You can see by my history that we need more advocates but we are just a small rural area.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to us today.

Mickie Ebert

April 20, 2013

Ayanel Guerrero-DeLeon  
PO Box 246  
Umatilla OR 97882

**Subject: Ways & Means Committee Hearing Testimony re. SBDC**

I am Ayanel Guerrero-DeLeon and, I would like to share how the Small Business Development Center helped me to start my own business.

I attended a workshop called "Starting a Business at Home", which was sponsored by Rural Development Initiatives in partnership with the Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center. I learned how to create a Business Plan. I learned the importance of marketing, business operation, and financial organization.

My husband and I wanted to start our own business but we did not have a clue in how to start it.

The Small Business Development Center provided me a Spanish-speaking Advisor who met with me and gave resources that helped me to start my own business. Now I work and teach part-time at the Small Business Development Center helping other Spanish and English-speaking members of our community grow their own successful business.

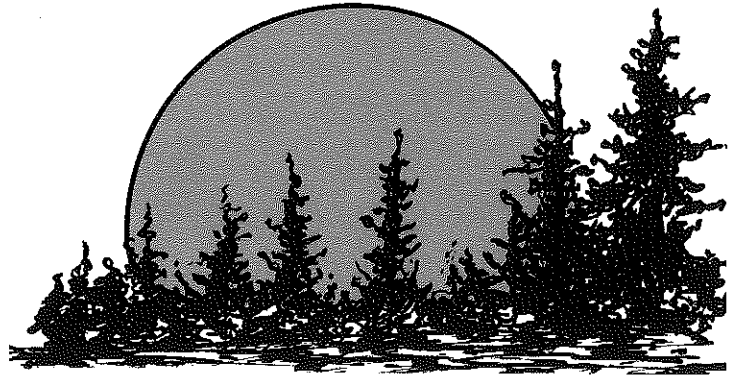
I was not easy, but without SBDC, it would have been much harder. I appreciate their help through this process and we finally started our own business. We used our savings and right now our truck business is running since November last year.

Thank you.  
Ayanel Guerrero-DeLeon

# NEW DAY ENTERPRISES, INC.

1502 Washington Avenue  
P. O. Box 3296  
La Grande, Oregon 97850  
(541) 963-2348  
FAX 962-7230

Residential Programs  
(541) 963-9081  
Vocational Programs  
(541) 963-5077



New Day Enterprises is a private, nonprofit community mental health facility in La Grande that serves adults with developmental disabilities.

When talking about the folks we serve in our community, I'd like to remind you of the words of my Grandma's favorite hymn.

"All God's children sing in the choir  
Some sing lower and some sing higher  
Some sing loud on the telephone wire  
And some just clap their hands."

Most of my folks can't sing and many can't even clap their hands. They can't speak to you of their life- their needs and dreams. That's why I am here.

Places like New Day are specialists at providing jobs and training to folks whom most others would consider unemployable. It means that we provide homes to people who can't or won't be able to live with their families or on their own.

We become a unique combination of surrogate family and professional care givers. It all means that we have given our sacred promise to care for these folks for the rest of their lives. We specialize in doing what most people assure us cannot be done.

Community mental health facilities, like New Day Enterprises, evolved because there are people with complex developmental disabilities living in our communities. As much as they would like to keep these fine folks within the home, families are not able to provide three 8 hours shifts of people to care for their loved ones. Thankfully, institutions like Fairview, which warehoused people with disabilities, were closed about ten years ago.

At that time, the State of Oregon made an agreement with local non-profits to provide financing for the care of these great folks and entrusted that care to places like New Day. The trust was supposed to go both ways. The State, with savings realized from closing Fairview and other institutions, promised we would receive ongoing support to care for these folks. That support has dwindled. I am asking, on behalf of the vulnerable people I support, for \$30 million to add to the current budget to stabilize the DD Services System.

We have not received a cost of living raise for over four years but did receive a 6% reduction in our rates. Because we are not a State run facility the rates we can pay our staff are close to minimum wage. Many of my staff people have to take two jobs, just to survive. We are asking people to care for very complex and needy individuals. We are straining our agency budgets to do so and are having difficulty finding employees who are being asked to do so much and being paid so little.

The persons who live and spend time at New Day require an enhanced level of care and support. This can be due to physical impairments, dual diagnoses, severity of the disability, multiple diagnoses, or aging.

Most need specialized assistance for bathing, toileting, medication administration, eating and other day-to-day functions. We also offer nursing and trained staffing services to support to residents who need tube feeding, catheterization, oxygen therapy, post-surgical care, congestive heart failure supports and cancer care.

Continuing to inadequately fund DD Services puts the health and safety of Oregonians with Developmental Disabilities at risk.

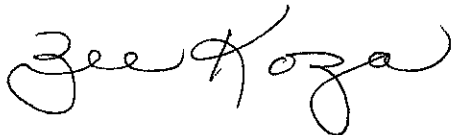
We are at the breaking point and are now having to come to Ways and Means to beg for adequate supports to care for the most needy and vulnerable among us.

Community facilities, like New Day, believe in one simple thing. We believe that we are to be our brother's keeper... and our sister's keeper and our neighbor's keeper.

We are not big and flashy. We don't have dollars to lobby for our folks with disabilities. We don't have big campaigns and slogans. We aren't big and loud.

We are asking you to stop and listen to the quiet voices of our fellow citizens with disabilities as they must beg the legislature for adequate services. Please use your offices and power to be your brother's keeper.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Zee Koza". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Zee Koza  
Executive Director  
La Grande, OR

**BLUE MOUNTAIN  
RECOVERY CENTER**

Dear Ways & Means Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to visit. I have worked at Blue Mountain Recovery Center in Pendleton for 11 years. We are a 60 bed State Hospital. In the Governor's budget he calls for our closure. We believe and our history has shown that we do a great job of treating the Mentally Ill that comes to us and getting them back out into the community where they want to be and deserve to be. We do that within our budget. We believe we do that because of our small size. We get to know the clients quicker and they are not lost in a larger system. We have a staff that has been here for a long time and highly trained and small enough to change when needed and to fit the clients needs. Contrary to what has been written, this building is not falling apart. It is up to code and has many years left, Could it use a little money for upgrades. Sure, but like I said, it has many years left. Why would you want to close it?

Ideally we would like to continue to operate as is, but if we are unable to continue in that capacity, a proposal has been brought forward by GOBHI for a Mental Health Campus that would need BMRC to remain open for the next 2013-15 budget cycle in order for their to be orderly transition until their program is up and running at the former Eastern Oregon Training Center in Pendleton. If, BMRC closes in January 2014, that trained staff, an asset to the State of Oregon will be lost.

A recent internal survey done at BMRC shows that only 2.2% of employees would consider moving to Salem to work at OSH. The rest want to remain in the area. This is home. Mental Health Services that we provide should not be abandoned in Eastern Oregon and families from Ontario or Burns or other eastern oregon communities should not have to travel to Salem or Junction City to provide critical family support in their family members recovery.

Let us continue to do what we have been doing very well for many years and expand needed services that dedicated people can build into a model of how Mental Health Services can be delivered in our Region to those in need of such services in a caring, cost effective manner. Thank you very much for your time, John L. Jones.



# **Eastern Oregon Mental Health**

## **FERGUSON Gary**

---

**om:** Anna L. Dypold <adypold@WoodHarbinger.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 09, 2013 11:59 AM  
**To:** gary.ferguson@state.or.us  
**Subject:** Fwd: BMRC  
**Attachments:** image001.jpg

Hi Gary,

Thank you for your email and all the info below. Please feel free to call me Anna.

I am so sorry for not responding sooner. I heard March 12 and somehow felt like I had all this time and now I fear that I may be too late. Please feel free to use my name and description of my relationship w BMRC in any way you see fit. I tried to write a 2-3 sent statement in support of BMRC below, but had a hard time sticking to just a few sentences. Hopefully you can take what you need from the statement below. Please keep me posted of what happens.

Warmly yours,

Anna

My mom has a mental illness and was sent to stay at BMRC. Knowing it was a state mental institution, and having heard stories and been to other places, I was quite trepidatious on my first visit to see her, not knowing what the conditions of the facility and staff would be like; I tried to prepare myself for the worst. When I found the place, and I saw that it was not some huge ugly building looming over me, but a small, inviting premises set back amongst the trees with a nicely maintained lawn and courtyard - I breathed a huge sigh of relief. When I met with Mom, her case worker, and nurse practitioner, I knew she was at the right place. Her case worker and nurse practitioner both took their time talking with me, answering all my questions, and the results of Mom's care there were obvious. Mom was the most lucid I had seen in such a long time-she was my mom again! When it was time for me to head home, I felt so much better leaving her there knowing that she was in good hands with people that cared.

**From:** FERGUSON Gary [mailto:gary.ferguson@state.or.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 4:27 PM  
**To:** worldluv@gmail.com<mailto:worldluv@gmail.com>; Anna L. Dypold  
**Subject:** BMRC

Ms. Dypold:

My name is Gary Ferguson and I am a Rehabilitation Therapist here at BMRC and I am a union Steward for SEIU Local 503. Kathleen Lewis gave me your e-mail addresses and she said you would be interested in helping us in our campaign to keep BMRC funded and open. The union is sponsoring a Lobby Day event at the state legislature on March 12. In preparation for that we are printing up brochures for our members to write their testimonials on before presenting them to legislators. We would be honored if you could write 2 or 3 sentences in support of BMRC to put on the cover of this brochure. We would like to be able to use your name and a brief description of your relationship with BMRC.

If you would like to do this please reply to this e-mail with your 2-3 sentence testimonial. Kathleen said that you might also be interested in contacting State Senators and Representatives. I would recommend contacting the Senator and Representative from your district. The following Senators and Representative will have influence as to the future of BMRC: Senator Richard Devlin and Representative Peter Buckley are the co-chairs of the Joint Ways and Means committee. The Joint chairs of the Human Services subcommittee are Senator Alan Bates and Representative Nancy Johnson.

Thank you for taking an interest in our facility. We would like to be able to continue to serve the people of Eastern and Western Oregon for many years to come.

## FERGUSON Gary

---

From: Anna L. Dypold <adypold@WoodHarbinger.com>  
Sent: Saturday, March 09, 2013 12:07 PM  
To: gary.ferguson@state.or.us  
Subject: Fwd: BMRC

Hi Gary,

I asked my mom to write something as well as I thought it might be helpful. Her statement is below. Do you think you could use it?

>

> To Whom It May Concern,

>

> I was at BMRC (Blue Mountain Recovery Center) for three months during 2011. BMRC helped me in many ways. First, they had a small caring size. Second, they had weekly meetings with therapists and nurses to check my progress and stay in touch with my improvements. Third, they also had lovely grounds and I was able to walk around the grounds independently as I improved. This facilitated some freedom, as well as exercise. Fourth, I also enjoyed the independence and privacy of being able to shower during the day as I wished. Fifth, during the week there were also classes offered that facilitated my personal growth and development. These classes I attended two or three times each day.

>

> BMRC helped me begin my road to recovery. I am now living independently. I have the support of the community and my family and I am very happy.

> Sincerely,

> Christine

This email scanned by Microsoft Forefront

## **TY KENNISON**

### **"Quotes"**

"B.M.R.C. is like family to me. It has been part of my life for 32 years."

"I love Eastern Oregon. Most of my family and friends live in the area."

"I believe B.M.R.C. (has offered) the clients we serve a caring and professional service for the past 64 years".

# BLUE MOUNTAIN RECOVERY CENTER

Hi, I'm Joan Graham. I've been a Mental Health Therapist 1 at Blue Mountain Recovery Center for 6 ½ years. I support 2 kids and a disabled husband. My work at Blue Mountain has been both rewarding and educational. I strive to do the best job I can for the individuals we serve. I have seen individuals be admitted then after receiving proper medication and education on coping skills be able to be discharge and be a part of the community again. Blue Mountain is unique due to our small ward size. This enables staff to know personal histories and provides individual approaches for care such as in a crisis situation to not cause undue trauma. Our community needs Blue Mountain Recovery Center. Mentally Ill Oregonians need Blue Mountain Recovery Center.

Dear Ways & Means Committee,

My name is David Oles, I have worked in the Mental Health field for over 23 years as a Mental Health Therapist at Blue Mountain Recovery Center. I facilitate several different groups 5 days a week. In one of the groups we discuss the Mental Health system and what they think should be done to improve it. The groups brainstorm many ideas and they are very consistent each time. Our discussion are about having more people for support and streamlining the system. I have never heard clients discuss building larger institutions as a way to improve the Mental Health system. I have heard, "Get rid of institutions".

I don't know why we treat Mental Illness so differently then we treat other illnesses. The key is early detection, fast and effective treatment, where the individual recovers outside of the hospital.

We have a great opportunity here in Eastern Oregon, to build a system that helps people get the services they need. That opportunity starts with continuing to fund BMRC while working closely with GOBHI and others, to create a seamless user-friendly system. I believe it is time that Oregon starts investing in people and the systems that works for them; instead of building Institutions that we don't have the money to staff.

I just have one question that I want to leave you with, one that you will be answering in June. If you had a loved one that needed Mental Health services what would you do?  
A) Take them to a nice beautiful building where assaults happen on a daily basis. B) Take them to a place where they can get personalized care and be home in less than 90 days?

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Oles', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Oles  
Mental Health Therapist 2  
Blue Mountain Recovery Center  
2600 Westgate  
Pendleton OR 97801

# Blue Mountain Recovery Center

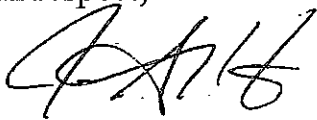
I write this in hopes of changing people's mind that Blue Mountain Recovery Center is NOT a "money pit". We happen to be the only State Hospital that runs in the black. Our rate of recidivism is the lowest and turn-around time for getting people placed in group homes from the State Hospital is lowest as well. I attribute this success to our small hospital size and our skilled staff members. We are able to connect with people on a higher level.

I shall also inform the reader that Blue Mountain Recovery Center hosts students from 2 Community Colleges and 2 Universities. 72 students have passed through our hospital this year alone. These are Nursing students and Social Work Interns.

Closing Blue Mountain Recovery Center would have drastic impacts on lives in Eastern Oregon. Blue Mountain Recovery Center employs 150 people. Some of those people are Married couples. Parents have worked alongside their children in this building. Furthermore, taking quality State jobs out of this area would have a huge negative impact on Pendleton and the surrounding small communities. Blue Mountain Recovery Center provides services to local, rural Eastern Oregon group and foster homes through the discharging process and has developed a positive working relationship with these homes.

I request that the closure of Blue Mountain Recovery Center be revised and looked at carefully. The impact of families losing jobs and this area losing quality State jobs would greatly devastate this area's economy. Thank you for your time and your consideration.

With respect,



Joseph Albitre  
Mental Health Therapist 2  
Blue Mountain Recovery Center  
2600 Westgate  
Pendleton, OR 97801

Hello my name is Celia Medina I have been employed with Blue Mountain Recovery Center since 2001. During this time I've had the privilege of meeting hundreds of people and in some occasions, their families. I've been able to help them and their loved ones understand the system that they are forced to work with once a patient is civilly committed.

At this time I hold a Transition Assistant position at Blue Mountain Recovery Center. This position gives me the ability to work with the community providers that serve people with Addictions and Mental Health throughout Oregon.

Currently I work with over 100 Group homes around the state to transition the clients we serve out of the Hospital. We play a crucial role in providing group homes with people, instead of keeping them in the State Hospital.

66- Homes in the Multnomah, Linn, Lane, Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Curry county areas.

34- Homes in the Columbia, Douglas, Harney, Malheur, Tillamook, Umatilla, Morrow, Wasco, Wallowa, Jackson, Jefferson, Klamath, Deschutes county areas.

My Co-workers and I are in constant communication with all of the homes mentioned above in helping these people to be considered for any current openings that are available.

Once a Person is admitted to Blue Mountain Recovery Center we begin to work on all the necessary paperwork and making necessary constant contact with their County of responsibility to begin working on a transition plan. At times we are able to return our people back to their County of residence, but at times that is not an options due to lack of services in their community or clients wishes.

Once a patient has been transitioned back out into the community they stay in contact with Blue Mountain Recovery center staff. This can be for a variety of reasons but the number one reason is due to the fact that they have developed a good working relationship and support system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Celia Medina  
Transition Assistant  
Blue Mountain Recovery Center  
2600 Westgate  
Pendleton, OR 97801



## Blue Mountain Recovery Center

We have experienced staff in Eastern Oregon with a philosophy that "People don't belong in Institutions". What this means for the people we care for and other Oregonians is:

- Quality of care - We are a small facility that gives personalized treatment, staff know the names and history of all the people we work with.
- Cost of care - We receive federal money that is comparable to the larger hospitals. The length of stay is 90 days which is half of the other hospitals, this adds up to about 31,000 dollars per person per year.
- Budget - We work within our budget and continue to look for more efficient ways to cut costs.
- Staff - We have an abundance of experienced staff at Blue Mountain Recovery Center, here in Eastern Oregon.
- Networking - We are working with the Eastern Oregon Acute Care Council and Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. to provide a seamless mental health system

Our concerns with some of the proposals that are being looked at during this session are about the people involved or affected by the decisions that will be made. This includes the people we work with that are mentally ill and our staff that work with them.

- Closure of Blue Mountain Recovery Center January of 2014 - Eastern Oregon's hub to accomplishing a seamless mental health system and losing experienced staff
- Closure of Portland Oregon State Hospital January of 2015 - Lose experienced staff
- Building another hospital for 121 million dollars where there is no experienced staff and it won't be up and running for another 2-3 years. What or where will the mentally ill people go or do between the times that Blue Mountain Recovery Center and Portland Oregon State Hospital close and the new hospital opens?

Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney talked about "its game changing times". Here is what we propose - Take Blue Mountain Recovery Center off the chopping block. Invest 4 million dollars into the building, programs, and the network that we are working on for Eastern Oregon. **Help us create a seamless mental health system that all of Oregon can be proud of instead of just a building.**

## Blue Mountain Recovery Center

It has come to our attention that an estimated cost of 11 million dollars to refurbish or remodel Blue Mountain Recover Center has been floated around as the future of the facility is discussed. There have been discussions about the old or lead pipes, asbestos, heating and cooling, fire sprinkler system and the electrical system.

The fact is that Blue Mountain has been renovated and is up to code.

- One quarter of all the pipes have been replaced and the only lead pipes that remain are waste or drain pipes.
- The asbestos was removed and concealed to code years ago.
- Steam lines for heating have been replaced or fixed and we have a new cooling tower for the air conditioner
- Fire sprinkler system and electrical components have been inspected and brought up to code for a fourth of the estimated cost to just revamp the fire sprinklers

Eastern Oregon Correctional Institution has been touring Blue Mountain Recovery Center. They are looking at the possibility of using the building in the future for they geriatric cliental.

The reality is the only two estimates that we have ever received are a 1 million dollar estimate for a new kitchen and a 500,000 dollar estimate to open up the other 2 wards and double our capacity. There has never been a formal walk through to estimate the cost of remodeling Blue Mountain Recovery Center. **The \$11 million was reached by estimating the rough order of magnitude and applying an industry standard formula. If this was used on the State Capital Building in Salem, it would need to be replaced. Coincidentally it is 10 years older than BMRC.**

Blue Mountain Recovery Center is in great shape and can serve Oregon for years to come.

## SUMMARY OF UNION COUNTY COURTHOUSE PROJECT

- Union County Court Facility ranked worst in Oregon (48<sup>th</sup> of 48) by 2008 Henberry Eddy study. That study recommended that improving the Union County Court Facility be high priority in their September, 2008 report to the Oregon Judicial Department
- Over \$40,000 spent on planning and engineering studies since 2008
- A \$3.1 million Union County Courthouse (13,694 sq. ft x \$200 sq. ft.) is proposed from the following sources;
  1. \$2 million Policy Option Package proposed by Chief Justice's budget from HB 5006 which allocated \$13,124,285 from the Criminal Fines Account to the State Court Facilities and Security Account per ORS 1.178. ORS 137.300(3)(b) created a Criminal Fines Account and directed the legislature to allocate a portion of the account to the State Court Facilities and Security Account.
  2. \$1,069,910 provided by Union County in the form of \$750,000 cash, 319,910 in land and in kind resources.
  3. \$41,000 of contributions have been pledged by members of the Union County Bar Association.
  4. Total budgeted for the project \$3,110,910.
- Our Judicial District collected \$3.9 million in fines and fees and restitution during the 2009-2011 biennium. Of that 2.9 million, almost 3 million went to the Criminal Fines Account. Our court has a history of generating a significant amount of revenue.
- The legislature does not need to pass new legislation to remedy a problem that has existed for 23 years in Union County. HB 5006, ORS 1.178 and ORS 137.300 combine to provide the mechanism to partially fund the new courthouse.
- Because our court facility is located in an old hospital, only one of three public entrances is staffed by a court security officer. Inmates must be led through staff areas and use staff bathrooms due to the design problems of our facility. A tactical response by police to a crisis is difficult due to the layout
- Large Pillars prevent judges, litigants and juries from a clear view of each other. The pillars provide a potential hiding place out of the judge's view in each court room.
- Staff is separated by two floors creating great inefficiencies for our court

**Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Hermiston, Oregon  
April 20, 2013  
Testimony on behalf of the  
Oregon State Bar**

I am appearing on behalf of the members of the Oregon State Bar to advocate for adequate funding for the courts, low income legal services and indigent defense, the bar's three budget priorities for the 2013 legislative session:

Provide adequate support for the Oregon Judicial Department.

- Fund the department sufficiently to keep courts fully operational during business hours, five days a week, and provide funds to hire back staff lost over the last two biennia. Hiring back staff will enable courts to meet basic time lines in case disposition and public safety.
- Continue funding for Oregon eCourt, the department's ongoing project to make courts more efficient and to increase access to information.
- Fund the additional three judge panel of the Court of Appeals that was authorized in the 2012 session.
- Address judicial compensation. Oregon's judges are among the lowest paid in the nation.

Support for legal services for low income people.

- Maintain current funding levels derived from state court filing fees that support legal services.
- Use interest on certain pooled escrow accounts to provide additional funds for legal services.
- Establish a 50 percent tax credit for donations to the Campaign for Equal Justice, a private non-profit that raises funds to support legal services.

Support adequate funding for indigent defense services in criminal cases – a crucial part of the public safety system.

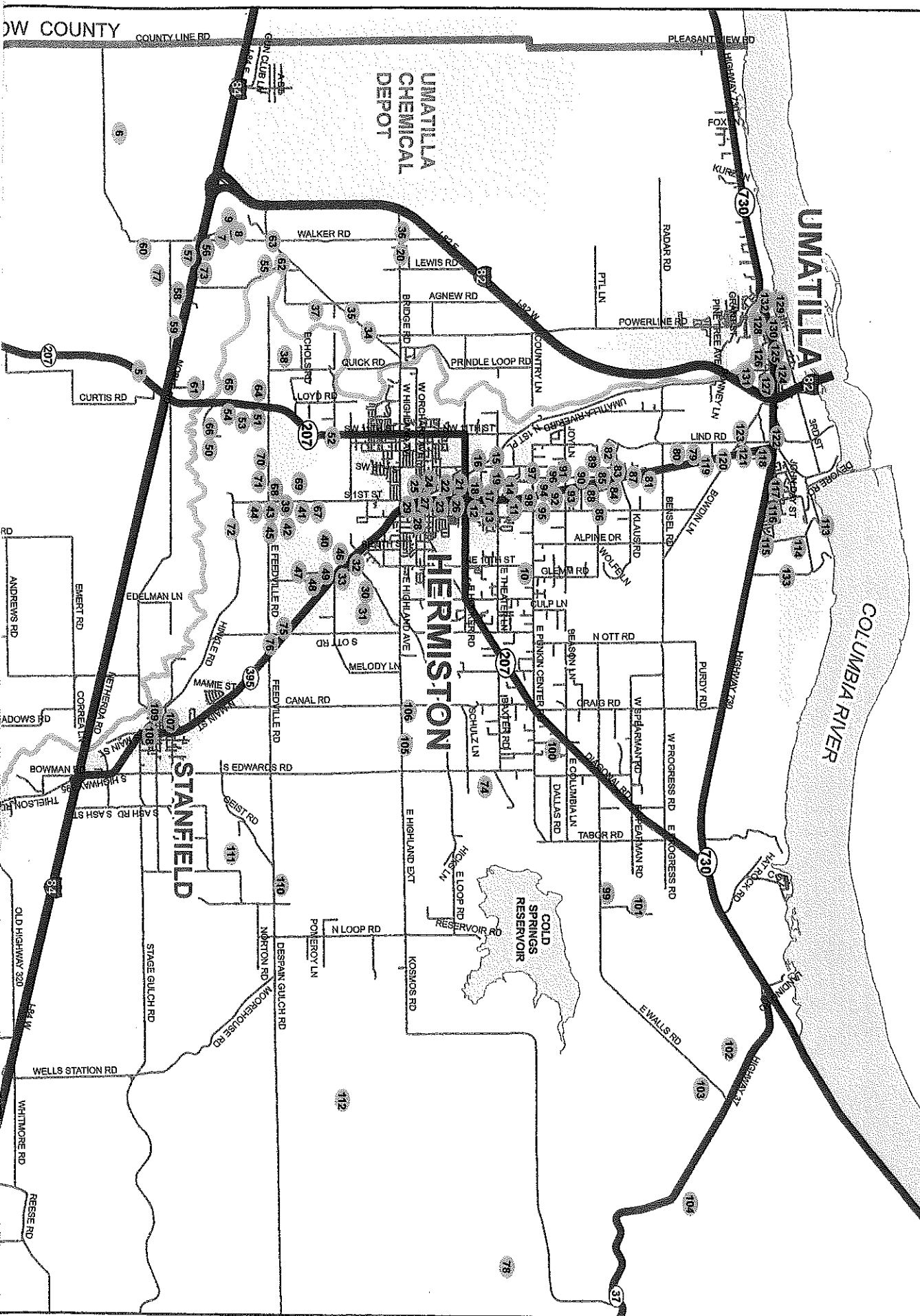
- Ensure fair compensation for publicly funded attorneys in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
- Reduce caseloads for attorneys representing parents and children.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim O'Hanlon



OW COUNTY





## PIONEER ASPHALT, INC.

P.O. Box 38 • Pendleton, Oregon 97801 • 541-276-7282 • 541-276-7886 Fax  
www.pioneerasphaltinc.com  
dba Pioneer Construction, Inc. • dba Pendleton Ready Mix, Inc.

April 13, 2013

Dear Ways and Means Committee,

As you know from my testimony and correspondence over the years, I own a business in Pendleton with public and private contracts that bring millions of dollars into our local economy. The importance of the Oregon Small Business Development Center Network is very important to small business in rural Oregon. Unfortunately, I am unable to appear in person to provide testimony supporting this vital program. Hopefully, I can adequately present my request for support of this program with this letter.

Just as our business supports our community and region, our Blue Mountain Community College Small Business Development Center has served our company for the past twenty-five years. We enrolled in SBDC programs in the second year they were offered and are currently working with our SBDC as part of the 'Grow Oregon' investment in small business growth. The resources available through SBDC network have greatly helped us to grow our business through numerous business cycles.

As in the past, I point to the impact on Oregon's economy of our SBDC's and the companies they serve. Not all of that impact is measurable in dollars and cents. We see it every day in the lives of our employees, our suppliers and our customers. We are all part of the economic engine that drives Oregon's rural and statewide prosperity.

I know that you continue to face daunting budget challenges, but every smart business owner knows that when times are tough you invest in future growth. Our SBDC's are essential to that investment. Cuts to their funding are cuts to our business potential. Even a modest increase in funding would help insure positive returns on your investment. Programs like 'Grow Oregon' are providing positive returns to our company and ultimately to every person employed by my company.

Please support an increase in SBDC funding for the coming biennium. It directly affects the viability of my business in a tough economy. The return on invest with the SBDC's is one of the State's stronger programs to partnership with business. Workforce development by private business is far more efficient than many other programs currently funded by the State. Please maintain this successful program. This is my personal appeal to you as a business owner and citizen of Oregon.

Respectfully,

Jayne L. Clarke, President